



## Performance Reporting

AGA remains dedicated to improving performance and accountability of federal, state and local governments for the benefit of the American people. Through the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) Program and the Certificate of Achievement in Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reporting (SEA) Program, AGA helps governments produce more effective performance reports.

The programs establish high standards for producing reports by conducting peer reviews of the documents, and formally recognizing those judged to be the most effective. The programs also improve performance reporting by providing training for the individuals responsible for producing the reports and for those who evaluate them. AGA also produces *Perspectives on Performance*, a newsletter dedicated to performance management issues. To receive it, send your name and e-mail address to [ebarry@agacgfm.org](mailto:ebarry@agacgfm.org).

### CEAR Program

AGA's CEAR Program helps federal agencies, their components and smaller, executive act agencies produce effective Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) and Pilot Program Reports by reviewing and commenting on the documents. The CEAR Program was established in 1996 in conjunction with the Chief Financial Officers Council and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to improve financial and program accountability.

Participating agencies submit their PAR and Pilot Program Reports to AGA, which selects a five-member review team to evaluate the report based on CEAR Reviewer Guidelines. These guidelines, prepared by AGA, are consistent with OMB Circular A-136 Financial Reporting Requirements. The team provides detailed recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the report. Agencies with reports that are considered excellent are awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting at a black-tie celebration in mid-May of each year. Congress, OMB, the U.S. Department of Treasury and the U.S. Government Accountability Office recognize the Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting as evidence of a complete presentation of an agency's programmatic and financial affairs.

Through the CEAR Program, agencies learn how to improve their performance documents by using the recommendations as guidance. In turn, the reviewers perform an in-depth analysis of other agencies' reports and learn how to make their own reports better. It is a win-win for both preparer and reviewer. Interested in becoming a CEAR reviewer? Go to [www.agacgfm.org/performance/cear/cearreviewer.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/cear/cearreviewer.aspx).

A wealth of resources and information on federal performance reporting can be found at [www.agacgfm.org/performance/cear/cearresources.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/cear/cearresources.aspx).

### SEA Program

AGA's SEA Program encourages state and local governments to prepare and issue high-quality Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reports (also called performance reports). The program, funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation in 2003, was established to review state and local government entities' performance reports, and to provide recommendations for improving them.

Reviewers are selected to evaluate each report using guidelines that have been prepared by AGA and are based on the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) suggested criteria. Following a teleconference among the review team members, governments receive detailed recommendations on ways the reports can be improved. Governments that most closely follow the suggested criteria can receive one of three awards within the Certificate of Achievement in SEA Reporting—bronze, silver and gold. Find more information at [www.agacgfm.org/performance/sea/](http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/sea/). Any AGA member may serve as a review team member. Find an application at [www.agacgfm.org/performance/sea/downloads/SEAreviewapp.doc](http://www.agacgfm.org/performance/sea/downloads/SEAreviewapp.doc).

### National Performance Management Conference

The Fifth Annual National Performance Management Conference is scheduled for Nov. 5-6, 2009 in Seattle. This year's conference will bring federal, state and local participants together as all governments work toward being more accountable and transparent to their constituents. You will learn more about performance reporting in these two days than you will all year! The networking possibilities are endless. Find more information at [www.agacgfm.org/conferences/default.aspx](http://www.agacgfm.org/conferences/default.aspx).

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