**First-time annual conference attendee scholarships**

**I am a recipient of the first-time annual conference attendee scholarship. How do I maximize my conference experience?**
At GFOA Registration in Lobby B of the convention center, there will be a dedicated line for you to pick up conference badges and a first-time conference attendee sticker – just look for the sign posted at the registration counter. We ask for all GFOA attendees to join us in saying “Welcome!”

Also at the Sunday night Welcome Reception, we ask for you to please come to the Head of the House at Union Depot between 7:00-8:00 p.m. so you can meet members of GFOA’s Executive Board and staff, and we can meet each of you.

**Who is eligible to apply for the scholarship?**
The GFOA encourages national GFOA active government members who are first-time conference attendees to apply. Membership in a state or provincial association does not transfer to national GFOA membership. If you are not an active government member of the GFOA, join the association today! Go to GFOA’s website to read about membership benefits and to access a membership application and fee schedule. We’re happy to help with any membership questions you may have – e-mail membership@gfoa.org.

**What does the scholarship include?**
The GFOA strives to provide leadership to the government finance profession through education, research, and best practices. Nowhere are these efforts more apparent than at the GFOA annual conference. To keep with our commitment, the scholarship will be awarded in the amount of the full-conference registration fee\* to participate in the 108th annual conference, The Future of Government Finance, on May 18-21, 2014, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

\* Scholarship recipients are responsible for their own travel and hotel expenses.

**Does the scholarship also include the preconference seminar registration fees?**
The GFOA’s preconference seminars provide the opportunity for attendees to get in-depth training on topics vitally important to finance officers. Come to Minneapolis on Friday, May 16, 2014, and/or Saturday, May 17, 2014, and multiply the benefits you’ll get by signing up for these training offerings. The preconference seminars are in addition to the annual conference registration fee. If you are interested in registering for a preconference seminar, go to GFOA’s website.

**I am a current GFOA active government member and attended only one day of a past annual conference. Am I still eligible to apply for the scholarship?**
We thank you for your past participation in the GFOA annual conference. One-day conference attendance is considered participation in the annual conference. The scholarship is awarded to GFOA active government members who will be participating in the annual conference for the very first time.
I was a member of GFOA years ago and attended past conferences. I am interested in joining the association again. Would I be eligible to apply for the scholarship?
Benefit from your membership in the GFOA with a discount on the annual conference registration fee, as well as discounts on training courses and publications throughout the year. The scholarship is awarded to GFOA active government members who have never attended a GFOA annual conference.

**How many scholarships will be awarded?**
Fifty scholarships will be awarded per state or province in the order of which they are received. The State of Minnesota has reached the fifty scholarship limit and the State of California is close to full.

**How do I apply for the scholarship?**
Please send an e-mail with your interest to firstannualconference@gfoa.org. If you are eligible to receive the scholarship, a GFOA staff member will e-mail an application for you to complete and submit to the GFOA.

**Do I need to submit a deposit to “hold” the scholarship?**
The GFOA will hold a refundable deposit of $100 that will be refunded within two weeks after the conference. Scholarship recipients who do not attend the conference and do not notify the GFOA of their cancellation will forfeit their deposit.

**I was awarded the scholarship and find out before the start of the annual conference that I cannot participate in the event. Would I forfeit the $100 deposit?**
We are looking forward to the participation of first-time conference attendees. If you can no longer attend the annual conference, please notify the GFOA at firstannualconference@gfoa.org. You will then be refunded your deposit.

**Is there a deadline date to submit the scholarship application?**
To help us plan ahead, we encourage you to send in your application as soon as possible. The scholarship applications will be accepted through April 30, 2014.

**Is my application complete once I submit it?**
A completed application is when all parts of the form have been filled out and payment (credit card or check) has been received by the GFOA.

**How do I know if I was selected to receive a scholarship?**
A GFOA staff member will e-mail you within 24 hours of receiving your completed application and payment if you have been selected to receive this year’s scholarship.