

GI Bill Reimburses Budget Manager for Full Cost of CGFM Exams

When Nick Lebrede, CGFM, moved from private sector accounting to governmental accounting, he looked to the CGFM certification to help him make the transition. He also looked to the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) to help him pay for it.

The VA offers a program that reimburses veterans for obtaining VA-approved licenses and certifications. Lebrede, who had spent eight years in the Navy, was eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill to seek reimbursement for \$327 in examination fees, required to earn the CGFM credential.

Lebrede has worked as the budget and statistics manager in the Federal District Court in Orlando, FL, for three years, but had spent the earlier part of his career in the private sector, when he earned the Certified Management Accountant credential and became Certified in Financial Management, both issued by the Institute of Management Accountants.

Lebrede is committed to furthering his education and training, and he believes the CGFM has helped him in his job preparing the court budget and creating statistical reports. Lebrede took the CGFM Training Series, jointly offered by AGA and Management Concepts, to prepare for the three rigorous exams. He said earning the CGFM has helped him understand the terminology of governmental accounting, which is far different from the private sector, the organizational structure of government and how all the parts fit together.

Lebrede took the exams last August, and received his VA reimbursement check a few months later. He said he followed the instructions on the VA website to file his application, and then he made a couple of phone calls to make sure the application had been received and the process was moving. Lebrede encourages other veterans to take advantage of the program.

“At no time was I told that it was not going to be approved, it was just a matter of them completing the processing on it and issuing the reimbursement check,” he said.

Veterans can receive the benefit if they are eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill, Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) or Dependents Educational Assistance Program (DEA). The program allows full reimbursement of the CGFM Exam fees. Veterans can receive benefits to retake a failed exam.

For more detailed information, go to AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org/cgfm/va_benefits.htm or the VA site at www.gibill.va.gov/education/benefits.htm or call 888.GIBILL.1 and speak with a benefits counselor.