

Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance

December 29, 2021



2021 Annual Report

by the Interim Administrator of the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management, on behalf of the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance

to Governor Sisolak and the Legislative Commission

in compliance with NRS 358.030

To the Honorable Governor Sisolak and the Legislative Commission:

I am pleased to submit the 2021 annual report on behalf of the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance (NACFA). Since its creation in 2015, the NACFA has engaged in discussions with key stakeholder groups across the state to uncover, understand, and solve barriers to obtaining more federal funding. The 2021 legislative session saw the culmination of much of this council's work with the passage of Assembly Bill 445 ([A.B. 445](#)).

The NACFA has been fortunate in the support it has received from executive and legislative leadership. In 2019, this support resulted in meaningful legislation, including the creation of a Grant Matching Fund pilot program. The 2021 legislative session saw the continuation of this momentum, making the pilot program permanent, continuing support for a budget enhancement for the statewide grant management system (GMS), adding a new position to the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management (Nevada Grant Office), and positioning the office within the Office of the Governor, effective July 1, 2022.

Due to changes in leadership of the Nevada Grant Office and the terming out of all NACFA members, the NACFA did not meet during the 2021 calendar year. Council members and stakeholders instead provided testimony and support during the 2021 legislative session.

This report summarizes progress toward meeting the council's 2020 recommendations, results of the 2021 legislative session, and recommended priorities.

In closing, it is my honor to present the accomplishments of the NACFA. I am proud of the work the council has done, the partnerships gained, and the executive and legislative support it continues to receive. I am inspired to continue this great work to maximize federal assistance to the state of Nevada.

Respectfully,

Denise Frohlich

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Interim Administrator, Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management

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With copy to:

Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Nevada Assembly

Mr. Zach Conine, State Treasurer

Ms. Catherine Byrne, State Controller

Ms. Susan Brown, Governor's Finance Office

2019-2021 Biennial Priorities Updates

Per NRS 358.040, the NACFA is required to advise and assist state and local agencies with respect to obtaining and maximizing federal assistance. Its powers include developing legislative and executive recommendations and addressing methods and models for identifying, procuring, utilizing, and maintaining federal assistance.

To that end, in 2020 the NACFA decided on seven priorities to guide a series of legislative recommendations for the 2021 session. The council has noted that these issues have been consistently identified as barriers throughout the council's existence. The recommendations approved by the council in 2020 are:

1. Continue to support the budget enhancement for the statewide grant management system.
2. Increase statewide grant reporting.
3. Investigate solutions for increased grant accountability.
4. Expand technical assistance, training, capacity building, and coordination related to federal grants.
5. Standardize Nevada's many policies and procedures related to federal grants.
6. Streamline review and authorization process for grant work plans by the Interim Finance Committee.
7. Eliminate budgetary disincentives, particularly sections of the Authorized Expenditures Act, that discourage state agencies from pursuing federal grants.

The passage of A.B. 445 lays a foundation to advance all the above listed priorities. In particular, the following legislative changes position and fund the Nevada Grant Office to make significant gains in achieving these goals:

1. **Office of Federal Assistance:** On July 1, 2022, the Nevada Grant Office will transition from the Department of Administration to the Office of the Governor and will be renamed the Governor's Office of Federal Assistance. The leadership position of the office is currently an administrator, which will also transition in July to a director position. The Office will maintain a location in both northern and southern Nevada. *Alignment to Priorities: the positioning of the office with cabinet-level leadership will support the office in advancing all identified priorities.*
2. **Grant Matching Program:** The Grant Matching Pilot Fund program was extended through the end of June 2022 and the program will transition to the permanent Grant Matching Program on July 1, 2022, with an additional Executive Grant

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Analyst position added to the office to, in part, directly administer the program. The program will offer \$1 million each year in federal match funds to state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations. *Alignment to Priorities: indirectly supports priorities 2-5 by providing a focused program through which to disseminate these resources and requirements.*

3. **Grant Management System:** The bill included appropriations in support of a grant management system across FY 22 and FY 23. The Nevada Grant Office will apply allotted funding in FY 22 to conduct a needs assessment for the grant management system. The system will be procured and administered by the Office of Federal Assistance following the transfer of the Nevada Grant Office to the Governor's Office in FY 23. The grant management system is expected to: increase access to federal grant dollars for state, county, and local governments, and non-profits; increase efficiency for organizations in applying for and managing grants; and allow the state to collect and analyze grant data. *Alignment to Priorities: directly supports priority 1- Continue to support the budget enhancement for the statewide grant management system.*
4. **New NACFA Positions:** The council received four additional seats as a result of the bill. These seats include two voting members who represent a nonprofit organization, a local agency or a tribal government and are appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly, respectively; the State Treasurer, or designee, who serves as a voting member; and the State Controller, or designee, who serves as a voting member. At present, the State Treasurer and the State Controller's membership has been confirmed and outreach efforts are underway to seat the remaining council positions. *Alignment to Priorities: indirectly supports priorities 5--7 by ensuring the relevant parties are represented on the council.*
5. **State Plan:** The Director will be required to develop and carry out a State Plan for Maximizing Federal Assistance. The council will advise and assist the Director with developing and carrying out this plan. Additionally, the plan will be posted on the Internet website maintained by the Office of Federal Assistance. *Alignment to Priorities: the requirement of a State Plan with the assistance of the council will support and provide structure for the advancement of all identified priorities.*
6. **Policy and Procedure Manual:** The director will be required to develop a manual of policies and procedures relating to federal assistance and post the manual on the Internet website maintained by the Office. Codifying this activity will assist the achievement of the council goal to standardize Nevada's many policies and procedures related to federal grants. *Alignment to Priorities: directly supports priority 5- Standardize Nevada's many policies and procedures related to federal*

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grants.

7. **Single Point of Contact:** Reiteration that the Office serves as the entity designated by the State to review and coordinate proposed federal financial assistance and direct federal development for purposes of Executive Order 12372, 47 Fed. Reg. 30,959 (July 14, 1982). Codifying this activity will assist in the achievement of the council's goal to increase statewide grant reporting. *Alignment to Priorities: directly supports priority 2- Increase statewide grant reporting, and indirectly supports priorities 3-5.*

2021 Additional Activities

Consistent with what was experience throughout 2020, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has continued to cause disruption to the council's ordinary functioning through 2021, including disruption to regular meetings. While the council's work was disrupted, NACFA members continued to support council priorities by advocating and testifying in support of the passage of A. B. 445. These efforts advanced the council's priorities and positioned both the council and the Nevada Grant Office to continue its momentum.

Additionally, 2021 brought a number of significant changes to the positions involved in these efforts. All voting council members termed out in July 2021, and the administrator position of the Nevada Grant Office was occupied by three different individuals over the course of the year. As of August 30, 2021, the administrator position is now filled by an interim administrator and efforts are in progress to secure new council membership, with five of the 11 positions now filled.

2021-2023 Recommendations

Once council appointments are completed, the new NACFA membership will vote on and approve continuation, cessation, or addition of recommendations.

Conclusion

Despite the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the transitional state of the council, under NACFA's guidance and support, Nevada has made crucial gains this year to lay a solid foundation upon which the state's ongoing work to obtain and maximize federal assistance will grow.

Given the pandemic-changed landscape and attendant unprecedented influx of federal assistance dollars into the state of Nevada, the work of the council will continue to be essential in guiding the State through economic recovery and growth.