

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Improving Performance Reporting for Local Government

King County, Wash., Honored with Second National Accountability Award

Alexandria, VA – Recognizing performance reporting excellence, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) has honored King County, Wash., with a Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Award. A distinguished panel of government financial managers chose to honor King County for their exceptional *2008 King County AIMS High: Annual Indicators and Measures Performance Report* (www.metrokc.gov/aimshigh/index.asp). This is the second year that King County has won this national award.

AGA established this award program in conjunction with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Foundation granted AGA funds to launch the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting Program. The program offers in-depth evaluation of SEA reports (also called performance reports), recommendations for improvements and recognition of excellent reports with a Certificate of Excellence. The SEA Program encourages issuing regular high-quality service efforts and accomplishments reports and helps state and local governments effectively communicate performance to the public.

"I'm pleased that King County's work to be accountable and measure its effectiveness at delivering the quality services people need and want has earned this recognition for excellence," said King County Executive, Ron Sims. "During these tough economic times it is even more important that governments measure the impact of services to ensure dollars spent are delivering desired results."

The number of state and local governments issuing such performance reports is increasing substantially following the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's release, in April 2003, of *Reporting Performance Information: Suggested Criteria for Effective Communication*. This book, which has come to be known as the Green Book, is a special report setting forth 16 non-authoritative suggested criteria and 11 good practices) to guide the preparation of such reports.

The purpose of the reviews is to evaluate how well the government or other organization informs the public about its performance. The review is not intended to evaluate the quality of the government or its performance. Rather, the focus is entirely on the report's usefulness to the public and other decision-makers who have a stake in the effectiveness of the government's services and programs.

"This award for excellence should alert the tax-paying public, Congress, public interest groups and other financial management professionals that state and local government agencies are strenuously working to make the government more accountable," stated AGA Executive Director, Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA. "Not only are they working hard, but they are also achieving these sought after goals," he said.

AGA honored the King County team at an awards ceremony on Oct. 27, 2008. King County executive, Ron Sims, accepted the award on behalf of the county. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the Fourth Annual Performance Reporting and Accountability Conference in Seattle, WA.

The Association of Government Accountants is a 15,000-member professional Association that serves government accountability professionals by providing quality education, fostering professional development and certification, and supporting standards and research to advance government accountability. For more information about the Association, or the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, call 800.AGA.7211, or visit AGA's website at www.agacgfm.org.

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