



Strategic Advisors to Government Executives

Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO)

The Partnership for Public Service's *Strategic Advisors to Government Executives (SAGE) Program* connects senior-level executives in government with their predecessors who are now in the private-sector, providing them with an opportunity to leverage prior government experience and private-sector capabilities to continue to help transform government and improve performance.

Program Missions

- ★ Assist incoming, presidentially appointed acquisition officers understand the breadth of the trust being placed in them, their fiduciary and ethical responsibilities, and the political and personal vulnerabilities of the position;
- ★ Assist, advise, and mentor incoming public-sector CAOs on successful enterprise and major program acquisition strategies, procedures and outcomes;
- ★ Create a forum for thought leadership and information exchange among existing and former local, state, and federal sector CAOs;
- ★ Share and build on valuable “lessons learned” and discuss foundational activities essential to acquisition strategy and how that strategy relates to the agency’s or department’s mission; and
- ★ Help incoming CAOs, Senior Procurement Executives, and other senior-level acquisition and procurement officials successfully understand the applicable laws and guidelines related to the acquisition function.

FEDERAL CAO ROADMAP

The Federal CAO Roadmap provides a high-level overview of the role of the federal CAO, including an outline of the required duties and fiduciary responsibilities of the position.

BOOT CAMP

Working closely with the CAO Council, the CAO *SAGEs* will be producing the first-of-its-kind CAO Boot Camp to inform and guide new CAOs, Chief Acquisition Executives and Senior Procurement Executives. Using the Federal CAO Roadmap as a model, the Boot Camp will examine the role of the federal CAO from both public and private perspectives in order to assist incoming CAOs in tackling the responsibilities of their position and the potential obstacles they may face.

History

The CAO *SAGE* community is the most recently established, and is modeled closely after the CIO and CFO *SAGE* communities to become a forum for sharing information, ideas and best practices. A charter group was founded in 2008 to address the needs of the federal acquisition and procurement communities by providing mentorship, guidance and advice to current CAOs and Senior Procurement Executives responsible for enterprise-wide acquisition programs. The group produced the Federal CAO Roadmap and is currently working in conjunction with the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to produce a series of workshops focusing on relevant and timely issues facing the federal acquisition and procurement community.

Membership

CAO *SAGEs* are former public-sector CAOs, Chief Acquisition Executives and Senior Procurement Executives, as well as other senior-level acquisition and procurement officials, who leverage their knowledge and expertise of federal, state, and local acquisition issues and strategies to assist and mentor incoming and current government CAOs and other procurement professionals. The initial steering committee has expanded into a full-sized community and continues to grow.