



**SHARED CHALLENGES, SHARED RESOURCES:
MANAGING PUBLIC BUDGETING AND FINANCE IN
A MULTI-LEVEL SYSTEM**

Call for Proposals for ABFM's 38th Annual Research Conference
September 24–27, 2025
At the George Washington University Student Center in Washington D.C.

Hosted by
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration
George Washington University

Deadline for Submissions: May 1, 2026

Public budgeting and financial management operate within an increasingly complex, interconnected system of national, state, and local governments. Responsibilities are shared. Revenues are interdependent. Risks are distributed unevenly. Pressures—from economic volatility and infrastructure demands to health care financing and climate adaptation—cross jurisdictional boundaries.

The Association for Budgeting and Financial Management 2026 conference invites scholars and practitioners to explore how public finance systems function in a multi-level governance environment. How are responsibilities and resources aligned? How do grants, mandates, and revenue authority shape fiscal behavior? How can budgeting institutions adapt to shared challenges while maintaining accountability and sustainability? Hosting the conference in Washington, D.C. provides a timely setting to examine the evolving relationships among federal agencies, states, municipalities, and regional entities.

Panel, paper, and poster proposals must be received via [this link](#) by the submission deadline (May 1, 2026) to be considered for inclusion in the 2026 conference. Questions or comments about your proposal should be sent to the conference committee chair, Hai (David) Guo (david.guo@wichita.edu). The notice of accepted proposals will be sent by June 12, 2026. Conference registration, hotel, and travel information will be available soon at www.abfm.org.

PANEL PROPOSALS

Panels consist of a collection of up to four (4) presenters under a common theme. Proposals for panels must include the following:

1. Title of proposed panel (maximum 30 characters)
2. Panel chair or host (name, title, institutional affiliation, email contact)
3. Panel summary (up to 150-word abstract summarizing panel)
4. Panelists (name, title, institutional affiliation, title of presentation, email contact)

Multiple panel proposals are welcome, but please indicate the priority of each panel.

PAPER PROPOSALS

Proposals for individual paper presentations. These will be assembled with other individual papers of similar themes into a session panel. Proposals must include the following:

1. Title of proposed paper or presentation (maximum 30 characters)
2. Presenting author (name, title, institution affiliation, email contact)
3. Abstract (up to 150 words)
4. List of any co-authors (names, titles, affiliations, emails)

POSTER PROPOSALS

A dedicated time slot will be used for accepted posters to be presented, and a panel will select an outstanding poster for recognition and a modest financial award. The session is open to doctoral students. Proposals must include the following:

1. Title of proposed poster (maximum of 30 characters)
2. Author (name of doctoral student, institutional affiliation, name of major advisor, expected defense month/year)
3. Abstract (150 word abstract for the proposed poster)

Consideration of managing public budgeting and finance in a multi-level system may include any of the following topics:

- Accounting and Financial Reporting
- AI in Public Finance
- Behavioral and Experimental Public Finance
- Budget Theory and Mechanisms
- Capital Planning and Budgeting
- Citizen Participation in Budgeting
- Current Development in State and Local Finance
- Debt Financing and Management
- Federal Budgeting Challenges and Reforms
- Fiscal Health and Resilience
- Fiscal Federalism
- International/Comparative Budgeting
- Not-for-Profit Finance/Financial Management
- Intergovernmental Finance/ Fiscal Federalism
- International/Comparative Budgeting
- Intersections between climate, disaster management, Health, Housing, Transportation, etc. and Budget Policy
- Performance Budgeting
- Public Finance and Economic Development
- Public Pension Management and Investment
- Public Procurement and Contracting
- Public-Private-Nonprofit Partnerships
- Tax Policy and Administration
- Transparency and Accountability in Public Finance

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| Supporter | Quarter-page Black & White program ad | Logo on shared poster | N/A | N/A | N/A |

All sponsor logos will appear in the opening pages of the conference program and in the sponsor thank-you email distributed to all attendees.

Visit our sponsorship website for additional packages and pricing:

<https://abfm.org/annual-conference/conference-sponsorships/>

Or please feel free to contact Sponsorship Chair Yulia Shybalkina (iuliia.shybalkina@uky.edu) with any questions