

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 10, 2005

Contact: Jennifer I. Curtin

Director of Public Affairs, AGA

410.430.1785

jcurtin@agacqfm.org

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SHARED SERVICES: A GUIDE FOR FEDERAL USERS
HOLDS FEDERAL AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

AGA Publishes Landmark Research Report Solely Devoted to Melding Best Practices of Private Sector with Federal Agency Experiences - Financial Management Shared Services: A Guide for Federal Users

Alexandria, VA – The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) today announced the publication of a research report titled, *Financial Management Shared Services: A Guide for Federal Users*. This research is the first document of its kind that focuses solely on federal users of financial management shared services.

The research was conducted by interviews with knowledgeable individuals in and out of government and serves as a guide for federal users of financial management operations shared services. This research provides guidance on selecting services, transition, governance, service level agreements, pricing approaches and all aspects of the business arrangement. “By reinvigorating AGA’s efforts to provide this kind of thought leadership, we believe we are not only responding to our members’ requests, but also living up to our responsibility to work in the public interest,” noted AGA Executive Director, Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA.

Interviewees and the literature indicate that sharing of financial management services can be a very positive strategy to achieve “economies of scale and of skill.” Benefits cited include cost reduction, easier implementation of new systems, more time for financial and program staff to focus on analysis and decision support, more time for agency managers to focus on core missions and standardization of processes. The research identified a number of best practices, worse practices and lessons learned for users and potential users of financial management shared services in the federal government.

The research makes it clear that shared services (internal and external) and the competitive processes (the Centers of Excellence) mandated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) make good business sense for federal agencies. A number of issues that must be resolved to ensure success of the concepts are discussed in this research report. In addition, OMB and all federal entities should continue to share information on shared services so that all concerned can benefit from both positive and negative experiences.

The report is the product of a research project, sponsored by AGA Professional Corporate Partner IBM Business Consulting Services. The research was carried out for AGA by independent researcher, Irwin T. David, CGFM, CPA, who has extensive private and federal experience as a retired partner of Deloitte & Touche and most recently as the Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer of the National Weather Service. He is currently Chair of the Financial Audit Committee of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

To view the report, visit:

www.agacgfm.org/research/downloads/SharedServicesResearchPaper.pdf

One of the roles of professional associations like AGA is to develop new thinking on professional issues on behalf of those we represent. This thinking, developed out of research, and drawing on the considerable resources and experiences from among our members and partners, is directed toward leading the professional debate on advancing financial management and having a direct effect on the future direction of government accountability.

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is an almost 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 AGA, or its Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, call 800.AGA.7211, or visit AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org.

###