



## Financial Services Audit Committee Communication

**Date:** May 22, 2026

**To:** Audit Committee

**From:** Alicia Schwartz, Grants Manager

**Re:** National Grants Management Association (NGMA) – Michigan Chapter

**About NGMA:** Founded in 1978, the National Grants Management Association (NGMA) is a national professional association representing more than 7,000 grants management professionals spanning supervisory, accounting, compliance, and related roles. The organization advances excellence in grants management through rigorous training, certification, peer networking, and the promotion of best practices.

**Strategic Rationale for a Michigan Chapter:** The GLWA Grants Management Team has been engaged with NGMA for several years and I have recently worked directly with the NGMA Board of Directors and several other local resources to establish a Michigan Chapter. As federal funding opportunities grow more complex, grants professionals will benefit from localized training and a coordinated statewide network. I will serve as part of the inaugural leadership team focusing on establishing sustainable programming, expanding membership, and cultivating a strong statewide network.

The Michigan Chapter is positioned to become a central network for professional growth and collaboration by offering:

- Local opportunities for networking, knowledge sharing, and continuing professional education (CPE).
- A platform for promoting grants management best practices statewide.
- Training tailored to Michigan-specific grant programs and state funding structures.
- Support for professionals pursuing the Certified Grants Management Specialist certification.
- Peer collaboration and networking that enhance day-to-day practice and problem-solving.

**Next Steps:** I will continue to provide updates on the stand-up of this local Chapter, including resources and the process to join as we continue to build with the support of the national organization and other local leadership volunteers.