

Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance

December 31, 2023

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# 2023 Annual Report

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To the Honorable Governor Lombardo and Members of the 83rd Nevada Legislature:

It's my pleasure to submit the 2023 annual report on behalf of the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance ("NACFA"). Since its creation in 2015, NACFA has engaged in discussions with key stakeholder groups across the state to identify, understand, and find solutions to barriers in obtaining Nevada's fair share of federal funding. The 2021 Legislative Session saw the culmination of much of the Council's previous work with the passage of Assembly Bill 445 (["AB445"](#)).

The reformed NACFA held its first meeting in October 2023 during which officers were elected, bylaws and governing documents were updated, and recent work of the Office of Federal Assistance was shared.

This report summarizes progress toward meeting the Council's previous recommendations, results of the 2021 Legislative Session, and 2023 activities and accomplishments.

With the help of Legislative Leadership and the Governor, the Council has been fully constituted and is excited to once again find opportunities for securing Nevada's fair share of federal funding. We look forward to sharing our progress in next year's annual report.

Respectfully,

Zach Conine, State Treasurer

Chair, Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance

## 2019-2022 Biennial Priorities Updates

Per NRS 358.040, 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 NACFA identified seven priorities to guide a series of legislative recommendations for the 2021 Session. These issues were consistently identified as barriers throughout the Council's existence. The recommendations approved by the Council in 2020 are:

1. Continue to support budget enhancements for a 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.

## 2023 Activities

With the passage of AB445, the Governor's Office of Federal Assistance ("OFA") was created and established as a Cabinet-level agency reporting directly to the Governor effective July 1, 2022. Further, AB445 included significant updates to the scope and duties of the OFA.

In calendar year 2023, the OFA has successfully completed the following, all efforts which support the recommendations of the previous NACFA. A brief overview of those accomplishments are outlined below.

### **Grant Training to Stakeholders:**

This past year, the OFA has provided free monthly grant-related training seminars. The OFA's complimentary online webinars offer diverse grant-related assistance, covering topics from an introductory overview of the grant lifecycle to a comprehensive exploration of the resources and services provided by the OFA.

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With nearly 1,400 individuals contributing their time and commitment to learning, the OFA's training initiatives have been enriched by a diverse and dedicated group.

## **Federal Grant Discovery:**

### USDR Grant Discovery Tool

Recognizing the need for stakeholders to locate federal grant opportunities in a more efficient manner, the OFA, in partnership with US Digital Response, offers a free, online, federal grants database, allowing users to locate federal grant opportunities, save searches, as well as connect and assign grant opportunities with other users. Nevada is currently first in the nation in the implementation of this free grant discovery platform. The Tool's user base is composed of a varied group of stakeholders from across the state. A significant portion, 45%, consists of nonprofit organizations, while local and state government entities make up 34% of the onboarded users. The remaining 21% includes users from higher education, the private sector, tribal governments, school districts, and other sectors.

### OFA Online Database of Grant Opportunities

The OFA provides a free online database containing 600+ federal, state, and foundational grant opportunities. The OFA provides a curated database of grant opportunities specific to Nevada, cataloged by type and qualified applicants, saving users the time and effort in their grant discovery efforts.

### Weekly Grant Opportunities Email to Newsletter Subscribers

Each week, the OFA sends out a weekly grant opportunity email to 877 subscribers highlighting grant opportunities of significance to the OFA stakeholders. This additional outreach has proved successful, with an average of 20+ new subscribers added each month.

## **Grant Support, Resources, and Technical Services**

The OFA has greatly expanded the technical assistance, training, capacity building, and coordination related to federal grants. In 2023, the OFA staff provided grant writing services, grant management technical support, and grant resources. Most notably, the OFA updated the Nevada Grant Manual, containing significant updates and revisions from the previous 2018 version. Additionally, to support the historical funding opportunities provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA), the OFA created an IIJA Hub webpage, containing

information and resources for stakeholders seeking funding opportunities for their projects.

### Conclusion

Previous guidance and support provided by NACFA and the changes in AB445 has allowed Nevada to create a solid foundation upon which the State's ongoing work to obtain and maximize federal assistance will grow.

The Council's work is essential in guiding the State's growth, allowing Nevada to receive its fair share of future federal grant opportunities.