

IGFOA Professional Education Committee presents the
2026 Finance Professionals' Advanced Academy Level II Seminar
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
NIU Naperville

AGENDA

APRIL 21, 2026

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Registration and Networking

8:45 AM – 8:50 AM Welcome & Introductions

8:50 AM – 9:40 AM Financing the Future: Municipal Bonds from Start to Finish

Speakers: Austin Root and Glenn Weinstein, Miller Canfield, and Dalena Welkomer, Raymond James.

From streets, public safety and recreation facilities to water, sewer, and economic development projects, municipalities and special districts periodically issue debt to fund critical capital improvements. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of borrowing options in Illinois. Panelists will discuss the legal requirements associated with each type of borrowing, the typical financing timeline, and the different methods of sale. The session will also explore credit considerations, the rating process, and the roles of key participants in a municipal bond transaction. Finally, attendees will gain insight into what happens after bonds are issued, including post-issuance compliance responsibilities, rating surveillance, continuing disclosure obligations, and monitoring debt for potential refunding opportunities.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

Participants completing this seminar should be able to:

- **Identify** the primary borrowing options available to Illinois local governments and understand when each may be appropriate.
- **Understand** the statutory requirements and procedural steps associated with issuing debt including the credit rating process.
- **Differentiate** between methods of sale and the participants involved in a bond transaction.
- **Know** post-issuance compliance responsibilities, including continuing disclosure and arbitrage considerations.

Program Level: Basic **Field of Study:** Finance Technical **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.0 CPE

**9:45 AM – 10:35 AM The not so fundamentals of an ERP Implementation –
Installation vs Real Results**

Speakers: Tracy Neiheisel, Senior Program Leader, Baecore Group, Inc. and Mary Smith, Managing Partner, Baecore Group, Inc.

The session covers the key stages of ERP implementation with a unique focus on: Pre-work that matters, critical pitfalls to avoid, hidden impact areas, and post go live realities. This session goes beyond the typical ERP implementation overview to focus on critical areas where Municipalities can make the greatest impact on project outcomes. Rather than simply “getting it installed”, this presentation reveals the hidden opportunities to achieve real results from your ERP investment.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Understand key areas of an ERP implementation;
- Identify and understand critical activities for each Implementation stage;

- Know the work to complete to prepare for an implementation; and
- Understand key pitfalls in an implementation and how to avoid them.

Program Level: Advanced

Prerequisite:

Participants must have...

- 1. A Basic Understanding of Municipal Operations and departmental workflows**
 - a. Familiarity with how city departments function (e.g., Public Works, Finance, Utilities, Community Development).
 - b. Basic understanding of how services are delivered to residents.
 - c. Basic understanding of budget approvals
 - d. Knowledge of procurement processes
- 2. Experience Using Municipal Software Systems**
 - a. Basic familiarity with systems used by the municipality (finance systems, work order systems, asset management tools, permitting systems, etc.).
- 3. Familiarity with service requests, work orders, or administrative processes**
- 4. An Understanding of Cross-Department Collaboration**
 - a. Understanding that many municipal processes require coordination between departments (e.g., finance, public works, IT, and administration).

Field of Study: Computer Software & Applications – Non-technical

NASBA CPE: Earn About 1 CPE

10:40AM – 11:30 AM

Salary & Benefit Costing Unlocked

Speakers: Molly Talkington, City of Rolling Meadows and Julie Zolghadr, Retired

This session provides an interactive exploration of governmental budgeting with a focus on salary and benefit costs—the largest and most predictable component of municipal budgets. Participants will examine how to accurately forecast personnel-related expenses, incorporate best practices from GFOA, and use internal and external comparables to support compensation decisions. Through guided discussion and exercises, attendees will connect key budget principles to their own municipal operations and gain tools for more transparent, data-driven fiscal management

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

1. Understand the composition of total compensation and the impact of salary and benefit forecasting on overall budget stability;
2. Apply strategies for incorporating turnover, hiring lag, and collective bargaining changes into personnel cost projections; and
3. Evaluate the use of internal and external comparables to ensure equitable, competitive, and sustainable compensation practices.

Program Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites: Participants must understand governmental budgeting basics

Field of Study: Finance –Technical

NASBA CPE: Earn About 1 CPE

11:30 PM – 12:30 PM

Lunch

12:30 PM – 1:20 PM

Tax Assessment and the Levy: A Hands-On Approach.

Speaker: Andrew Kim, PMA

Seminar participants will learn how the levy process works. We will review the assessment process, the difference between governments in tax-capped and non-capped counties, the impact of CPI and New Property for tax-capped entities, the Truth in Taxation process, and other property tax related topics.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Understand how property assessments are determined
- Understand how EAV, CPI, and New Property impact the amount a unit of government can levy
- Understand how the tax levy becomes the tax extension
- Understand how the Limiting Rate is calculated

Program Level: Basic **Field of Study:** Taxes – Technical **NASBA CPE:** Earn About 1.0 CPE

1:25 PM – 2:15 PM

Navigating the Municipal Maze: Ratings, Rates & Regulatory Shifts

Speakers: Michelle Binns, PFM, Dalena Welkomer, Raymond James, and Stephan Roberts, Raymond James

This session equips finance personnel with critical insights into the current bond and investment market environment. We'll explore key arbitrage rebate considerations, rating agency strategies, and how recent federal policies may be affecting municipalities and their capital funding alternatives. Attendees will leave with actionable knowledge to strengthen financial planning and resilience in today's evolving fiscal landscape.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Understand current trends in the bond and investment markets to better anticipate financial impacts on your municipality
- Analyze how shifts in the bond and investment markets may influence borrowing costs, liquidity planning, and longterm municipal investment strategies;
- Assess arbitrage rebate implications in various market scenarios to enhance compliance and reduce financial risk for municipal issuers;
- Interpret rating agency perspectives in the current environment and apply those insights to support stronger credit profiles and financial resilience; and
- Evaluate the potential impacts of recent federal policies on municipal finances and capital funding options.

Program Level: Basic

Field of Study: Finance – Technical

NASBA CPE: Earn About 1 CPE

2:20 PM – 3:10 PM

Employee Engagement – Why We Must and How to Achieve It

Speakers: Maureen Barry, Senior Consultant, MGT Impact Solutions, LLC and Josh Peacock, Finance Director, Village of Streamwood

This session gives local government finance professionals practical ways to bring out the best in their teams—because great work happens when people feel connected, supported, and motivated. Participants will explore how to lead with intention, boost morale before it dips, and spark honest conversations that help employees grow. With a mix of simple tools and smart supervision strategies, the training focuses on turning everyday management moments into opportunities for development, clarity, and shared success.

Learning Objectives: *Participants completing this session will be able to:*

- Understand why it is important to engage employees in achieving success in your organization and in their own career goals.
- Implement strategies for managing/supervising staff and improving and/or maintaining staff morale.
- Use tools to encourage staff to discuss their strengths and goals and conduct candid performance reviews.

Program Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites: Participants must have a working knowledge of the skills needed and terms used in organizational management and the supervision of employees.

Field of Study: Personnel/Human Resources

NASBA CPE: Earn About 1.0 CPE

3:10 PM – 3:15 PM

Closing Remarks

IGFOA reserves the right to modify the agenda, sessions, and speakers.