

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**AGA to Award Eight Federal Agencies with Certificates of Excellence in
Accountability Reporting (CEAR)**

Alexandria, VA - The General Accounting Office, the National Science Foundation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Departments of Energy, Interior, Labor and State will be honored with Certificates of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) from the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) on September 17, 2002.

A distinguished panel of government financial managers chose to honor these eight federal agencies for their exceptional fiscal year 2001 Accountability Reports.

AGA, along with CEAR Board members, federal agency administrators and chief financial officers will celebrate the accomplishments of these eight agencies and present them with special awards to honor their outstanding efforts. The event will be held from 10 a.m.-noon September 17, 2002, at the Library of Congress, Jefferson Building, Room 119.

Receiving the CEAR award represents a significant accomplishment for a federal agency and its management. Congress, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the General Accounting Office recognize the CEAR Award as evidence of a complete presentation of an agency's programmatic and financial affairs.

"We hope that through these awards, the public will come to see that the production of an outstanding Accountability Report requires a grand cooperative effort among many agency departments and staff," stated AGA Executive Director Charles W. Culkin Jr., CGFM. "We saw the extent of this effort throughout our entire review process, and we are extremely pleased with the progress these government agencies have made. The program has come a long way in four years—and so have the agencies' accountability reports."

In 1997, OMB and the federal Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Council called for a certificate program to encourage and recognize excellence in Accountability Reports. AGA was asked to step forward and answer that call. AGA established this award program in conjunction with the CFO Council with the goal of recognizing federal agencies that have achieved excellence in the preparation, issuance and timeliness of Accountability Reports.

If you would like to attend this event, or if you would like further information, please contact Jennifer Curtin at jcurtin@agacgfm.org, or at 864.246.6550.

The Association of Government Accountants is an 18,000-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 Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, call 800.AGA.7211.

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