



PRISM

Public Risk Innovation,
Solutions, and Management

TO: PRISM Staff and Members

FROM: Alana Theiss CPA, Controller

DATE: April 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Proper Referencing of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

On March 5, 2021, the Executive Board of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) approved a policy statement to outline an intentional change in the professional standards and expectations of government finance professionals and their industry affiliates as it relates to the formal and day-to-day discussion of Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports. This policy will be voted on by GFOA membership at the annual business meeting in July 2021.

At issue is the four-letter acronym commonly used to refer to the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Per the GFOA:

...this four-letter acronym, frequently leveraged in the government financial accounting industry to shorten the name of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, is pronounced the same way as a profoundly offensive racial slur in South Africa. The offensive version of this term is most often associated with the atrocities of the apartheid regime. Separately, a similar pronunciation also has a deeply controversial meaning in Arabic for those who practice Islam.

Given the above, GFOA is asking all industry affiliates to immediately stop using the common four-letter acronym most often associated with the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued an Exposure Draft April 13, 2021, proposing to change the “comprehensive annual financial report” to the “annual comprehensive financial report” in its official standards and codification.

As a member of GFOA, PRISM has complied with its policy statement will henceforth refer to the report as the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), the name proposed by GASB.

You can learn more about GFOA’s stance on this matter, and its End the Acronym campaign, online at:

<https://www.gfoa.org/materials/reference-comprehensive-annual-financial-report>

<https://www.gfoa.org/eta-fact-sheet>

<https://www.gfoa.org/eta-faq>



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GASB's Media Advisory on the matter, including a link to an Exposure Draft of *The Annual Comprehensive Report*, can be found at:

https://gasb.org/cs/Satellite?c=GASBContent_C&cid=1176176489231&pagename=GASB%2FGASBContent_C%2FGASBNewsPage

For any questions, please contact [Alana Theiss](#), PRISM Controller, at 916.850.7300.

