



**STAFF
ACADEMY FOR
GOVERNMENTAL
EXCELLENCE**

A PROGRAM OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS SOUTHERN OFFICE

2026

NOVEMBER 15-19

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

NOW ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR THE
CLASS OF 2026

FROM SOUTHERN STATE LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE,
AND JUDICIAL STAFF

FULL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AWARDED TO SELECTED
APPLICANTS, COVERING THE COST OF TUITION,
TRAVEL, LODGING, AND MEALS.



SOUTH

SAGE



APPLY ONLINE BY
JULY 24, 2026

SCAN THIS CODE



APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN
EARLY SEPTEMBER REGARDING THE
STATUS OF THEIR APPLICATION.

THE STAFF ACADEMY FOR GOVERNMENTAL EXCELLENCE® (SAGE) is a professional leadership development program for Southern state legislative, judicial, executive and agency staff. In addition to developing their personal and professional leadership skills, participants can build a network of peers from across the Southern region. By shaping staff leaders, SAGE ultimately aims to provide the public with more effective state governments.

The nation's only regionally focused leadership development program for state government staff, SAGE is rooted in The Council of State Government Southern Office's (CSG South) proud legacy of providing exemplary leadership training to elected and appointed state officials. SAGE is designed to equip emerging and aspiring staff leaders with the tools necessary to excel in navigating the unique dynamics of career public service and to build a vast roster of highly skilled future leaders among state government staff.



Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from early and mid-career state legislative, judicial, executive, and agency staff in CSG South's 15 member states, **Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.**

Selection Criteria

Successful applicants must demonstrate:

- **Motivation** for personal and professional growth
- **Dedication** to public service
- **Commitment** to improving processes in their governmental branch
- **Desire** to foster a culture of diversity and excellence

Venue

The 2026 SAGE program will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Application

Candidates must submit the following by **July 24, 2026**:

- A completed online application form available at <https://csgsouth.org/leadership-development/sage/>
- A cover letter, addressed to SAGE Selection Committee, stating the reasons you are interested in applying to SAGE
- Two letters of recommendation, one from a current supervisor and one from a current or former colleague/supervisor or SAGE Alumni
- A written biographical summary, **limited to 150 words or fewer**
- Answers to 5 application questions, limited to 150 words or fewer per question
- Current resume
- Current professional headshot



For more information:

Visit csgsouth.org to learn more about the program and its history and to view the online application. For specific inquiries, please call **(404) 633-1866** or email SAGE@csg.org.


Please note: SAGE is a classroom experience, not a conference. Because of the nature of the program and the importance of interaction among classmates, **participating government staff must commit to attend the program in its entirety.** Attendance at all SAGE events is limited to the selected participants. Spouses, guests, and children are not permitted to attend or accompany participants to the program.





Program Overview

	Sunday 11/14	Monday 11/15	Tuesday 11/16	Wednesday 11/17	Thursday 11/18
Morning	Arrivals to Oklahoma and check-in at the Hotel.	Leadership programming	Leadership programming	Leadership programming	Return travel
Afternoon					
Evening	Activities, dinner, networking	Activities, dinner, networking	Activities, dinner, networking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitol tour • Closing keynote • Graduation 	

**The Council of
State Governments
Southern Office**
1946 Clairmont Road
Decatur, Georgia 30033

 csgsouth.org

 404.633.1866

 csgsouth@csg.org

 @CSGSouth

 CSGSouth

APPLY NOW
TO BECOME A SAGE SCHOLAR
VISIT [CSGSOUTH.ORG](https://csgsouth.org) OR SCAN THIS CODE

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS UNTIL
JULY 24, 2026

Full scholarships are awarded to selected applicants, covering the cost of tuition, travel, lodging, and meals.



**Staff Academy for
Governmental Excellence**

A PROGRAM OF CSG SOUTH

NOVEMBER 15-19
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA



SOUTH

REGIONAL FOCUS, NATIONAL SCOPE

ALABAMA • ARKANSAS • FLORIDA • GEORGIA • KENTUCKY • LOUISIANA • MISSISSIPPI • MISSOURI
NORTH CAROLINA • OKLAHOMA • SOUTH CAROLINA • TENNESSEE • TEXAS • VIRGINIA • WEST VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED IN 1947, THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS SOUTHERN OFFICE (CSG SOUTH) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that exists to support members in all three branches of state government. At CSG South we act as an extension of state government, fostering the exchange of insights and ideas to help state officials and staff shape public policy and create problem-solving partnerships.

The mission of CSG South is to promote and strengthen intergovernmental cooperation among its 15 member states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Predominantly, this is achieved through the ongoing work of CSG South's seven standing committees and supporting groups.

Legislative leadership, members, and staff depend on CSG South to identify and analyze solutions for the most prevalent and unique policy issues facing Southern state governments. We facilitate outreach in state capitols, leadership development, staff exchange programs, domestic and international policy delegations, and other efforts to support state policymakers and legislative staff in their work to build stronger, more successful states.

The Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) is the largest regional gathering of legislative members and staff. SLC boasts an array of well-established programs—focusing on both existing and emerging state government innovations and solutions—providing policymakers and staff diverse opportunities to interact with policy experts and share their knowledge with colleagues.