



## PUERTO RICO FEDERAL FUNDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

**Merril Oliver** recently appointed as the Deputy Director of the Puerto Rico Governor's Office of Management and Budget in charge of the Federal Funds Management Office is spearheading accountability measures, tools, and resources to position Puerto Rico as one of the leaders in federal funds management. Having served two Governors (Democratic and Republican); Merrill was previously the founding Deputy Director of the nationally recognized as a best practice Maryland Governor's Grants Office created in 2004. At the Maryland Governor's Grants Office, Merrill fast-tracked curriculum development and delivery for grants management training and spearheaded implementation of grants management efficiencies and best practices across state agencies. The results for Maryland were a decrease in Single Audit findings of more than 70% over a 5 year period and an increase of \$3 billion during the ARRA years.

Also, Merrill is a past-president of the National Grants Management Association (NGMA), having served 3 consecutive terms. During her presidency, Merrill launched the industry recognized standard professional certification of Certified Grants Management Specialist (CGMS®) and participated on the credentialing exam development team as a Subject Matter Expert (SME). Merrill was awarded the CGMS credential for her work as a SME developing the CGMS exam questions in 2012. Merrill also built a strong alliance between the NGMA and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) where synergy exists to promote collaboration on fiscal and program problem solving.

In addition, Merrill is a member of the steering committee of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Intergovernmental Partnership for Management and Accountability, serving as co-chair of multiple workgroups that produced nationally utilized tools such as the: Risk Assessment Monitoring Toolkit; Financial and Administrative Monitoring Toolkit; and Candidate Assessment Toolkit for Grants Managers. Merrill sat on the Board of Editorial Advisors for Thompson Publishing's Federal Grants Management Handbook from 2004 to 2012 and is published in the Journal of Government Financial Management. In 2009, she was appointed by the Obama Administration to the Presidential Executive Order Workgroup on Improper Payments. Merrill served as Grants Manager and Management & Budget analyst for three years in county government and spent 15 years in private sector business development.

Merril is the recipient of 2 Governor's Citations for Excellence in Government, 3 national awards from the National Grants Management Association, 3 national awards from the Association of Government Accountants, and is a graduate of Towson University.

Merril lives in Viejo San Juan with her husband, son, and 2 Bedlington terriers.