

News on CGMS Accreditation Process

We are pleased to share an exciting update on NGMA's progress in obtaining accreditation for the CGMS certification program. This effort is a significant part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing the value and integrity of the Certified Grants Management Specialist (CGMS) certification.

Accreditation – Big Milestone is Near!

NGMA has been actively pursuing accreditation for the CGMS certification program through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). The NCCA Standards address three critical areas: Governance, Quality Assurance (Policies/Procedures), and Exam Development/Maintenance. We are on track to submit our application in **April 2025**, marking a significant milestone in our journey towards accreditation.

CGMS Exam Development and Maintenance Updates

See the progress we have made toward meeting the NCCA exam development and maintenance standards:

- **Job Task Analysis (JTA)**
In Fall/Winter 2022, NGMA conducted a comprehensive JTA to define the role of the grants manager. The findings informed the development of a revised exam blueprint.
- **Item Development**
In Spring/Summer 2023, subject matter experts (SMEs) reviewed the current CGMS exam against the new exam blueprint and identified any areas where new questions may be needed.
- **Item Writing**
In Fall 2023/Fall 2024, SMEs collaborated to write new items for the CGMS exam based on the updated blueprint.
- **Beta Test**
The current CGMS exam will sunset as of January 31, 2025. Next, NGMA will conduct a Beta Test (pre-test) of the updated CGMS exam in February 2025. The Beta Test is open to any CGMS candidate that meets the CGMS eligibility requirements. Interested candidates may contact cgms@ngma.org for more information about the application and scheduling process.

Data from the Beta Test will inform the Standard Setting/Cut Score study, which we will complete in March 2025. Beta Test participants will not receive their scores until the Standard Setting study is finalized. If a candidate does not pass the Beta Test, NGMA will offer a retest at no additional cost.

Current CGMS holders are invited to participate in the Standard Setting study. Interested participants may contact cgms@ngma.org.

Timeline for Launch

Following the Standard Setting study, NGMA plans to officially launch the updated CGMS exam between April-May 2025. This updated exam reflects the latest industry standards and best practices, ensuring the CGMS certification remains a trusted and valuable credential in the grants management field.

A heartfelt thank you goes to the SMEs who dedicated their time and expertise to the development of the CGMS exam. Their invaluable contributions ensured that the exam reflects the highest standards of excellence and remains aligned with the evolving needs of the grants management profession.

We are proud of the progress we've made and look forward to achieving accreditation for the CGMS certification program. Stay tuned for further updates as we continue this important work.