

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# AGA Honors Federal Agencies for Excellence in Fiscal Accountability Reporting

*Awards demonstrate evidence of continued improvement in government accountability and performance.*

Alexandria, Va. —AGA recognized the outstanding achievements of 23 federal government agencies and departments with the association's annual Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR) awards. At a black-tie event on May 16, 2024, in Washington, D.C., AGA honored personnel from the recipient organizations for their exceptional commitment to producing high-quality Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) or Agency Financial Reports (AFRs) for their FY2023 reports. The awards also recognized evidence of continued improvement in government accountability and performance.

The CEAR review process involves a thorough examination of AFRs and PARs submitted by government entities. Teams of experienced reviewers from the government financial management community assess the reports and offer comprehensive recommendations to government agency leaders with insights for improving the reports and meeting future challenges.

AGA CEO Ann Ebberts said, "The CEAR review offers federal organizations detailed recommendations to enhance their AFRs and PARs in the next reporting period. AGA takes pride in knowing our CEAR program has played a pivotal role in the steady improvements in federal agency reporting."

The CEAR program also offers the government financial management community an opportunity to recognize agencies that excel in reporting. Noted Ebberts, "We highlight and reward agencies that prioritize transparency and accountability in their reports. Their efforts help taxpayers understand how their government spends the time and resources they work hard to provide."

Established in collaboration with the Chief Financial Officers Council and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, the CEAR Program aims to increase accountability with streamlined reporting processes and to highlight agency achievements.

The following U.S. departments and agencies received the CEAR Award for their FY 2023 reports: the departments of Commerce, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs; Agency for International Development; Architect of the Capitol; Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Federal Aviation Administration; Federal Housing Finance Agency; Federal Trade Commission; General Accountability Office; Internal Revenue Service; National Aeronautics and Space Administration; National Credit Union Administration; Office of Personnel Management; Patent and Trademark Office; Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board; and Social Security Administration.

“Best in Class” CEAR awards were presented to 13 agencies for demonstrating specific points of excellence with their fiscal year 2023 reports:

**Informative introductions for the agency’s mission, organization, and report**

*Department of Health and Human Services*

**Exceptional use of graphics, charts, pictures, call-out boxes, and video links**

*Architect of the Capitol*

**Diverse presentation contents and use of media to bring the agency’s mission to life**

*NASA*

**Comprehensive message from the Secretary**

*U.S. Department of the Interior*

**Excellent overall Management’s Discussion and Analysis**

*IRS*

**Excellent discussion of management challenges in the MD&A**

*Government Accountability Office*

**Presentation of the most important forward-looking information**

*Department of Veterans Affairs*

**Informative explanation of budgetary resources and how they are used**

*Federal Aviation Administration*

**Clear, concise financial and performance highlights sections**

*U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission*

**Integrated financial and performance reporting**

*U.S. Patent and Trademark Office*

**Integration of climate-related risk information into performance reporting**

*U.S. Agency for International Development*

**Excellence in financial reporting**

*U.S. Department of the Treasury*

**Demonstrated commitment to improving accountability reporting**

*Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board*

The Harold I. Steinberg Excellence in Accountability Reporting Award was given to a clear and consistent champion of furthering federal agency performance and accountability reporting. This year’s winner was

Jeffrey C. Steinhoff, a Past National President of AGA and founder of its Certified Government Financial Management (CGFM) credential program.

The CEAR awards were presented to recipients at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C., following a keynote address by the Commissioner of the Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Timothy Gribben. For more information about the CEAR awardees, see <https://www.agacgfm.org/Standards/CEAR/Awardees.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](http://www.agacgfm.org)

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