

2024: A Year in Review with the OFA Growth, New Initiatives, and Exciting Announcements

As we reflect on 2024, the Governor's Office of Federal Assistance (OFA) is delighted to celebrate a year marked by substantial growth, new leadership, and innovative endeavors. In 2024, our organization underwent significant transformations as the introduction of new leadership brought fresh perspectives and a renewed direction. We embraced in-person training sessions, moving away from our previous virtual format, and made substantial investments in strengthening partnerships with our tribal and rural communities. These efforts have collectively contributed to our office's success and the positive impact we've made with and for the State of Nevada.

Nevada Newsroom: Introducing OFA's Blog

In 2024, the OFA launched our latest communications platform. Our blog, *The Nevada Newsroom*, is housed on our official LinkedIn account and state website. The Nevada Newsroom has been a valuable resource for sharing critical updates and insights. Blog posts thus far include a comprehensive summary of the changes to 2CFR, detailing the Office of Management and Budget's revisions to the Uniform Guidance. Additionally, we highlighted our collaborative training sessions with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) and the Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT), which focused on enhancing their ability to identify and navigate federal assistance programs effectively.

An Informed State

The Nevada Governor's Office of Federal Assistance proudly hosted the Mandatory Statewide 2CFR training session on December 16, 2024. This all-day, in-person event provided essential guidance on navigating federal grant management and compliance. We are especially grateful for our expert speaker, Phillip Escoriza from Feldesman Leifer LLP, and to Nevada GrantLab for sponsoring our lunch. Above all, the patience, participation, and support of the 500+ attendees truly made this event a resounding success.

In addition to our efforts to provide more training for the State, the State Plan for Maximizing Federal Assistance was developed in accordance with NRS223.486 and is accompanied by a 5-Year Strategic Plan. The State Plan is currently under review by the Nevada Advisory Council (NACFA), with stakeholder dissemination anticipated by late January. Transparency and collaboration are at the core of this effort. The State Plan represents a philosophical and strategic shift for Nevada, focusing on building the capacity of state agencies to apply for and manage federal grants effectively, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and leveraging public-private partnerships to increase competitiveness for discretionary grants.



In adopting a more balanced approach—one that combines proactive planning with strategic responsiveness—we are ensuring that Nevada is positioned to maximize the impact of federal funding. The State Plan provides a clear roadmap to address challenges that aims to increase federal funding per capita, improve services for residents, and reduce the financial pressure on local budgets.

We are excited to continue building on the progress made this past year and are thrilled to share our efforts toward establishing a Nevada chapter of the National Grants Management Association (NGMA). This initiative aims to strengthen engagement among grant professionals across the state by creating opportunities for in-person networking and collaboration, all while building a supportive community. Through this chapter, we plan to host educational events to enhance skills, share best practices, and deepen understanding of federal funding processes in order to elevate Nevada's grant management capacity.

We are turning the page to create a more informed and prepared Nevada—one where federal funds are strategically leveraged to build a stronger, more resilient state.

Connecting With Our Community

Our digital footprint has grown significantly over the past year. Our website attracted a total of 44,453 views, with 14,000 new users and 2.7K returning visitors. We also welcomed 1,079 new email subscribers and saw an increase of over 409 followers on LinkedIn. Moreover, the OFA is excited to announce that we have expanded our social media presence by launching a Facebook page. We invite you to follow us there for the latest updates and information.

One of the year's highlights has been the stories and testimonials from our community members, which have been both inspiring and energizing. These narratives underscore the impact of our work and the positive changes we've helped facilitate.

"The partnership with the OFA is a collaborative approach. Whether it is assisting with compliance requirements, offering training opportunities, or providing strategic advice - their commitment to clear communication and timely support has been evident in every interaction and make collaboration in Nevada far more successful." -*Connie Lucido, County Grants Administrator, Washoe County*

"I am so energized by the leadership and vision offered by the leadership at OFA. Nevada has long missed out on federal funding opportunities, but I am confident that we are on track to addressing all aspects of that challenge." -*Caleb Cage, Executive Director of the Nevada Battery Coalition*

We are immensely appreciative of the partners and stakeholders that we have the privilege to work with. Additionally, our collaboration with Nevada GrantLab - a local Southern Nevada Nonprofit - has been a cornerstone of our efforts, providing essential resources and support to our stakeholders.



Looking Forward to 2025

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited about the projects we have developed and goals we have set. Along with expanding our reach and enhancing the services we offer, the OFA is excited to focus on creating a more streamlined approach to managing federal funding. In 2025, we look forward to enhancing our intra-state relationship and collaborative efforts. Additionally - in alignment with the State's plan to invest in in-person State services, trainings, and events - the OFA intends to put more boots on the ground throughout this upcoming year.

In February 2025, our team will be joining the Federal Titles Directors Meeting with the Nevada Department of Education, where we will facilitate a breakout session that explores easy-to-use tools, shares tips for navigating the grants process, and reviews management and compliance of grants.

Additionally, stay tuned for April 2025, where the OFA Director (A'Keia Sanders) will lead a panel discussion regarding funding with the Western Nevada Development District at their annual Member's Summit. In October 2025, the OFA will collaborate with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Public and Behavioral Health to bring information about grant writing and management to their annual Food Security Conference.

Grants Conference: Mark Your Calendars

Kicking off the New Year, we are thrilled to introduce the 2025 Silver State Grant Conference, set to take place on February 14-15 at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno, NV. This event will be comprised of a lineup of insightful topics, speakers, and sessions designed to elevate your grant management skills. Although registration for the conference is sold out, we encourage you to stay updated with our LinkedIn page for information on additional upcoming events.

As we conclude 2024, we extend a heartfelt thank you to our stakeholders, partners, and community for your unwavering support. Your collaboration and feedback have been instrumental in driving our success throughout this past year. The governor's Office of Federal Assistance holds great pride in the work we do, and - as always - we value any feedback our stakeholders and partners provide. Please consider completing our Impact Survey so we can understand how to better serve our state and community.

[Complete Our Survey](#)

We look forward to another year of growth and achievement, and we encourage you to stay connected and involved with the Governor's Office of Federal Assistance. Thank you for being a part of our journey!