



STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
Meeting Minutes

Prepared by the Governor's Office of Federal Assistance
505 Capovilla Ave Suite 104 Las Vegas NV 89119 | 775-684-0156 <https://ofa.nv.gov/>

January 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Meeting ID: 257 359 034 788
Passcode: 84AY7j6C
(775) 321-6111 (audio only)
Phone Conference ID: 373 137 876#

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Zach Conine called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Members in Attendance: Zach Conine (Treasurer), Megan Cortney, Audra Hamernik, Lisa Corrado, Eric Brown, Michaela Woodburn for Andy Matthews (Controller), Daniele Monroe-Moreno (Assembly), Julie Pazina (Senate). Non-voting members in attendance: A'Keia Sanders (OFA).

Absent: Dian Vanderwell, Tiffany Greenameyer (GFO).

A quorum was established.

Others present: Casey J. Quinn, Deputy Attorney General, Assemblyman Howard Watts, Mayita Sanchez (OFA), Anna Hollister (OFA), Shana Rhinehart (OFA), Phoebe McKnight (OFA), Lety Chavez (OFA), David Lenzner, Chris Reilly, Miles Dickson, Divya Narala, Kirsten Van Ry, Janet Quintero, Henry Rosas.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (*For Possible Action*)

A. Review and approval of minutes of meeting held May 28, 2024.

Chair Conine asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Julie Pazina mentioned that she believed she had attended the meeting, Daniele Monroe-Moreno made a motion to approve minutes subject to confirm Senator Pazina attendance, Eric Brown seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR (*For Discussion and Information Only*) *Chair's goals for the council for the next year.*

- A. Chair Conine thanked the Grants Director and Council for the work and for getting us to this point.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (*For Possible Action*)

- A. Chair Conine said that per bylaws an election of officers shall be held during the first council meeting of the calendar year and opened the floor for nominations or for a nomination to keep the existing slate.

Senator Julie Pazina motioned to keep existing slate (Chair Conine, Vice-Chair Assembly Monroe-Moreno, Secretary Andy Matthews), Eric Brown Seconded the motion. All voting members voted in the affirmative, motion carried.

7. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE (OFA) (*For Discussion and information Only*) *The Office will provide an update of the activities of the department under the new leadership.*

- A. Director Sanders presented OFA's new initiatives in Nevada's grant management, including the draft Nevada State Plan for Maximizing Federal Assistance, the 5-Year Strategic Plan, and monitoring efforts with state agencies. She emphasized the success of revamped newsletters, tribal partner workshops at Pyramid Lake, Paiute Tribe, and Walker River Tribe, and statewide in-person training on 2 CFR 200 updates, which drew over 500 participants. She also announced that the 2025 Silver State Grant Conference is underway and has sold out, marking its return in partnership with Washoe County, with plans to alternate the event between Reno and Las Vegas annually. She discussed the formation of a State Chapter of the National Grants Management Association to enhance engagement among state grant professionals. She also highlighted State Agency Monitoring and the partnership with the Office of Project Management to support the development of a Grant Module for grant repository and data collection. Additionally, she mentioned Nevada's membership in the Grants Capacity Building Coalition, alongside partners from New Mexico, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Kansas.

Deputy Director Mayita Sanchez presented using Nevadaepro to streamline a centralized platform where state agencies can post Notices of Funding Opportunities, with the long-term goal of allowing applications to be submitted through the same platform. She mentioned that the soft launch is scheduled for

February, with plans to introduce it to partners at the Silver State Grant Conference. She also discussed the "Enhancing Federal Grant Management in Nevada" project as part of the Certified Project Management Course that the state of Nevada has, which aims to equip state and non-state employees, including sub-recipients, with current knowledge on federal compliance requirements. She mentioned the potential development of a state-run grant academy connected to the NGMA Chapter and shared that efforts are underway to become recognized as providers of Certified Professional Education (CPE) units.

8. DISCUSSION OF STATE PLAN FOR MAXIMIZING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE NRS 223.486 (For Possible Action)

- A. Director Sanders provided an overview, noting that Nevada consistently ranks low in federal funding per capita due to factors such as a smaller population, fragmented grant management, insufficient state agency capacity, lack of strategic alignment with funding opportunities, and no centralized grant management system. She highlighted historical barriers, including a lack of coordination and challenges like supplanting and complex approval processes, which they aim to address.

Mayita Sanchez outlined Nevada's state plan, emphasizing the goal of increasing federal grant participation by creating a structured framework to prioritize grants based on need and aligning federal and state policies. The plan focuses on building capacity, offering training, acting as a prime recipient for grants, centralizing grant management, and improving collaboration with state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and private sectors. Short-term goals include increasing federal grants awarded by 10%, focusing on healthcare, education, and workforce development. Medium-term objectives involve strengthening grant management capacity through a centralized system and improving coordination with legislative bodies. The overall aim is to increase Nevada's federal funding per capita and position the state as a competitive force in securing grants.

Mayita Sanchez discussed policy recommendations focusing on legislative and regulatory changes to align state laws with federal grant requirements. She highlighted the importance of addressing barriers like supplanting and ensuring state laws support federal funding eligibility and competitiveness. She provided an example of how maintenance of effort funding requirements can impact block grants, emphasizing the need to align state funding practices with these requirements. She also stressed the importance of fostering public-private partnerships, mitigating risk, and improving coordination between state agencies and legislators to ensure efforts are unified. Additionally, she emphasized the need for ongoing communication and regular updates to keep everyone informed and aligned.

Eric Brown asked Mayita if there are needs outside of the mentioned target areas, whether they would still qualify as fair wage, or if the focus is being restricted to those areas.

A'Keia Sanders explained that the stakeholders include local and state agencies, municipalities, tribes, and nonprofits. She and Mayita have focused on providing heavy assistance to state agencies first to ensure they are in compliance. Once that is effectively established, they plan to extend support to other stakeholders, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and breaking down silos.

Chair Conine mentioned that while the office's ability to push individual agencies to use the CGMS software may be limited, he expects that legislative colleagues have more influence in encouraging agencies to adopt it. He emphasized that the goal is to ensure the system works effectively.

A'Keia Sanders shared that developing the five-year plan was a top priority when she and Mayita took over, aiming to create a clear direction for their work. The plan focuses on enhancing proposal review and grant management, streamlining award negotiations, strengthening compliance services, and expanding education, training, and outreach. Phase one includes launching the Core NV pilot program and gathering data for system development, along with planning for the upcoming Grants Conference. They also aim to integrate compliance systems, foster collaboration through peer learning networks, and conduct statewide audits. The goal is to drive a 10% increase in awarded grants, centralize systems, and streamline processes, with an emphasis on advanced training and real-time monitoring.

Chair Conine clarified that the body needs to approve the state plan, but it is not final and will be updated as needed. The goal is to present a state plan for approval at the upcoming Grants Council meeting. He confirmed that the five-year plan was only informational and did not need approval. He then asked if there were any questions or a motion to approve the state plan.

Audra Hamernik motioned to approve the State Plan for 2025, Lisa Corrado Seconded the motion. All voting members voted in the affirmative, motion carried.

9. DISCUSSION OFA SITE MONITORING PLAN (*For Discussion and Information Only*)

- A. Mayita Sanchez discussed the ongoing efforts to build relationships with state agencies, focusing on a collaborative approach to monitoring rather than a disciplinary one. She emphasized the importance of understanding the challenges faced by state agencies, such as limited resources and high turnover rates. She highlighted the role of the Council in developing compliance recommendations, assisting in the development of the monitoring schedule, and providing feedback on compliance tools and processes. She also noted the

challenges of building a culture of compliance, which requires continuous training, workshops, and technical assistance. The process involves leveraging technology to streamline reporting and monitoring, aiming for long-term, high-quality solutions. The ultimate goal is to implement a centralized database through CORE NV to track federal awards, maintenance of effort, and administrative costs, ensuring alignment across state agencies.

10. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES *(For Discussion and Information Only)*

- A. Assemblymember Howard Watts introduced legislation aimed at improving the administration of grants for nonprofit organizations. He highlighted two main issues: the need for advanced payments to nonprofits so they can begin work immediately, and the importance of timely payment of invoices, whether upfront or on a reimbursement basis. Watts shared that this issue became prominent after hearing about challenges from small nonprofits struggling with cash flow and delayed payments, particularly during the pandemic. These delays led to difficulties for nonprofits in managing their operations and paying bills, which could discourage them from seeking grants in the future. The legislation aims to address these issues by improving grant processes, providing clarity, accountability, and professionalizing the system. Watts concluded by emphasizing the need for reforms to ensure nonprofits can access and use grant funds effectively and timely.

Miles Dickson from GrantLab discussed BDR 31-589, which addresses two key issues: advanced payment and prompt payment for grant recipients. **Advanced Payment:** The bill proposes allowing nonprofits to receive up to 25% of their grant upfront, easing financial strain, especially for small to medium-sized organizations. This aligns with federal standards, and clear instructions for eligibility are needed to ensure efficient processing. **Prompt Payment:** The bill mandates that the state pay accurate invoices within 30 days, with interest paid on overdue invoices at a suggested 9% rate. This aims to prevent nonprofits from relying on credit or delaying payments to vendors. The bill also suggests tracking late payments and interest rates to improve the process over time. Dickson concluded by highlighting the importance of understanding these challenges through data and tracking, to improve processes and ensure timely funding for nonprofits.

Henry Rosas from the United Way of Southern Nevada expressed support for the proposed legislation, focusing on building resilience in nonprofits to better manage state and federal funds while ensuring quick service delivery. He highlighted feedback from state agencies and nonprofits, suggesting a "good faith effort" clause for payment delays due to system issues. Rosas also discussed balancing accountability measures for nonprofits requesting advance payments with their

capacity to meet state requirements. United Way has been actively gathering feedback from over 150 nonprofits to inform the legislative session.

Chair Conine proposed that any questions or feedback be copied to Director A'Keia Sanders for coordination and easy tracking. He suggested that emails be sent to relevant parties (including Henry, Miles, and the Assemblyman Howard Watts) and that the board would revisit the bill as an action item at a future meeting to align with the bill's schedule.

11. FUTURE MEETING DATES (For Possible Action)

- A. Chair Conine recognized a scheduling error for the April 18th meeting, noting it falls on a Friday, and pointed out that the July 13th meeting is on a Sunday. He stated that no action would be taken on the dates yet, but quarterly meetings are planned, with the possibility of an additional meeting if new legislative priorities arise.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

13. ADJOURNMENT (For Possible Action)

Chair Conine adjourned the meeting at 6:06 pm.

Supporting Material To obtain a copy of the supporting materials, you may contact the Office of Federal Assistance at 775-684-0156 or at grants@ofa.nv.gov. We are able to provide **reasonable accommodation** for individuals who wish to attend this meeting. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify the OFA at 209 E. Musser Street, Suite 100, Carson City, Nevada 89701, by email at grants@ofa.nv.gov, or by phone at 775-684-0156 at least one working day prior to the meeting.

Persons may send written comments by email to grants@ofa.nv.gov.

Notice of this meeting has been posted in the following locations on the 3rd working day before the meeting at:

Lander Building 505 Capovilla Ave Suite 104, Las Vegas
NV 89119

Nevada State Library & Archives Building 100 N Stewart
St, Carson City NV 89701

Notice of this meeting was posted on the following websites not later than 9:00 am on the 3rd working day before the meeting:

<http://ofa.nv.gov> and <http://notice.nv.gov>