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GRANT BOOSTS CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awards Association of Government Accountants

\$360, 000 in grant support

Washington D.C. – The Association of Government Accountants' (AGA) campaign to improve all levels of government financial accountability has been awarded a grant of \$360, 0000 by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The grant will fund the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments Reporting (SEA) program, which encourages state and local governments to prepare and issue high-quality comprehensive reports to better inform the public they serve.

The Sloan Foundation is a longtime partner of AGA, having provided funding for the establishment of the SEA Program in 2002. The program, which is part of a wider campaign to improve overall government accountability, seeks to encourage regular issuance of high quality service efforts and accomplishments reports, and recognize particularly worthy examples. This year, the first certificates were awarded to the City of Bellevue, Washington; the City of Charlotte, North Carolina; the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Saco, Maine, Prince William County, VA, Portland, Oregon, Pocatello, Iowa, and the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Washington. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in Portland Oregon in November 2005.

“Our partnership with the Alfred P. Sloan foundation is a great source of pride for AGA. They have been absolutely vital to our campaign to promote higher levels of accountability, particularly in their support for our important SEA program.” said AGA Executive Director, Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA, “ They recognize, as do we, that state and local government agencies are strenuously working to make the government more accountable and, increasingly, achieving the highest standards. Our

program is designed to facilitate this effort and give credit where credit is due. The Sloan Foundation's grant is absolutely essential in allowing us to do this.”

The number of state and local governments issuing SEA performance reports has increased substantially following the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's (GASB) release, in April 2003, of *Reporting Performance Information: Suggested Criteria for Effective Communication*.¹ This book, which has become known as 'the Green Book', is a special report setting forth 16 suggested criteria and 11 good practices to guide the preparation of such reports.

The Association of Government Accountants is a 15,000-member professional Association devoted to meeting the continuing professional education needs of financial managers at all levels of government, the private sector and academia. For more information about the Association, or the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments Program, call 800.AGA.7211, or visit AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org.

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