



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

2/10/2026

Pam Keener
Finance Director
City of Norton, Ohio

Dear Pam:

Congratulations!

We are pleased to notify you that your annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024 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 2025 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 [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, flowing style.

Michele Mark Levine
Director, Technical Services