



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/>

July 17, 2025, at 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Meeting ID: 227 919 621 053
Passcode: 9jd7QL2c
(775) 321-6111 (audio only)
Phone Conference ID: 202 446 657#

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, Senator Julie Pazina, Eric Brown, Dian Vanderwell, Andy Matthews (Controller), Daniele Monroe-Moreno (Assembly), (Senate). Non-voting members in attendance: Tiffany Greenameyer (GFO), A'Keia Sanders (OFA).

Absent: Audra Hamernik, Lisa Corrado.

A quorum was established.

Others present: Greg Ott (DAG), David Lenzner (GFO), Phoebe McKnight (OFA), Lety Chavez (OFA), Jamie Ross, Henry Rosas (UWSN), Kirsten Van Ry (Treasurer's office).

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

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

A. Review and approval of minutes of meeting held April 16, 2025.

Chair Conine asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Eric Brown made motion to approve minutes, Dian Vanderwell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. COUNCIL GOALS *(For Discussion and Information Only)* *The Chair will present proposed goals and vision for the council for this State Fiscal Year and the council discuss.*

- A. Chair Conine stressed the need to strengthen the state amid federal uncertainty, emphasizing resourcefulness to protect programs. He praised the team's efforts and invited board members input before proceeding with the meeting.
- B. Controller Matthews expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts and echoed support for Treasurer Conine's leadership.
- C. Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno emphasized the critical importance of the board's work given current national events and expressed gratitude to the staff for their outstanding efforts now and in the months ahead.

6. STAFF UPDATE *(For Discussion and Information Only)* *The Governor's Office of Federal Assistance will provide an update of the activities of the department since the last meeting.*

- A. Director Sanders gave an update on the Eureka Grant Summit, a three-day event in June focused on rural communities, with about 70 attendees. The summit included training on federal compliance, grant writing, budgeting, and tribal engagement. Key partners supported the event, feedback highlighted appreciation for in-person networking, though some content was too advanced. There is strong interest in making it an annual event, with potential sponsorship from Nevada Gold Mines.
- B. Phoebe McKnight shared an update on the Certified Grant Management Specialist (CGMS) Study Cohort, describing it as a strategic investment in professionals managing federal funds. With support from Nevada Grant Lab, 10 fully paid scholarships were awarded from 71 applicants. Despite limited funding, the study cohort now includes 70 participants from across Nevada, including state agencies, counties, CCSD, rural and tribal communities, and nonprofits. With only 321 Certified Grant Management Specialist-certified professionals nationwide, the program aims to strengthen grant compliance, build a community of practice, and improve stewardship of federal funds statewide.
- C. Director Sanders shared that the CGMS study cohort was created with Nevada Grant Lab to build a certified, in-state grant workforce. While OFA focuses on grant management, a parallel cohort led by the Nevada Grant Lab prepares participants for GPC certification, strengthening Nevada's grant pipeline.

- D. Senator Pazina asked how many of the 321 nationwide grant professionals are currently in Nevada. Director Sanders responded that she does not have that number at this time but will follow up after her upcoming meeting with NGMA.
 - E. Chair Conine suggested future meetings could feature cohort participants sharing their experiences and progress.
 - F. Director Sanders provided updates on outreach and grant efforts, including presentations in Wells and Elko, a Guinn Center partnership, and upcoming Southern Nevada training. She highlighted GMP support for a \$66K transit grant with the Walker River Paiute Tribe and a \$1.22M grid resilience grant application with the Nevada Rural Electric Association, potentially benefiting 10 counties.
- 7. UPDATES FROM THE 83rd LEGISLATIVE SESSION** *(For Discussion and information Only)*
- A. Director Sanders announced the passage of two key bills.
AB554 creates a revolving fund for Nevada's Grant Matching Program (GMP), allowing uncommitted funds to carry over between biennia. The bill passed with strong support from Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno.
AB442 enhances state grant transparency by requiring notice of payment delays over 30 days, mandates annual reporting, and authorizes OFA to assist agencies with advanced payment policies and federal compliance. The bill passed with strong support from Assemblyman Watts, Miles Dickson and United Way of Southern Nevada (UWSN).
 - B. Megan Cortney thanked partners for their work on AB442 and raised concern about nonprofits being excluded from the Nevada GMP when receiving federal funds as subgrants. She noted UWSN had to decline an AmeriCorps grant due to this limitation.
 - C. Director Sanders stated that the regulations were recently reviewed to ensure compliance with statute, which currently requires a direct federal grant. She highlighted a recent success with Nevada Rural Electric Association receiving a \$1.2M match as a subgrantee and promised to follow up with more details. She also noted the current grant match fund balance is zero and emphasized the need for continued funding efforts while reaffirming that AB554 was a critical first step.
 - D. Chair Conine reflected on the original vision for the GMP—starting small and expanding to meet all needs—and shared that while some funding ideas (like using infrastructure bank dollars) didn't pass the legislature, they remain committed to finding solutions to support nonprofits.

- E. Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno added that she has worked on this effort since her first session in 2016 and, although she won't be in the legislature next session, she will continue supporting the cause as the Mayor of North Las Vegas.
- F. Director Sanders shared that, in collaboration with the Governor's Finance Office, OFA is supporting AB355, which amended the Capital Improvement Fund to become a revolving fund and expanded grant eligibility for rural school districts without requiring local tax levies. OFA is also providing support for AB224, which authorizes \$100 million in general obligation bonds for capital improvement grants in rural areas with populations under fifteen thousand. Current efforts include work with White Pine, Mineral, and Elko Counties, and the Owyhee tribe, which is already utilizing funding from AB519 and plans to seek additional support under AB355.

8. FUTURE MEETING DATES (*For Discussion and information Only*)

A. Calendar Meetings (Quarterly)

- i. October 15th @ 5pm

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

10. ADJOURNMENT (*For Possible Action*)

Chair Conine adjourned the meeting at 5:30 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>