

2017 Annual Report



Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance

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by the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance

to Governor Brian Sandoval and

the Legislative Commission

in compliance with NRS 358.030

The Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance (NACFA) was created by the 2015 Nevada State Legislature for the purpose of advising and assisting state and local agencies with respect to obtaining and maximizing federal assistance. The Council is supported by the Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management in the Department of Administration (Grant Office).

To the Honorable Governor Brian Sandoval and the Legislative Commission:

I am pleased to submit the 2017 annual report on behalf of the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance (NACFA). This work highlights our activity over the past year and outlines the Council's 2018 priorities. We are holding any recommendations for consideration until our next annual report, which will be delivered for your consideration no later than December 31, 2018.

2017 Activities

Per the 2016 Annual Report, NACFA developed five (5) complementary recommendations for consideration during the 79th Legislative Session in 2017. These recommendations are numbered below followed by 2017 outcomes and updates for each recommendation:

1. Establish a statewide grants management system; fund the establishment thereof.

- A budget enhancement was approved during the 79th Session
- The request for proposal was completed in July 2017
- The intent to award was posted in September 2017
- Currently, the contract to award is on hold due to a vendor challenge with a hearing scheduled for January 24, 2018

2. Streamline review and authorization process for grant work plans by Interim Finance Committee.

- AB81 was introduced by the Grant Office
- Discovered provisional acceptance could occur as matter of established policy

- Currently, the Grant Office is working with state agencies to identify a test-case to pilot provisional acceptance
3. **Eliminate budgetary disincentives that discourage State Agencies from pursuing federal grants.**
 - Not resolved during the 79th Session
 4. **Create a pilot program to provide match funding and other needed support; fund the creation thereof.**
 - Not resolved during the 79th Session
 5. **Remove limitations in the State Grants Office statute to allow for more flexibility and positive impact in its service to the State.**
 - AB97 was introduced by Assemblywoman Bustamante-Adams and Assemblyman Anderson
 - Limiting language related to employee numbers and classification as well as prioritizing language was removed

After Session had concluded, two new members joined the Council. Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel and Senator David Parks were appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Majority Leader of the Senate, respectively.

The NACFA met once in November 2017 to hold elections and to set priorities for 2018. I, John Ritter, will continue to serve as Chair and Kathi Thomas-Gibson of the City of North Las Vegas will serve as Vice Chair. Connie Lucido, Chief of the Grant Office, will continue to serve as Council Secretary.

2018 Priorities

The NACFA has four quarterly meetings scheduled for 2018. Each meeting has been, or will be, assigned a grant-related priority and presentations related to each priority will be heard from state agencies, local agencies, nonprofits, and businesses in an effort to increase breadth of information considered by the Council as related to grants in Nevada. Similarly, the Grant Office will be collecting correspondence submitted to the Council and conducting topic-specific surveys of key stakeholder groups to increase the number of voices heard by the Council.

1. Priority: Capacity Building

- February 28, 2018
- Topics to be discussed: policies to influence capacity building, statewide need for partner development, staffing, and training

2. Priority: Sustainability

- May 2, 2018
- Topics to be discussed: state policies impacting grant program sustainability, programs closed due to lack of funding, and examples of state funds used to backfill unfunded Federal grant programs

3. Priority: Match/IFC

- August 1, 2018
- Topics to be discussed: update on if/how availability of matching fund is impacting grant eligibility in Nevada, update on Grant Office's efforts to identify a test-case to pilot provisional acceptance under current policy

4. Priority: TBD

- November 7, 2018
- Topics to be discussed: the Council has voted to determine the fourth priority during 2018 as a possible outcome of priorities previously discussed

In closing, the members of the Council would like to thank Ms. Connie Lucido, Chief, and her colleagues in the Nevada State Grant Office, Mr. Jim Wells, Director, Governor's Finance Office, and the numerous grant professionals who contributed their time and talent to this effort. We are looking forward to continuing our work in 2018 to strengthen the federal grant landscape in Nevada.

Respectfully,

John Ritter

Chair, Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance

Members:

Mr. John Ritter, Chair, Focus Property Group
 Ms. Kathi Thomas-Gibson, Vice Chair, City of Las Vegas
 Ms. Zanny Marsh, American Red Cross of Northern Nevada
 Ms. Connie Lucido, Secretary, State Grant Office
 Mr. Jim Wells, Governor's Finance Office
 Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel, Nevada Assembly
 Senator David Parks, Nevada Senate
 Assemblyman Derek Armstrong, Nevada Assembly (former member)
 Senator Pete Goicoechea, Nevada Senate (former member)