



Comptroller's Financial Excellence Award

Application

Submission Deadline: *One month after your annual audit is due to be filed with the Comptroller's Office*

Thank you for applying for the Comptroller's Financial Excellence Award. Financial oversight and accountability of public dollars is crucial to the success of local governments. We commend you for the steps you have taken to implement practices to support financial excellence.

Local governments that are subject to both audit and budget oversight of the Comptroller's Office may apply for the award. This includes counties, metropolitan governments, municipalities, utility districts, municipal energy authorities, water and wastewater authorities, and other utility systems, such as joint ventures.

Please submit the application **and** supporting documents, as **one intact submission**, to LGF@cot.tn.gov with the subject line: "Comptroller's Financial Excellence Award." For additional information or assistance, please contact LGF at LGF@cot.tn.gov. The Comptroller's Office will review all applications, and the awards will be presented each fall.

Step 1: Name of Local Government

Enter Entity Name →

Step 2: Contact Information

The authorized entity representative is meant to be the main contact our office can speak with on issues pertaining to the entity or application. For example, Mayor, Executive, Manager, Finance Director, etc.

	Authorized Entity Representative	Form Preparer and Submitter
Name →		
Title →		
Phone →		
Email →		

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Step 3: Application Requirements

The following items must be completed, and the requested documents must be submitted together with this application.

Budgeting	Yes	N/A
1. Our local government was awarded the Comptroller's Annual Budget Certificate for FY 2025.		
2. Our 2025 FY audit demonstrated that we monitored the budget by spending within appropriated amounts and amending the budget for increased expenditures.		
Debt Management	Yes	N/A
3. Our local government has outstanding debt that is rated by at least one nationally recognized rating agency at or above AA (Aa). Answering "N/A" means your local government has no debt that has been rated.		
4. A copy of the latest bond rating is attached to this application.		
Financial Management	Yes	N/A
5. No audit findings were identified in the FY 2025 audit report.		
6. For Municipalities only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our municipality is in compliance with the CMFO Act. Enter name of responsible party → 		
7. For Centralized Counties or Centralized Metropolitan Governments only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our centralized county or centralized metropolitan government has a designated Certified County Financial Officer (CCFO), or a CPA on staff. Enter name of responsible party → 		

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<p>8. For Non-Centralized Counties or Non-Centralized Metropolitan Governments only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our non-centralized county or non-centralized metropolitan has, at minimum, a CCFO in the Mayor / County Executive's Office, Highway Department, and School Department. • Enter name of Executive's Office responsible party → • Enter name of Highway Department responsible party → • Enter name of School Department responsible party → 		
<p>9. Our local government demonstrates financial strength pursuant to the financial health metrics outlined on the Comptroller's website and in the Comptroller's debt and budget manuals (financial metrics contain no levels of concern or distress).</p>		
<p>Financial Oversight and Accountability – Financial Policies</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>10. Our local government has adopted financial policies consistent with those required for eligibility of the award, and such policies are attached to this application.</p>		
<p>11. A certified copy of the resolution confirming the policies were reviewed is attached to this application.</p>		
<p>Financial Reporting and Transparency</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>12. Our FY 2025 audit was filed timely with the Comptroller's Office.</p>		
<p>13. For audits contracted with an independent CPA firm, the Division of Local Government Audit did not reject our FY 2025 audit because of significant deficiencies. If you have not received your letter, check "N/A."</p>		
<p>14. Our FY 2025 audit and FY 2025 budget, including any amendments, are published at the following website address →</p>		

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Step 4: Attestation and Signatures

The local government indicated below hereby applies for the Comptroller's Financial Excellence Award, and the following signatures of the local officials verify the submitted information is accurate.

Name of Local Government →		
	Authorized Representative	Form Preparer and Submitter
Signature →		
Date →		