

“Please keep this going. It is such a valuable toolbox of resources available and consistent reminders of best practices for our agencies.”

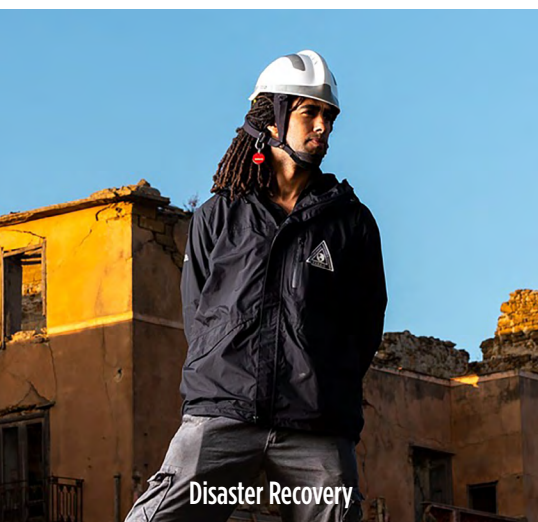
- November 2025 CLGE Participant

YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS

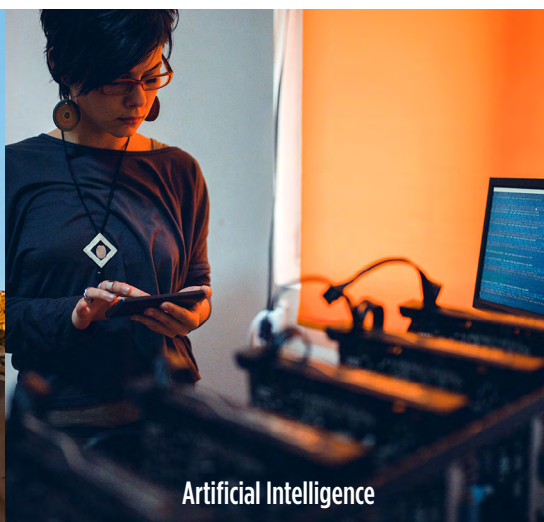


CENTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE

The heart of our agency is our role as a trusted advisor and partner for your organization. The goal of this program is for local officials to take the knowledge and skills gained from these classes back to their respective governments and agencies and apply them to make a positive difference.



Disaster Recovery



Artificial Intelligence



Auditing & Compliance

March 11-12, 2026 • In-Person and Livestream
Pennington Biomedical Research Center • C.B. Pennington Conference Center
6400 Perkins Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

About the Center for Local Government Excellence

Our Mission

Founded in 2015, the **Center for Local Government Excellence** provides local officials and staff with practical, immediately-applicable skills to improve government operations, service quality, and audit effectiveness. The program focuses on real workplace issues and offers replicable solutions, supports professional development, and encourages engagement with Legislative Auditor personnel and peers.

Registration

CLGE is a **complimentary** training provided by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. Since the event is livestreamed, participants can attend in-person in Baton Rouge or virtually, whichever best fits their schedule and learning style. Click [HERE](#) to register or visit our website at lla.la.gov/clge. Course materials will be posted on the CLGE website when they are available. Prior to the training, registrants will be provided a link to the live broadcast. *Questions?* Call Liz Martin at (225) 339-3995 or email clge@lla.la.gov.

Certifications

This training qualifies for a maximum of 8 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit, which for CPAs is based on verified actual education hours attended on an individual course basis in accordance with Louisiana State Board of CPAs rules. Everyone with verified attendance of at least one session will receive a CPE transcript, and all transcripts will be emailed several weeks after the workshop.

The Louisiana State Bar Association has approved this workshop for a maximum of 8 hours of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit. In-person attendees will receive the Course Attendance Form at the workshop. Livestream attendees must check the box requesting CLE when signing into the broadcast to receive the Course Attendance Form with instructions via email. All records are maintained for five years.

Who Should Attend?

Anyone responsible for managing, utilizing, or accounting for public funds, such as:

- Elected officials
- Members of governing bodies such as councils, police juries, school boards, and other boards and commissions
- Department heads
- Accountants and others who perform accounting, finance, and budgeting functions
- Clerks
- Purchasing agents and staff
- Administrative staff
- Auditors and contract accountants
- Consultants and advisors to local governments

The Center for Local Government Excellence programs benefit officials and employees new to local government and serve as a refresher for long-time public servants.



Today's public sector professionals face growing demands for accountability, transparency, and resilience. The theme for our first day, **"Preparing for Success,"** lays out a roadmap featuring practical guidance to help you reduce audit stress, navigate FEMA's Public Assistance reimbursements after disasters, and confidently comply with Louisiana's Open Meetings Law. David Greer will share his knowledge and experience from serving as the Court-Appointed Fiscal Administrator for five municipalities over the span of 12 years. You'll also receive guidance from our outstanding legal team in an open panel discussion about the Public Bid Law!

Be sure to return the second day for the **"Nuts and Bolts,"** featuring tools to help manage organizational risk. Topics will include how to conduct internal investigations; reporting Unclaimed Property; and the shift from Artificial Intelligence (AI) experimentation to dependable, policy-aligned practices. Together, these sessions will equip you with the tools necessary to protect public resources, strengthen compliance, and effectively lead in a complex and evolving environment.

7:30 – 8:20 a.m.

Log-In Opens for Livestream Attendees;
In-Person Registration/Coffee and Pastries

8:20 – 8:25 a.m.

Welcome by Legislative Auditor Michael J. “Mike”
Waguespack, CPA

8:25 – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Program Overview by Judith Dettwiller, CPA,
CIA, Director of Local Government Services

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Audit Ready, Stress Free: Your Essential Checklist for Success

Brandon Boylan

Finance Director, City of St. George

Preparing for an audit doesn't have to be stressful. This session will walk you through a practical, step-by-step checklist to ensure your financial statements, supporting documentation, and compliance records are audit-ready. Learn best practices, avoid common pitfalls, and leave with tools to streamline your audit preparation process.

9:30 – 9:40 a.m.

Break

9:40 – 10:40 a.m.

Disaster Recovery Assistance: Tips for Faster Reimbursement

Kelly Russell, PMP

Manager of Construction Auditing, Recovery Assistance Services

Louisiana has a history of devastation from natural disasters, which has produced a resilient attitude from its citizens. Our resiliency is based upon our preparation to endure these disasters and our tenacity to recover from them. This session will provide insight on how Louisiana partners with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to access Public Assistance disaster recovery funds to aid in the state's recovery. When a disaster is over, many questions arise about how to recover as quickly as possible. In this session, we will discuss how to navigate the FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement process and how to avoid pitfalls that often delay disaster reimbursement.

10:40 – 10:50 a.m.

Break

10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

Louisiana Open Meetings Law

Angela M. Heath, LLM, CFE

Senior Attorney

This presentation provides an overview of the Louisiana Open Meetings Law, (La. R.S. 42:11, *et seq.*), including the legal framework that ensures public bodies conduct business in an open and transparent manner. Participants will learn the legal definitions of a “meeting” and a “quorum;” the rights of the public to observe and participate in proceedings; and the specific obligations of public bodies regarding notice, minutes, and the participation by members and the public with disabilities. The session will also cover the strict requirements for exceptions, such as entering executive session or conducting virtual meetings, and strategies for handling public comment effectively while maintaining order.

11:50 a.m. – 1:20 p.m. Lunch Break

1:20 – 2:20 p.m.

How to Prevent Going into Fiscal Administration

David Greer, CPA

Fiscal Administrator for the Town of Homer

Retired First Assistant Legislative Auditor

This session will discuss the common shortfalls and problems that have been encountered in five different municipalities in Louisiana for which a fiscal administrator was appointed. We will discuss what should have happened in these municipalities to avoid fiscal administration and explore solutions for common problems. The fiscal administrator law (R.S. 39:1351-1358) will be discussed to provide an understanding of the mechanisms that will trigger the appointment of a fiscal administrator and the authority provided to this individual by state law.

2:20 – 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Public Bid Law for the Purchase of Materials

and Supplies Panel Discussion

Jenifer Schaye, CFE, LLA General Counsel

Angela M. Heath, LLM, CFE, Senior Attorney

Patrick Virgadamo, CFE, Senior Attorney

This panel discussion provides a comprehensive overview of the Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2212.1), focusing on the legal requirements for the purchase of materials and supplies by public entities. Participants will be encouraged to explore the constitutional basis of Public Bid Law; the specific thresholds that trigger the need for formal advertising versus the “three-quote” process; and the strict documentation required. This session will also highlight common exceptions to the Public Bid Law, including but not limited to buying an item off of a State contract, “piggybacking” off of an existing contract, and qualified group purchasing. The panel will discuss practical considerations and challenges to procurement in various scenarios.



Thursday, March 12, 2026 • “Nuts and Bolts”

7:30 – 8:25 a.m.

Log-In Opens for Livestream Attendees;
In-Person Registration/Coffee and Pastries

8:25 – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome and Program Overview by Lizzie Schexnayder,
MSHRLD, CTP, Professional Development Manager

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Internal Investigations: A Comprehensive Guide for Local Governments - Safeguarding Integrity, Compliance, and Trust

*Brian F. Blackwell, Chief Investigator
Workplace Investigations of the South, LC*

This session will go through the nuts and bolts of internal investigations and provide attendees with a practical playbook for conducting them—designed to help leadership respond swiftly, fairly, and effectively to allegations that may trigger such an investigation.

9:30 – 9:40 a.m.

Break

9:40 – 10:40 a.m.

Unclaimed Property Compliance – Basics, Legal Requirements, and Step-by-Step Reporting

*Kathleen Lobell, Director of Unclaimed Property
Office of State Treasurer John Fleming, MD*

What is Unclaimed Property? How did we get to the laws in place today? What are your responsibilities as a holder, as well as the best practices for reporting?

10:40 – 10:50 a.m.

Break

10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

From Experimentation to Implementation: Building AI Practices for Reliable Results

*Tracy L.M. Norton, Assistant Professor of Law
Erick Vincent Anderson Professorship
Louisiana State University*

Many professionals have moved past AI curiosity into active experimentation—trying tools, testing prompts, and discovering what works through trial and error. For Louisiana state employees, this shift from experimentation to systematic practice isn't just about efficiency—it's about meeting the expectations outlined in the Governor's Executive Order on AI use by state agencies. This session bridges that gap. Building on foundational AI literacy, we'll explore practical frameworks for moving from ad hoc AI use to systematic practices that produce dependable outcomes. Topics include identifying which workflows benefit most from AI assistance, establishing quality control protocols for AI-generated work, creating shared resources that reduce duplication of effort, and building feedback loops for continuous improvement. Participants will leave with actionable strategies for transforming scattered experimentation into coherent, sustainable AI practices.

“Everyone did a great job! I plan to watch these videos often as training tools to help me be better at my job.”

- November 2025 CLGE Participant

What are you waiting for? To register for this dynamic and informative program, click here!

Photos courtesy of pixabay.com.

For our in-person attendees, dress is business casual. Coffee, water, and snacks will be available each morning. Lunch will be on your own each day.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Liz Martin at (225) 339-3995 or clge@lla.la.gov.