



**Government Finance Officers Association**  
203 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2700  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-1210  
312.977.9700 fax: 312.977.4806

1/12/2024

Scott Bartter  
Finance Director  
City of Worthington, Ohio

Dear Scott:

Congratulations!

We are pleased to notify you that your annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 has met the requirements to be awarded GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (Certificate Program) in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare annual comprehensive financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Congratulations, again, for having satisfied the high standards of the program.

Your electronic award packet contains the following:

- **A "Summary of Grading" form and a confidential list of comments and suggestions for possible improvements.** We strongly encourage you to implement the recommended improvements in your next report. Certificate of Achievement Program policy requires that written responses to these comments and suggestions for improvement be included with your 2023 fiscal year end submission. If a comment is unclear or there appears to be a discrepancy, please contact the Technical Services Center at (312) 977-9700 and ask to speak with a Certificate of Achievement Program in-house reviewer.
- **Certificate of Achievement.** A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year. A current holder of a Certificate of Achievement may reproduce the Certificate in its immediately subsequent annual comprehensive financial report. Please refer to the instructions for reproducing your Certificate in your next report.
- **Award of Financial Reporting Achievement.** When GFOA awards a government the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, we also present an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) to the department identified in the application as primarily responsible for achievement of the Certificate.
- **Sample press release.** Attaining this award is a significant accomplishment. Attached is a sample news release that you may use to give appropriate publicity to this notable achievement.

In addition, award recipients will receive via mail either a plaque (if first-time recipients or if the government has received the Certificate ten times since it received its last plaque) or a brass medallion to affix to the plaque (if the government currently has a plaque with space to affix the medallion). Plaques and medallions will be mailed separately.

As an award-winning government, we would like to invite one or more appropriate members of the team that put together your annual comprehensive financial report to apply to join the Special Review Committee. As members of the Special Review Committee, peer reviewers get exposure to a variety of reports from around the country; gain insight into how to improve their own reports; achieve professional recognition; and provide valuable input that helps other local governments improve their reports. Please see our website for [eligibility requirements](#) and [information on completing an application](#).

Thank you for participating in and supporting the Certificate of Achievement Program. If we may be of any further assistance, please contact the Technical Services Center at (312) 977-9700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Mark Levine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michele Mark Levine  
Director, Technical Services

**CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING  
COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS**

The detailed comments and suggestions for improvements are composed of: 1) an indication above the comment that provides either the specific Certificate Program checklist question to which the item directly relates or the notation “Additional Comment” to indicate the comment does not directly relate to a specific checklist question and 2) text that generally identifies the location of the item in your report, the reason for the comment, and the particular item you should address. Following is the legend for the references to specific authoritative literature that are provided for the majority of comments.

AU-C		U.S. Auditing Standards (Clarified), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (March 1, 2020)
COD	-	<i>Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards, GASB, 2019-2020</i>
GAAFR	-	<i>Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting, GFOA, 2020</i>
GAAP	-	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
GASB-I	-	GASB Interpretation
GASB-S	-	GASB Statement
GASB-TB	-	GASB Technical Bulletin
NCGA-I	-	National Council on Governmental Accounting Interpretation
NCGA-S	-	National Council on Governmental Accounting Statement
Q&A		<i>Comprehensive Implementation Guide 2020-2021, GASB</i>

All references listed above, except those for “GAAFR” and “Q&A,” are followed by the number of the pronouncement, if applicable, and the specific paragraph(s), footnote(s), or appendix (appendices) within the publication that is being referenced. The references to “GAAFR” are to chapters in that publication. For “Q&A,” the references are to the applicable chapters and questions in that publication.

## Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Summary of Grading

**City of Worthington, Ohio**  
**Member ID: 236352002**  
**Report #: COA-2022-03320**

The Certificate of Achievement Program Special Review Committee (SRC) has completed its review of your annual comprehensive financial report. The grades awarded for each grading category are listed below, followed by comments and suggestions for improvement grouped by category.

Grading Category	Grade
101 - Cover, table of contents, and formatting	Proficient
102 - Introductory section	Proficient
103 - Report of the independent auditor	Proficient
104 - Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A)	Proficient
105 - Basic financial statements (preliminary considerations)	Proficient
106 - Government-wide financial statements	Proficient
107 - Fund financial statements (general considerations)	Proficient
108 - Governmental fund financial statements	Proficient
109 - Proprietary fund financial statements	Not Applicable
110 - Fiduciary fund financial statements	Proficient
111 - Summary of significant accounting policies (SSAP)	Proficient
112 - Note disclosure (other than the SSAP and pension-related disclosures)	Proficient
113 - Pension-related note disclosures	Proficient
114 - Required supplementary information (RSI)	Proficient
115 - Combining and individual fund information and other supplementary information	Proficient
118 - Statistical section	Proficient
119 - Other considerations	Proficient

# **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Detailed Listing of Comments and Suggestions for Improvement**

**City of Worthington, Ohio**  
**Member ID: 236352002**  
**Report #: COA-2022-03320**

## **106 - Government-wide financial statements**

**Comment Number: 1221      Checklist Question: 6-002-10**

Page 16 - Refer to the net OPEB asset reported in the asset category. Normally, a net OPEB asset would result in a restriction of net position. Note that any deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB plans would not affect the amount of net position restricted for net OPEB asset. This comment was provided last year and is provided again for better clarification.

It is unclear why the government reports restricted assets but not restricted net position. Please clarify. [GASB Cod. Sec. 2200.119-.123; GASB-S34: 34-35, 37; GASB-S63: 8-9, 11; Q&A 7.24.1; eGAAFR Chapter 19 - Presentation of net position]

## **112 - Note disclosure (other than the SSAP and pension-related disclosures)**

**Comment Number: 3094      Checklist Question: 12-300-01**

Page 45 - Specify for "budget resource."

The specific purposes/functions for fund balances classified as restricted, committed, or assigned should either be displayed on the face of the governmental fund balance sheet or disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. [GASB Cod. Sec. 1800.185; GASB-S54: 22 and 25; Q&A Z.54.65; eGAAFR Chapter 30 - Fund balance/net position]

## **118 - Statistical section**

**Comment Number: 3135      Checklist Question: 18-803-04**

Page S23 - The OPWC loans and the installment loan should also be included in the schedule. Refer to page 79.

The total direct debt should include all long-term debt instruments of the governmental activities, including bonds, notes, certificates of participation, loans, and leases. [GASB Cod. Sec. 2800.126-.127; GASB-S44: 45; eGAAFR Chapter 35 - Information about direct and overlapping debt (current year only)]

## **120 - New Pronouncements**

**Comment Number: 3655**

The GASB has issued the following statements:

1. Statement No. 94, "Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements." The requirements of this Statement will take effect for financial statements starting with the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2023.
2. Statement No. 96, "Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements." The requirements of this Statement will take effect for financial statements starting with the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2023.
3. Statement No. 99, "Omnibus 2022." The requirements related to leases, PPPs, and SBITAs will take effect for financial statements starting with the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2023. The requirements related to financial guarantees and the classification and reporting of derivative instruments within the scope of Statement 53 will take effect for financial statements starting with the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2024.
4. Statement No. 100, "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62." The requirements of this Statement will take effect for financial statements starting with the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2024.
5. Statement No. 101, "Compensated Absences." The requirements of this Statement will take effect for financial statements starting with the fiscal year that ends December 31, 2024.

Earlier application of these statements is encouraged. For the original pronouncements and the implementation guides, please visit the GASB's website, [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org).

\*\*\*\*\* END OF COMMENTS FOR COA-2022-03320 \*\*\*\*\*



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of  
Achievement  
for Excellence  
in Financial  
Reporting

Presented to

**City of Worthington  
Ohio**

For its Annual Comprehensive  
Financial Report  
For the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2022

*Christopher P. Morill*

Executive Director/CEO



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

1/12/2024

**For more information contact:**  
**Michele Mark Levine, Director/TSC**  
**Phone: (312) 977-9700**  
**Fax: (312) 977-4806**  
**Email: [mlevine@gfoa.org](mailto:mlevine@gfoa.org)**

(Chicago, Illinois)—Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to **City of Worthington** for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

*Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.*