



IGFOA PEC Committee presents

PEC Lunch & Learn: From Finance Leader to Finance Director: Readiness and Strategy for Local Government

Deerfield Public Library

May 14, 2026

AGENDA

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM Registration

12:00 PM - 12:15 PM Networking and Lunch is served

12:15 PM - 12:45PM Lunch is served

12:45PM – 1:30PM

From Finance Leader to Finance Director: Readiness and Strategy for Local Government

Speaker and Panelists: Ashley Eccles, MGT; Maureen Barry, MGT; Jon Beckmann, Waukegan Park District; Josh Peacock, Village of Streamwood; Kyle Cratty, City of Peoria

This session features senior consultants who specialize in recruiting local government positions and will share firsthand insights into what employers are seeking. Participants will gain practical strategies for evaluating organizations by reviewing budgets, audits, capital plans, and council meeting materials. The session will also highlight the importance of networking, professional certifications such as CPFO and CPA, and taking a proactive approach to career development, including seeking mentorship and remaining open to relocation for growth opportunities.

The program will conclude with a panel discussion, offering real-world advice and actionable insights to help you successfully pursue a Finance Director career.

Upon completion of this lunch & learn program, participants will be able to:

- Identify core competencies for financial leadership, including technical, managerial, and ethical skills required for a Finance Director role.
- Analyze organizational financial condition by reviewing budgets, audits and capital improvement plans to support informed decision-making.
- Develop a strategic career plan that incorporates certifications (e.g., CPFO, CPA), skill development and progressive experience.
- Apply effective networking and mentorship strategies to enhance career mobility and leadership readiness.



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- Assess personal readiness for advancement and identify targeted strategies to address competency gaps.
- Recognize the role of adaptability and geographic mobility in expanding leadership opportunities.
- Translate practitioner insights and recruitment trends into actionable strategies for pursuing Finance Director positions.

NASBA CPE: Earn About 1.5 CPE

Program Level: Basic

Field of Study: Finance – Non-Technical

1:30PM

Closing Remarks

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

Speaker Bios

Ashley Eccles, MGT – Bio

Ashley Eccles is a Senior Consultant with MGT Impact Solutions, LLC (formerly GovHR USA), where she specializes in executive recruitment and management consulting for public-sector organizations. Since joining the firm in 2024, she has advised local governments across Illinois and Wisconsin on recruiting and placing leaders in key roles, including City Managers, Deputy/Assistant Village Managers, Finance Directors, and Community and Economic Development Directors.

Ashley previously served in Assistant Village Administrator roles in suburban Chicagoland communities, where she oversaw cross-functional operations including Finance, Human Resources, IT, Communications, and Risk Management. She brings nearly a decade of municipal experience, having worked for the Villages of Hawthorn Woods, Lake in the Hills, and Antioch, Illinois.

She holds a Master of Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University and bachelor's degrees from Carthage College.

Maureen Barry, MGT – Bio

Maureen Barry is a Senior Consultant with MGT Impact Solutions, LLC (formerly GovHR USA), where she supports public organizations with executive recruitment and management consulting services. She brings over 30 years of combined public- and private-sector experience working with local governments

Since joining MGT in 2020, Maureen has led recruitments for a wide range of positions, particularly in Finance and Community/Economic Development, serving municipal, county, state, and quasi-public organizations across the Midwest, East, and West.

Prior to MGT, she spent nearly 13 years as a municipal financial advisor, providing consulting services to local governments. She began her career in public service with the Cities of Glendale, Arizona and Evanston, Illinois, and the Village of Wilmette, Illinois.

Jon Beckmann, Waukegan Park District – Bio

Jon Beckmann oversees a \$39 million annual operating and capital budget for Waukegan Park District and is responsible for all finance-related functions, as well as Human Resources, IT, Risk Management, and Golf Operations.



He holds two master's degrees, an MBA with concentrations in Organizational Development and Strategic Leadership from North Park University, and a Master's in Data Analytics from the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater. He also earned undergraduate degrees in Finance and Insurance/Risk Management from Illinois State University.

Jon is an active leader in the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA), where he serves as President, an Executive Board Member, and a member of the Professional Education Committee.

Josh Peacock, Village of Streamwood – Bio

Josh Peacock serves as Finance Director for the Village of Streamwood, Illinois. He began his career in public accounting with RSM US LLP (formerly McGladrey & Pullen), where he spent 10 years as an auditor primarily serving public-sector clients. During that time, he was designated as an internal control specialist and served as lead auditor for several large state pension systems.

Now in his 15th year with the Village, Josh advises the Village Board on financial matters, oversees the annual audit process (including the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report), and leads development of the Village's \$84 million budget.

He has played a key role in implementing the Tyler Munis ERP system and advancing financial operations through initiatives such as online bill pay, electronic billing, automated check processing, and enhanced payables. His recent work includes leading a Water Rate Study that informed a new dual-rate structure and supporting the development of local Food and Beverage Tax legislation.

Josh is actively involved in the organization and broader community, serving on multiple committees and as Treasurer of Streamwood's Summer Celebration festival. He is a CPA and a member of GFOA and IGFOA, where he serves on the Chicago Metro Board and co-chairs the Professional Education Committee.

Kyle Cratty, City of Peoria – Bio

Kyle Cratty currently serves as the Finance Director/Comptroller for the City of Peoria. In his role with the City of Peoria, Kyle oversees all the Finance functions for the City including budget, financial management, treasury management, accounts receivable, and purchasing.

Prior to working for the City, Kyle spent 10 years in multiple roles including 8 years as the Finance Director for the Park District of Oak Park. While at the Park District, Kyle wore many hats overseeing financial operations, information technology, data, strategy, and innovation as well as overseeing multiple software implementations.



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Kyle also spent a few years in the private sector consulting for smaller government finance offices. Kyle has a bachelors in Economics and Finance from St Ambrose University and a Masters in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Kyle currently serves as an at-large member of the IGFOA Executive Board as well as the Secretary for the Downstate Chapter of IGFOA.