



GAO's Executive Exchange Program

**A Strategic Opportunity
to Share Knowledge and
Serve the Country**



G A O

Accountability • Integrity • Reliability



Speaking Truth to Power: GAO and You

Our Federal Government

The federal government employs more than 2.7 million people; their mission, the security and welfare of roughly 300 million Americans.

This enormous entity is led by executives and managers who face a range of new and daunting challenges to the nation—changing security threats, demographic trends associated with an aging and more diverse population, the reemergence of large federal deficits and a variety of societal challenges.

Through government actions, spending programs, tax policies, regulation, mandates, guarantees, contracting activities, oversight, and enforcement, no area of American life and no endeavor—individual, business, or nonprofit—is left untouched.

GAO plays an essential role in government: “speaking truth to power.” It is our responsibility to give the nation’s lawmakers and other government decision makers, and the public as well, the professional, objective, fact-based, nonpartisan, nonideological, fair, balanced, and reliable information they need to make timely and informed decisions.

“We perform a variety of oversight, insight, foresight, and adjudicatory functions spanning everything the federal government does or is thinking about doing anywhere in the world.”

Honorable David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States



GAO: Leader and Watchdog

GAO serves as the independent auditor and Congress’s “watchdog” over the federal government. As an arm of Congress, we keep the House and Senate informed and support government accountability through

- ◆ financial, performance, and compliance audits, and policy analyses;
- ◆ testimony at hearings;
- ◆ advice based on our extensive bodies of work; and
- ◆ professional standard setting.

GAO contributes to efforts to modernize federal financial management and expand financial and performance reporting, and we promote results-oriented performance in government operations.

Much of GAO’s work focuses on government operations, whether in a nationwide program, management at agency headquarters, or field operations across the country. Comptroller General David M. Walker has summed it up: “We perform a variety of oversight, insight, foresight, and adjudicatory functions spanning everything the federal government does or is thinking about doing anywhere in the world.”



Increasingly, GAO is called upon to provide foresight through analysis of current and emerging challenges facing Congress and the nation. GAO has a statutory responsibility for monitoring the condition of the nation's finances, and the Comptroller General has been outspoken in calling attention to the nation's growing long-term fiscal challenges, including the imperative of taking action now so that our generation does not encumber future generations with the burden of excess debt.

To carry out its wide-ranging responsibilities, GAO employs a staff of 3,200, about 75 percent of which are auditors, analysts, or specialists in 13 research, audit, and evaluation teams. GAO also has a large office of General Counsel, whose attorneys issue legal opinions, provide legal support and advice, and administer a bid protest adjudicatory function. In addition to its Washington, D.C. headquarters staff, GAO maintains field offices in Atlanta; Boston; Chicago; Dallas; Dayton, Ohio; Denver; Huntsville, Alabama; Los Angeles; Norfolk, Virginia; San Francisco; and Seattle; .

GAO's work demands—and GAO actively recruits—people who possess extraordinary knowledge and skills in public policy, general management, financial management, economics, law, research methodology, accounting, and auditing.

The Executive Exchange participant—Looking for an out-of-the-ordinary experience. Possessing extraordinary abilities.



Executive Exchange: Your Organization and GAO

GAO's Executive Exchange offers selected business and nonprofit professionals a brief but extraordinary experience to match their skills with GAO's needs and opportunities. At GAO participants will have an inside view of the institutions, decisions and decision makers, and operations of the federal government. The range of talent, experience, and skills that can be enriched in the Executive Exchange is as broad as the federal government's programs and activities nationwide and around the world. High-potential candidates in management, and specialists—whether in finance, law, research, or fields from health care and pensions to international trade—can benefit from opportunities found only at GAO. From their experience as members of a GAO team, participants will bring back to their organization insight that is invaluable in today's business and nonprofit environment.

If you believe your most promising professionals have knowledge, skills, and abilities of value to the nation; who are willing to try new ways of addressing old problems; and have the character and the desire to make a difference, GAO has a number of exciting Executive Exchange experiences to offer. Details about the opportunities Executive Exchange offers and the requirements for nomination, selection, and participation are provided in the [position announcement](#).



The Executive Exchange Participant and GAO

For the participant, Executive Exchange is an opportunity to obtain a broader perspective, deeper understanding, and firsthand learning experience in the federal government.

Participants are matched with a team and a project in their area of expertise and interest, joining one of [13 mission teams](#) or other offices, such as General Counsel, Information Systems and Technology Services, Quality and Continuous Improvement, and Strategic Planning and External Liaison. GAO has designed and identified projects for Executive Exchange that are of importance to GAO and the nation and that promise a learning experience of special value to participants. The nation's greatest challenges call for the most innovative ideas, and so the list of projects that qualify for Executive Exchange is extensive, varied, and ever changing.

Matched with a special project from a range of issues as broad as GAO's mandate, the participant can help advance the understanding of complex issues. For example, growing concern over the nation's long-term fiscal challenges presents a challenge to financial professionals and economists in projects analyzing the federal government's fiscal exposure. Electronic information sharing is vital to our defense against new threats to the nation's safety and security. Through Executive Exchange, IT and management professionals can apply their knowledge of good practices to strengthening homeland security. Corporate failures and account-



ing scandals in recent years have brought ongoing reforms in corporate governance, accountability, and transparency. Executive Exchange accounting and financial experts can help assure the ultimate success of these reforms by applying their insight to the complex issues facing accounting and auditing standard-setters. These are just a few of the many [GAO projects](#) identified for Executive Exchange participants, and new projects are continually being added.

In the course of their project, participants may meet and work with federal decision makers whose actions affect not only the government, but business, nonprofit organizations, the public, and the accountability profession both at home and abroad. They may work and meet with their counterparts in government or those in other fields, such as:

- ◆ auditors and inspectors general;
- ◆ agency leadership;
- ◆ program, financial, human capital, and IT managers;
- ◆ members of Congress and their staff; and
- ◆ senior specialists such as lawyers, economists, actuaries, and research methodologists.

The benefits of Executive Exchange are easy to see, but taking a mid-career leap can be hard. That's why the program offers a smooth transition between employer and GAO, and back—par-



Participants can retain all of their salary and benefits from their employer while at GAO, and unless there is a conflict with their chosen project, they are not required to divest themselves of their financial interests.

For the participant, Executive Exchange is an opportunity for growth. For the participant's organization, it means welcoming back a more valuable professional with an inside understanding of the federal government. GAO, the Congress, and the country all gain from the value the participant has contributed through Executive Exchange.



GAO's Mission Teams

- ◆ Acquisition and Sourcing Management Team (ASM)
- ◆ Applied Research and Methods (ARM)
- ◆ Defense Capabilities and Management (DCM)
- ◆ Education, Workforce, and Income Security (EWIS)
- ◆ Financial Management and Assurance (FMA)
- ◆ Financial Markets and Community Investment (FMCI)
- ◆ Health Care (HC)
- ◆ Homeland Security and Justice (HSJ)
- ◆ National Preparedness (NP)
- ◆ Information Technology (IT)
- ◆ International Affairs and Trade (IAT)
- ◆ Natural Resources and Environment (NRE)
- ◆ Physical Infrastructure (PI)
- ◆ Strategic Issues (SI)

[More information](#) is available. Still have questions? Organizations interested in submitting a nomination for Executive Exchange, and professionals interested in becoming a nominee, contact Jesse Hoskins at 202-512-4583 or hoskinsj@gao.gov.

