



For Immediate Release
May 28, 2021

For More Information:

Erin Birmingham | Marketing & Communications Manager
800.AGA.7211, ext. 308 | ebirmingham@agacgfm.org

AGA Awards Federal Government Agencies for Excellence in Fiscal Accountability Reporting
Awards demonstrate evidence of continued improvement in government accountability and performance

Alexandria, Va. — The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) is proud to recognize the accomplishments of 24 government agencies and departments in producing high-quality Agency Financial Reports (AFRs) or Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) during its annual Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) awards ceremony. During the CEAR review process, experienced teams from the government financial management community performed a thorough review of the submitted AFRs and PARs. AGA then developed and provided detailed recommendations for government agency leaders and their teams with suggestions for improving their reports for future submissions.

“Since its inception, AGA’s CEAR program has played a critical role in the steady improvement in federal agency reporting,” said Ann M. Ebberts, AGA chief executive officer. “In addition to making suggestions for more tightly linking spending to agency and program performance and improving readability for citizens, the CEAR program also gives the financial management community a chance to honor agencies who went “above and beyond” in their reports.

AGA is proud to showcase the accomplishments of agencies that work hard to clearly articulate, much like a commercial firm’s annual report, how the agency mission is supported with transparency and accountability reporting. All citizens benefit by understanding how the government spends its time and money.”

The CEAR Program was established in collaboration with the Chief Financial Officers Council and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to improve accountability by streamlining reporting and demonstrating what the agency accomplished with taxpayer dollars and the challenges that remain.

The following U.S. agencies and departments received the 2021 (FY 2020) CEAR award:

- Agency for International Development
- Architect of the Capitol
- Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Department of Energy
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of State
- Department of the Interior
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Housing Finance Agency
- Federal Trade Commission
- General Services Administration
- Government Accountability Office
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- National Credit Union Administration
- Patent and Trademark Office
- Peace Corps
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Social Security Administration

The following 14 federal agencies received “Best in Class” awards for demonstrating specific points of excellence with their fiscal year 2020 reports:

- **Editorial Excellence:** *Federal Housing Finance Agency*
- **Creative and Innovate Ways for Readers to Access Information:** *Securities and Exchange Commission*
- **The Presentation of Frequently Asked Questions:** *General Services Administration*
- **A Report That Tells a Story:** *Federal Aviation Administration*
- **Innovative Presentation of What the Agency Does:** *Commodity Futures Trading Commission*
- **Innovative Presentation of a Matter of Public Wide Interest:** *Department of Education*
- **Innovation Use of Graphics to Display Information:** *Federal Trade Commission*
- **Inspiring Photographs with Captions:** *Agency for International Development*
- **The Summary of Financial and Performance Highlights:** *Patent and Trademark Office*
- **Excellent Presentation of Performance Results in an Agency Financial Report:** *Department of Homeland Security*
- **Corrective Action Plans:** *Department of Defense*
- **Exceptional Reporting on COVID-19 Response:** *Social Security Administration*
- **The Inspector General’s Summary of the Most Serious Management and Performance Challenges:** *Department of the Interior*
- **The Presentation of a Matter of Public Interest — The Tax Gap:** *Department of the Treasury*

The FY2020 **CEAR with Value-Added Distinction Award**, the highest honor of the evening, was presented to the General Services Administration!

The FY2020 CEAR awards were presented to recipients during the annual CEAR Program Awards Ceremony, on Thursday, May 27, 2021. The night of celebration was made possible through generous sponsorship from KPMG and Kearney & Co. Learn more about the CEAR awards and the CEAR Program on AGA’s website: <https://www.agacgfm.org/Standards-Guidance/CEAR.aspx>

About AGA

AGA is *the* member organization for financial professionals in government. We lead and encourage change that benefits our field and all citizens. Our networking events, professional certification, publications, and ongoing education help members build their skills and advance their careers. For more information, visit www.agacgfm.org.