

NEWS RELEASE

ETCOG Awarded for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 24 Consecutive Years



Kilgore, TX - The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the East Texas Council of Governments for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the program's high standards, including 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. It is awarded to the East Texas Council of Governments Operations Division, which includes David Cleveland, Executive Director; Wendi Horst, Operations Director; and Operations team members Gini Blackwell, Sloane Bodle, Trish Branham, Christy Cross, Rita Hitt, Kelly Horn, Elizabeth Jones, DeAnn Jordan, Glenda Lamothe, Michaela Marotta, Jennifer Nicholson, Staci Reynolds, Cori Rhodes, Susan Schooley, Kim Scott, and Christine Weems.

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"I am impressed with the consistent excellence and professionalism of our Financial Operations Team! They produce excellent results for the East Texas Region every single day! When one considers the fact that they help manage well over 100 different federal and state funding streams, you can begin to understand why I am thrilled they continue to receive objective substantiation of their work every year they are recognized with this prestigious GFOA award!" said ETCOG Executive Director David Cleveland.

"This award is a tribute to our team's commitment to transparency, accuracy, and integrity in financial reporting. Earning this award for 24 years in a row is a milestone we are incredibly proud of. While we celebrate this incredible streak, we remain focused on the future and upholding the values that have earned us this recognition and become the standard in everything we do," said ETCOG Operations Director Wendi Horst.

ETCOG's 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report can be viewed at www.etcog.org/financials.

About GFOA

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 25,000 members and the communities they serve. Contact Michele Mark Levine, Director/TSC, at (312) 977-9700 or mlevine@gfoa.org.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts, and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services, deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.