



Federation of Tax Administrators

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Washington DC Office of Tax and Revenue Named FTA Innovation and Excellence Award Winner Tax agency recognized for Community Working Group Project

The Federation of Tax Administrators has named the Washington DC Office of Tax and Revenue an FTA Innovation and Excellence in Tax Administration Award winner for its Criminal Investigation Division Community Working Group for FTA Members project.

This initiative is transforming how state tax authorities address criminal tax compliance. The project came out of a need for a dedicated forum for state tax authorities with criminal investigation divisions to collaborate, share emerging tax fraud trends, and exchange best practices for effective enforcement.

"The work this group does is a shining examples of collaboration, innovation, and commitment coming together to deliver fairness in tax administration," said FTA Executive Director Sharonne Bonardi. "This project highlights the importance of balanced compliance approaches, and better equips revenue administrators to hold noncompliant taxpayers accountable."

Initiated by veteran law enforcement officer and Chief of Criminal Investigation at the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue John Fowler, this working group has brought together 102 members from 44 FTA member agencies, creating a collaborative community of law enforcement agents, investigators, and auditors.

Through quarterly meetings, members share investigative techniques, AI capabilities for law enforcement, and the importance of statutory law enforcement authority for criminal tax investigators, among other valuable insights. These discussions have empowered agencies to enhance their investigative missions, improve safety for agents and the public, and address delays caused by reliance on external law enforcement partners.

Members have reported improved morale, stronger strategic partnerships, and actionable data to advocate for better resources and authority within their jurisdictions. The working group has also highlighted emerging threats, such as business fraud schemes, and ensuring tax authorities remain proactive in protecting voluntary tax compliance.

Participants are giving this working group overwhelming positive feedback for providing current trends, highlighting investigative challenges, providing lessons learned and useful techniques, said District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue Deputy Chief Financial Officer Keith Richardson.

"Members have seen that this timely source of agency information can enhance the delivery of their respective investigative missions."

The FTA Award for Innovation and Excellence in Tax Administration recognizes FTA member organizations leading the way in tax administration through projects and initiatives created to improve processes, transform systems and revolutionize how they work to deliver for the citizens they serve.

The Federation of Tax Administrators is a Washington DC based non-profit serving its government tax administration members from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, New York City, and Philadelphia. It provides its members with the knowledge, tools, and relationships in support of tax administration, which furthers voluntary compliance while preserving, protecting, and enhancing tax revenue.

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