

**Office of Grant Procurement,  
Coordination and Management**

**2017 BIENNIAL REPORT**



**Red Rock Canyon, Nevada**

**Nevada Department of Administration**

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## Letter from the Administrator

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February 1, 2017

In accordance with Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 232.224, the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination, and Management (Nevada Grants Office), within the Department of Administration, respectfully submits its Biennial Report to Governor Brian Sandoval and the Nevada State Legislature. During the past two-years, the Grants Office has continued to generate revenue while developing resources, training, and expertise necessary to ensure Nevada is utilizing best practices in grant management.

Through collaborative effort with public, private and non-profit stakeholders across the State, the Nevada Grants Office has developed partnerships and shared resources to increase coordination and improve successes of competitive grant applications in Nevada (several are highlighted in this report).

With strong leadership, direction and support from our department administration, the Office of Governor Brian Sandoval, the Nevada Legislature, public and private stakeholders, and the Advisory Council on Federal Assistance, Nevada will continue to make significant progress improving grants in Nevada.

**Connie Lucido, Administrator**  
Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management  
Department of Administration

## Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management

### Overview:

Established through the unanimous passage of Senate Bill 233 (2011), the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination, and Management was created with the intent of addressing the State of Nevada's grant performance. The Nevada Grants Office is a revenue generating agency that serves as the authority on federal and state regulations for grant management in Nevada. We are responsible for facilitating cooperative relationships to foster grant development and planning; ensuring training to address the needs of Nevada's grant workforce; analyzing community trends in federal and state grant funding, regulations and law; and providing technical assistance to all agencies as needed – while conveying concepts, principles and best practices of successful grant stewardship.

### Vision:

A Nevada in which agencies have access to resources that increase their ability to successfully and confidently procure, implement, manage, and sustain grant funding.

### Mission:

To achieve a streamlined, efficient and sustainable grant process encouraging agencies to seek funding for programs that will contribute to vibrant and sustainable communities.

### Goals and Objectives:

#### Strengthening Grant Processes in Nevada by:

1) Standardizing Guidance for State and Federal Funding; 2) Increasing Standardized Training Opportunities for Grant Management; and 3) Streamlining the Grant Management Process.

#### Improving Collaboration across State, Local, Non-Profit Agencies and Private Business by:

1) Developing Cross-agency Partnerships; 2) Creating a Forum for Collaboration; and 3) Enhancing Partnership Development.

#### Identifying Optimal Level of Federal Funding for an Improved Grant Landscape in Nevada by:

1) Identifying, Organizing and Disseminating Grant Opportunities; 2) Improving Data Collection and Distribution; and 3) Fostering Outcome Reporting.

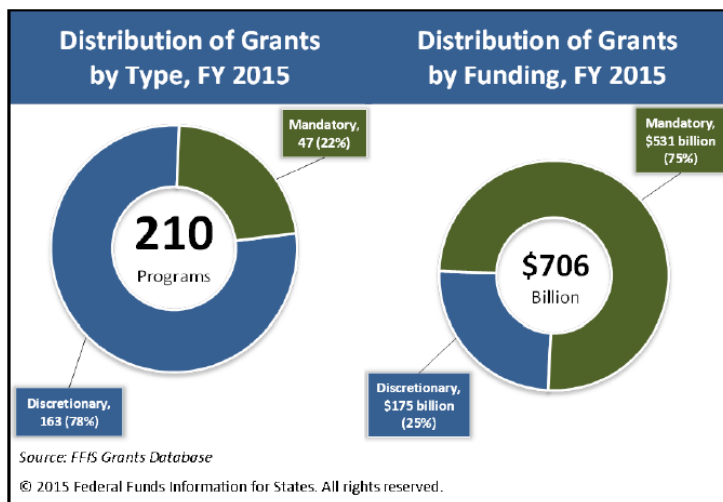
## Federal Grants

Federal grants are financial assistance issued by a federal agency to carry out a public purpose of support or activity authorized by a law of the United States. The composition of federal spending has changed over time and the dollar amounts vary from one state to the next. Federal funds make their way to the state through four major fiscal flows – Direct Payments, Grants, Procurement and Salaries/Wages.

Direct Payments	Grants	Procurement	Salaries / Wages
Direct payment from Federal agencies to individuals and includes Social Security, Medicare, Disability payments, and Veteran benefits	Funds provided to state and local governments, and other entities to carry out federal programs and includes Medicaid and Highway programs	Federal purchase of goods and services and includes items such as consultants, fleets and weaponry.	Compensation for federal military and civilian employees

The vast majority of grant programs are **discretionary**; however, the majority of grant funding is for **mandatory** programs. Mandatory programs have funding set by Federal law that creates or reauthorizes the grant. For some programs, such as Medicaid, funding increases or decreases depending on the number of eligible beneficiaries and authorized benefit payments. The amounts and purposes of

discretionary programs are determined by congress through an annual appropriation process and may be awarded through a formula or competitive funding process.



**Competitive** grants are not awarded by formula; therefore not every state receives them. There are more competitive grants than formula grants and account for nearly 87% of all grant programs. However, they are typically very small programs and altogether account for just 6% of all grant funding provided to

state and local governments. **Block** grants are allocated by formula and offer greater flexibility by allowing their recipients to tailor programs to suit their needs. **Categorical** grants may only be used for specific purposes and can be allocated by formula or through a competitive process. The table below represents the largest block and categorical grants issued by the federal government.

5 Largest Block Grants, FY 2015 (amounts in billions)		5 Largest Categorical Grants, FY 2015 (amounts in billions)	
Program	Funding	Program	Funding
Temporary Assistance For Needy Families	\$17.1	Medicaid	\$358.8
Surface Transportation Program	10.3	National Highway Performance Program	22.4
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program	3.4	Children's Health Insurance Program	16.5
Community Development Block Grant	3.0	Title I - Grants to Local Education Agencies	14.4
Child Care and Development Block Grant	2.4	Child Nutrition - School Lunch	11.9

Source: CRS; FFIS Grants Database for funding levels

## Grants in Nevada

The Nevada State Grant Office examines federal grant funding trends by comparing Nevada averages against nationwide data. Because year-to-year fluctuations often provide a limited perspective, the Grant Office monitors and identifies specific competitive funding opportunities that will strategically enhance or increase the number of programs that benefit Nevadans. Federal funding receipts are improving in Nevada as seen in **Table 1** and **2**.

TABLE 1: NEVADA FEDERAL FUNDING*billions (USAspending.gov)		
FY14	FY15	FY16
\$14,811,928,158	\$17,486,512,973	\$17,674,831,515

TABLE 2: NEVADA GRANT AWARDS*billions -BY TYPE of GRANT- (USAspending.gov)		
	FY 15	FY16
CONTRACTS	\$2,467,207,359	\$2,404,311,297
GRANTS	\$5,072,375,445	\$4,626,958,182
LOANS	\$35,436,556	\$11,782,172
OTHER	\$9,911,493,613	\$10,631,779,865

## Grant Allocations and Per Capita Spending

The Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS) organization assists states in managing federal funds by analyzing the impact of federal actions on states. FFIS data focuses on 244 federal grant-in-aid programs accounting for more than 90% of total federal grants to state and local governments. The data primarily includes formula grants and does not capture many of the small competitive grant funds. Medicaid accounts for more than half of Nevada's federal funding. A number of factors explain how states fare in federal grant receipts. The general make-up of a state is the most important determinant of how much federal funds most states receive.

States with large federal presence tend to rank higher, and many receive funds based on the natural resources extracted from their public lands. A state's demographics and well-being of their population play a large role in fund allocation as many federal grant allocations are determined by related formula factors. States with relatively small populations tend to do well on a per capita basis because several grant formulas include small state minimums. Very few states perform well across-the-board, many rank high in some areas and lower in others.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FLOW OF FEDERAL FUNDS	
<b>Demographics</b>	A State's share of residents aged 65 or older and/or under 18, help to determine spending levels for many federal programs designed to assist seniors and children.
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>	High poverty rates and low income levels in a state increase the likelihood of federal spending on assistance programs, while high incomes reduce the likelihood of such federal spending and increase federal tax payments.
<b>Industry Mix</b>	Manufacturing, shipping, financial services, research capacity, defense sectors, farming and agricultural industries are some of the areas that may increase federal spending levels within a state.
<b>Federal Facilities</b>	The location of federal facilities, ranging from military bases, offices and/or research laboratories, determines state federal spending on employee benefits, wages, and salaries among other items.
<b>Emergency Situations</b>	Targeted federal spending helps offset the impact of unexpected and adverse developments, including natural disasters and human catastrophes.

It is important to review and reconcile data sources when developing strategic priorities related to grant programs. The data in the next few tables represents information reported by FFIS. **Table 3** represents the 244 grant programs tracked by the FFIS and depicts annual increases in Nevada grant awards. **Table 4** provides a breakdown for the fiscal flow of funds shown in **Table 3**.

TABLE 3: NEVADA GRANT AWARDS (FFIS-Tracked Awards)				
FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
\$3,184,621	\$3,310,243	\$3,947,823	\$4,898,785	\$5,127,370

Type of Grant / Function	Per Capita	Rank
Overall	\$1,386	50
Employment/Training	\$14.33	10
Justice	\$5.60	8
Agriculture	\$1.28	46
Medicaid	\$591	46
Health	\$639	47
Education	\$147	52
Transportation	\$162	32
Energy, Environment, and Natural Resource	\$17	32

FFIS Special Analysis 15-03

TABLE 4: NEVADA GRANT AWARDS -BY TYPE of GRANT- (FFIS-Tracked Awards)		
	FY 15	FY16
MEDICAID	\$2,524,602	\$2,672,745
OTHER STATE	\$1,460,959	\$1,529,735
LOCAL	\$160,763	\$169,147
INDIVIDUAL / OTHER	\$752,461	\$755,743

[special notes] 1) Currently, to measure grants in Nevada, this office must rely on older data, collected by national organizations. One of the tools heavily relied upon, is the FFIS reporting – however, they do not collect data on all grants therefore the information provided does not include all grants in Nevada.

2) Between 2009 and 2014, Nevada was one of several states that saw the largest growth in per capita federal grants. This growth is largely attributed to the decision to expand Medicaid eligibility under the ACA Expansion. The FFIS Special Analysis 15-03 report provides a review on per capita federal spending for major grant programs and functions using data from the Federal Fiscal year 2014.

### Nevada’s Recipient Types

The federal government has identified USASpending.gov as the resource site for prime level awards. This public website provides various data pieces and is continuously updated as federal awards are distributed. **Table 6** provides a snapshot of the types of recipients receiving (assistance funds) federal dollars in Nevada over the last three (3) years.

Table 6: Nevada Recipient Types (assistance awards) (USASpending.gov)			
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
<b>Government</b>	\$2,853,244,511	\$4,841,327,422	\$4,391,763,218
<b>Higher Education</b>	\$254,462,531	\$228,758,853	\$231,383,698
<b>Other</b>	\$161,845,337	\$209,806,213	\$264,609,352
<b>Individual</b>	\$8,834,647,583	\$9,372,462,403	\$9,999,478,591
<b>For-Profit Org</b>	\$210,796,461	\$209,806,213	\$218,157,462
<b>Non-Profit Org</b>	\$205,807,046	\$161,169,285	\$165,127,898

## County Federal Funds

Nevada's large geographic area, with diverse population centers, significantly impacts grant funding, allocations and expenditures. Largely, Federal funding targets the most vulnerable in Nevada and is disbursed throughout all 17 counties. Nye County, for example, is large enough to contain several New England states simultaneously, but in population is just over 42,000. All of the same services that are federally mandated must be disseminated to all counties. While larger counties often have the opportunity of economy of scale for grant spending, the project grants do not usually account for the delivery challenges of culturally and linguistically sensitive programs. For rural and urban counties, the same formula or distributive grant does not often realize the cost of delivering services in large geographic regions with limited transportation and professionals.

	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>
<b>Clark</b>	\$5,927,752,127	\$5,470,718,211	\$5,743,010,925
<b>Washoe</b>	\$2,289,848,841	\$1,538,665,399	\$1,412,131,314
<b>Carson City</b>	\$857,838,922	\$537,090,611	\$211,861,775
<b>Nye</b>	\$251,621,933	\$243,977,254	\$273,155,341
<b>Douglas</b>	\$243,381,402	\$226,748,773	\$231,795,736
<b>Lyon</b>	\$217,089,254	\$217,099,004	\$230,864,979
<b>Elko</b>	\$142,480,439	\$120,379,494	\$116,848,503
<b>Churchill</b>	\$180,743,477	\$101,239,084	\$93,306,103
<b>Humboldt</b>	\$65,306,404	\$52,254,824	\$52,095,109
<b>Lander</b>	\$23,557,468	\$45,479,185	\$14,037,496
<b>White Pine</b>	\$44,193,254	\$32,491,913	\$35,293,181
<b>Storey</b>	\$15,020,500	\$25,472,264	\$16,194,281
<b>Mineral</b>	\$86,972,611	\$24,584,695	\$18,814,608
<b>Pershing</b>	\$18,439,477	\$21,411,768	\$32,771,402
<b>Lincoln</b>	\$22,701,303	\$19,047,718	\$18,635,712
<b>Eureka</b>	\$14,390,341	\$6,451,885	\$5,857,327
<b>Esmeralda</b>	\$3,457,629	\$3,889,190	\$31,934,364

## Identifying Opportunities

When it comes to some of Nevada's toughest problems, stakeholders often work to address the same issue from various directions. Organizations often remain independent and working in silos, however, by sharing ideas, information, and know-how with peers and partners we are able to: 1) Increase our shared knowledge about an issue and augment each other's work; 2) Align efforts more systematically; and 3) Develop stronger strategies and approaches. With the reducing Federal dollar, and the increasing requirement of cross-agency/jurisdiction collaboration, the State Grants Office has taken numerous steps to encourage and foster partnerships and focus on enhancing coordinated efforts.

The Nevada State Grant Office is committed to working with all agencies to identify funding and program opportunities that support the diverse needs of our population, including Nevada's non-profits. To expand technical support capabilities, the Grant Office develops inter-agency teams for



grant development (i.e., health and human services, education, workforce etc.) working collaboratively as teams of professional grant writers and technical staff, no one agency is left doing the entirety of coordinating a grant proposal for submission.

### Spotlight on Awarded Programs

Over the biennium the grants office has coordinated efforts with many of Nevada's talented professionals to bring quality projects and new programs to our citizens; a few are summarized below:

#### Now is the Time: Project AWARE and Climate Transformation (Nevada Dept. of Education)

Project AWARE enabled a comprehensive approach to address the diminished capacity of youth mental health prevention and intervention activities in several of Nevada's counties and includes communication, outreach, education, treatment and support programs for youth and young adults who have, or at risk to develop, a serious mental illness or substance abuse disorder, and could be at a higher risk for suicide. This was a national competition, in which Nevada was awarded a 5-year grant program at nearly \$2 million each year. The climate transformation grant, also a national competition, is a 5-year program awarded at nearly \$400,000 each year and assists the State to implement the evidence-based, multi-tiered behavioral framework of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) to assist in improving overall school climate and safety.

Grant Office Application Assistance		
	FY 15	FY 16
Number of Grants	65	48
Coordinated with Agencies		
Number of Grants Received	31	25
Percent	49%	52%
Awarded Federal Grants	\$84,792,435	\$46,818,556
Grant Office Salary	\$311,592	\$288,728
ROR Measured against Salaries	\$272	\$162

#### System of Care (DHHS – Division of Child and Family Services)

This funding is assisting Nevada in the statewide implementation of a sustainable infrastructure and serves as part of the Children's Mental Health Initiative to ensure Nevada's children and families benefit from evidence informed services and supports by assuring coordinated, accessible, community-based, individualized services. The System of Care application was part of a national competition in which \$11.2 million was awarded for the 4-year program and requires programs to integrate mental health, social services, education, health care, substance abuse, vocational, and juvenile justice services when necessary for each client – delivered at the local level.

#### Preschool (Nevada Department of Education)

This funding builds infrastructure for new high-quality Pre-K seats; improves existing programs and offers a variety of critical wraparound services to the most vulnerable children in our communities. The cumulative federal funds for this program exceed \$43 million over the 4 year grant cycle and include funding for monitoring and evaluation; professional development; and direct support to our partners.

#### Opioid Prevention and Treatment (DHHS – Division of Public and Behavioral Health)

Over the biennium the grants office coordinated on several projects affecting the outcomes of opioid prevention and treatment activities. These projects include the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the Harold Rogers enhancement grant, and the Prescription Drug Overdose Program. The programs are varied in length of years awarded and equate to just over \$1 million annually.

**Re-entry Planning and Implementation (Nevada Department of Corrections)**

As part of the Second Chance Initiative, the grants office coordinated with several agencies on the submission of an initial strategic planning grant. This initial grant brought together state, local and private providers to update the state's strategic plan to reduce recidivism rates in Nevada by effectively integrating offenders exiting detention centers into our communities. This planning grant enabled Nevada to pursue the second phase of funding and successfully secured \$980,000 in implementation funding.

**Charter Schools (Nevada Department of Education / State Public Charter School Authority)**

Nevada pursued this funding, leveraging state funds, in an effort to expand the number of high-quality charter schools available for students state-wide. This award enabled financial assistance to partners for infrastructure and implementation of charter schools and supports information dissemination of successful practices in charter schools. Funding received for high-quality charter school development is approximately \$11.5 million over the 3 year grant period.

**Apprenticeship Expansion (Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation)**

The efforts to modernize and diversify the economy by recruiting innovative companies and entrepreneurs have been largely successful. This initiative will allow Nevada to further integrate apprenticeships in education and workforce development and came to Nevada through two (2) competitive application processes: 1) Accelerator and 2) Expansion. This funding is expected for several years and represents approximately \$1 million annually and will see the creation of new, and diverse, registered apprenticeship programs in Nevada.

**Juvenile Justice Review – Council of State Governments Justice Center**

Nevada was the only recipient of the United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Council of State Governments (CSG) technical assistance award. This opportunity included leadership across the three branches of government and will perform a comprehensive review of Nevada's juvenile justice system resulting in analysis to use resources efficiently to reduce recidivism and improve other outcomes for youth in Nevada's juvenile justice system. The Task Force will be comprised of lawmakers, judges, state and local juvenile justice leaders and other stakeholders.

**Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (Department of Health & Human Services)**

This demonstration program signals an unprecedented opportunity for Nevada's behavioral health system to innovate ways in which behavioral health providers can address unmet need in both urban and frontier communities. This funding expands services available to include supported employment, ambulatory detox, medication assisted treatment, screening and care for chronic conditions, and family support services. One of the primary goals of the CCBHC demonstration program is to provide high quality, evidence-based care that addresses each individual's needs, when and where care is needed. The funding represents a potential of nearly \$125 million additional (federal) Medicaid dollars.

**National Association of Governor's (NGA) Center for Best Practices (Governor's Office)**

The NGA's Policy Center provides information, research, policy analysis, technical assistance and resource development for governors and their staff across a range of policy issues. Over the last biennium, the grants office worked with the Governor's Office and agency staff to successfully procure

several policy academy grants and technical assistance opportunities, such as Enhancing Medicaid Leadership, Early Child Services and Cybersecurity Initiatives.

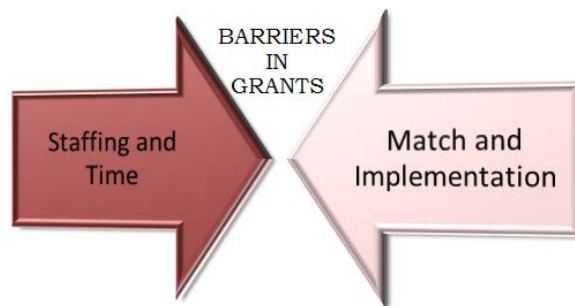
### Unexpended Grant Funds

In the 2015 legislative session, SB 473 was passed requiring agencies to report unexpended funds to the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management that could be re-allocated under different conditions. Unfortunately, there are very few instances in which this can be accomplished. During the last biennium, we have had one (1) instance in which funds could be re-allocated.

The reallocation occurred with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) grant Balancing Incentive Program. This program provides incentives to Nevada to increase non-institutional long-term services and supports (LTSS). DHHS received permission from their Federal funder Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to reallocate a portion of their funds for two (2) studies: 1) a statewide assessment on LTSS in Nevada; and 2) a statewide health needs assessment. The LTSS report is currently in its final editing stages; however, the published health assessment can be found in Data Resources on our agency website.

### Grant Capacity Survey

Since 2011, the Nevada State Grant Office has conducted annual surveys to identify needs and provide gap analysis of resources necessary for Nevada agencies to track, apply and manage grant opportunities. The Grant Office responds to the annual survey results by developing initiatives and modifying our strategic plan to address capacity challenges. The 2016 survey received 216 responses with many of the issues cited as areas of concern being staffing, communication and coordination, training, implementation and management of grant awards. The Grant Office will continue to work closely with the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance as well as with our agencies and stakeholders to find practical solutions to common barriers.



#### IF YOU COULD CHANGE 2 THINGS

##### Streamline Process

- Centralized Tasks
  - Expedite Approvals
  - Timelines
  - Easier Reporting

##### Communication

- Cross-Agency
  - Sharing Data
  - Central Think-tank
  - Shared Knowledge

### Current Initiatives

#### Statewide and Local Coordination

There are many different jurisdictions, departments, agencies and strategies across our state. The Grant Office works hard to coordinate and foster collaboration across all organizations. This achieves optimized utilization of resources and integrated planning that leads to greater opportunities and higher efficiencies. The State and Regional Grant Workgroups, as well as the Advisory Council, are quickly becoming the conduit for which much of our coordination and connecting is occurring.

**Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance:** The Advisory Council on Federal Assistance (Grants Council) was created, with near unanimous bi-partisan support, during the 2015 Legislative Session. The Council is tasked with advising and assisting State and local governments with respect to obtaining and maximizing federal grants and is comprised of appointed representatives from local government, nonprofits, and the business community, along with two elected legislators, the Chief of the Grants Office, and Director of the Governor’s Finance Office.

Over the course of seven meetings (Dec. 2015 – Dec. 2016), the Grants Council discussed methods and models for identifying, procuring, utilizing and maintaining federal grants; received reports from the Grants Office; and frequently heard testimony from State employees and other stakeholders. Based on the discussions, research, and testimony presented during these hearings, and pursuant to its authorizing legislation, the Grants Council respectfully submitted five (5) recommendations for consideration and implementation by the 2017 Legislature and Governor Brian Sandoval:

1. Establish a statewide grants management system that allows users – across state and local governments and nonprofits – to more effectively identify grant opportunities, coordinate with each other to submit grants, secure grant funding, and track and report outcomes and spending related to federal grants.
2. Streamline the review and authorization (or denial) process for grant-related work plans by the Interim Finance Committee, as the current process significantly hinders State agencies’ ability to comply with strict processing timelines required by most grants.
3. Eliminate existing budgetary disincentives that discourage State agencies from pursuing federal grants.
4. Create a pilot program that allows State agencies to access the match funding and professional support they need to secure high-priority, high-return competitive grants.
5. Remove limitations in the State Grants Office statute to allow for more flexibility and positive impact in its service to the State.

**State Grant Workgroup (SGW):** In an effort to improve grant management in Nevada, develop relationships and share information across agencies, the Grants Office convened the SGW with its first meeting held in October 2016. The representatives are designated by each agency director and consist of approximately 35 grant professionals. During the first meeting, discussion was led by a facilitator in which many common obstacles and barriers in the life-cycle of grants management were considered. These areas will become topics for deeper exploration in which tool-kits, best practices, templates and policies will be vetted for approval and shared with all grant stakeholders.

**Regional Working Groups:** The rural and urban geography and demographics of Nevada can make coordination in communities difficult. In addition, concerns and needs will vary from one community to the next. The grants office is working with partners in the North and the South to convene regional working groups. We are hopeful that, through these two (2) groups, we can begin to address some of the more local concerns of grants in Nevada.

## State Grant Training

Effective grant management is essential to all agencies receiving funds, whether they are federal, state or foundation awards. We assist state agencies and community partners to improve collaboration among policy, program, and financial staff to integrate grant management functions. The state’s training course combines presentation, discussion, shared practical experience and hands-on activities that lead to a greater understanding of applicability and ability to navigate compliance regulations. Additionally, the office has provided technical assistance on a daily basis to state, local and non-profit organizations as they pursue excellence in grant management.

Over the last biennium, this office has conducted more than 30 grant workshops, agency-specific training requests, sub-grantee policy and procedure outreach and training. The review surveys, provided at the close of each workshop, have indicated that nearly 95% of all respondents rank the workshop as Excellent, with ‘Specific Topic Training’ as the most commonly noted request for additional training.

### Website Enhancement

The Nevada State Grant Office website ([www.grants.nv.gov](http://www.grants.nv.gov)) has been developed, and continues to be improved, as a resource for agencies and Nevada stakeholders seeking grant assistance. Information available ranges from links, reports and data on information across the state, contact information to determine Single Point of Contact selection as well as grant opportunity announcements and the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance minutes, agendas and materials.

### Future Planning

#### Data Sources & Challenges

Many states have a process and practice to account for, maximize return on, plan the use of, and/or plan for the reduction of federal funding. Nevada, however, does not comprehensively collect, maintain, or report information on the application, receipt, expenditure or performance of federal funding (excluding the annual single audit expenditure report). Without this information, the State cannot accurately diagnose its challenges nor make progress towards effectively identifying, competing for, securing or using federal funds. Further, we cannot determine the optimal level of federal funds, the total amount lost each year, or the investment costs required for progress.



A statewide grant management system will allow for more robust grant opportunity identification, streamline and more accurately collect data, as well as simplified reporting. Additionally, the internal reporting functions will allow decision and policy makers to understand and evaluate the State’s overall grant performance, and reliably evaluate program outcomes. A few agencies have the capacity to purchase small agency-level systems; however, the vast majority of State agencies utilize a patch-work of excel spreadsheets which decreases efficiency and increases the opportunity for error and audit findings. It is the hope of this office that funding is allocated for a grant management system during the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. This system will increase transparency and further demonstrate prudent stewardship of public resources, as well as improving the qualitative and quantitative data provided to the Governor, our legislators, and most importantly our citizens.

#### State Grant Certifications and Conference Planning

In the next biennium, the Nevada State Grant Office expects to expand training availability to include brief workshops on specific topics as well as coordinating a state grant certification. This certification will be the result of collaborative work from all stakeholders including the state and regional working groups and will work to build knowledge of fundamental processes and techniques involved in grant management encompassing all phases of the grants lifecycle from pre-award to closeout and audit.

The community of grant professionals in Nevada is large; however, a forum for this group to come together to share ideas, concepts and knowledge does not exist at this time. During this biennium, the Grant Office will endeavor to present the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Grants in Nevada Conference. This conference will be multi-track to include sessions for both government and non-profit organizations.

## Formula & Categorical Funding

Formula and categorical funding are awards based on statistical criteria and are included in the authorizing legislation and regulations approved by Federal congressional authority. Many of the Grants Office activities reflect increases in competitive grants; however, we must begin to understand the components of our formula and categorical grants. Over the next biennium the Grants Office will work each agency to better understand the components of their formula and categorical funding in an effort to increase awareness and dollars of these funding streams.

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