

2014 Nevada Grant Capacity Survey Executive Summary

Since 2011, the Nevada State Grant Office has conducted annual surveys to establish a baseline, needs assessment and gap analysis of resources necessary for Nevada agencies to track and apply for grant opportunities. The Grant Office responds to the annual survey results by developing initiatives and modifying the strategic plan to address the challenges. For 2014, seventy-one (71) responses were received from state partner agencies.

Discretionary Grant Application:

Discretionary grant applications are highly competitive. The majority (70%) of respondents indicated the agency had applied for discretionary grants over the past five years (not including formula grants). In addition to federal applications, 54% applied for “other” state grants and 33% applied for philanthropic, non-profit and/or corporate grants. Almost three-quarters or (74%) utilized the state grant office listserv for funding announcements (grant opportunities). In addition to the grant office, state agencies are provided funding announcements from federal agencies or perform research to locate the grant opportunities through the grants.gov website. Only 34% of respondents indicated they used the information and data resources on the grant.nv.gov website. Of concern is that nearly 50% did not know the Nevada Grant website was available as a resource.

Personnel Issues:

One of the challenges highlighted in the survey was that more than half (51%) did not have staff exclusively assigned to grant management or ensuring federal compliance. State agency dedicated staff for grant research and writing was only 27%. Almost half, 48% of staff surveyed, felt overwhelmed with the grant application requirements. This highlights the need for stronger outreach to agency partners to provide information on the grant office services.

On a positive note, nearly 84% of the respondents indicated they utilized the State Grant Office for assistance when they did not have the internal the resources to apply for a grant. For FY14, Agencies identified three top areas of support needed: 1) locate and communicate grant opportunities (notice of funding announcements); 2) identify cross-agency (or government) grant partnership opportunities (teaming); and, 3) Develop data resources and statistical information (quick resources).

Update and Response to Survey Results:

Based on the survey results, the Nevada State Grant Office has worked to expand the coordinated dissemination of grant announcements; updated the website for easy grant listserv registration; created a central repository of data sets; developed a Statewide Grant Manual; and has created Statewide grant training. These efforts will allow the Grant Office to now conduct a biennial survey, which will be included in the biennial legislative report as required by Nevada Revised Statutes.

Next Survey: Fall 2016