

Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) of the US & Canada – Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Coconino County is pleased to announce that for the 9th consecutive year it has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the GFOA for its annual adopted budget for fiscal year 2010. The GFOA established the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program in 1984 to encourage and assist state and local governments to prepare budget documents of the very highest quality that reflect both the guidelines established by the National Advisory Council on State and Local Budgeting and the GFOA's recommended best practices on budgeting and then to recognize local individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. The County is one of only five Arizona Counties that receive the award – the others include Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma. Annually, more than 1,100 governments participate in the program.

Documents submitted by the County to the Budget Awards Program were reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and by outside reviewers with experience in public-sector budgeting. Our current Budget Manager, Siri Mullaney served as a reviewer in the program in past years.

The County's budget documents were evaluated separately by three reviewers on 27 specific mandatory criteria grouped into four basic categories; the budget as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communication device. To receive the award, a budget document must be rated either *proficient* or *outstanding* by at least two of the three reviewers for all four basic categories, as well as for 14 of the 27 specific criteria identified as "mandatory."

Benefits of Preparing Budget Documents for the Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program:

- Top-quality budget documents are essential if citizens and others with an interest the County's finances are to be fully informed participants in the budget process
- Better budget documents contribute to better decision making and enhanced accountability
- Indicates a commitment to the transparency and reliability of budget document
- Recognized as one of GFOA's best practices
- Program assists the County in continually improving its budget documents
- Success in preparing a high quality budget document is recognized; recognition can be a positive factor by credit rating agencies
- Great source of information about County programs and services

For additional information please click on the attached link to the GFOA website www.gfoa.org then click on "Award Programs" on the left hand side of the home page; to obtain detailed information click on the Distinguished Budget Award Program, it is the first program listed.