



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

NEVADA'S FEDERAL GRANT RESOURCE

Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance
May 28, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 7

Update of activities of the OFA, including summary of stakeholder feedback

Governor's Office Federal Assistance Activities Overview February 2024 – May 2024

1. OFA's Efforts in Capacity Building – Free Monthly Trainings Update
2. Stakeholder Support Update
3. OFA – USDR Users Consortiums Update
4. OFA – Tech Hub Consortium Member

OFA's Efforts in Capacity Building– Free Monthly Trainings



Month	Topic	Registrations
February	Compliance and Regulatory Guidelines: Understanding Your Responsibilities, Setting Up Internal Controls & Compliance	136
March	Intro to Post-Award Financial Management: Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting	177
April	Programmatic Management & Implementation of Your Award	103
May	Risk Management in Post Award Phase: How to Mitigate Risk and Develop Strategies as Part of Your Audit Finding Prevention Protocols	95
	Total	511
	Previous Trainings Total	2,136
	Total for All Trainings to Date	2,647

Stakeholder Grant Support Overview

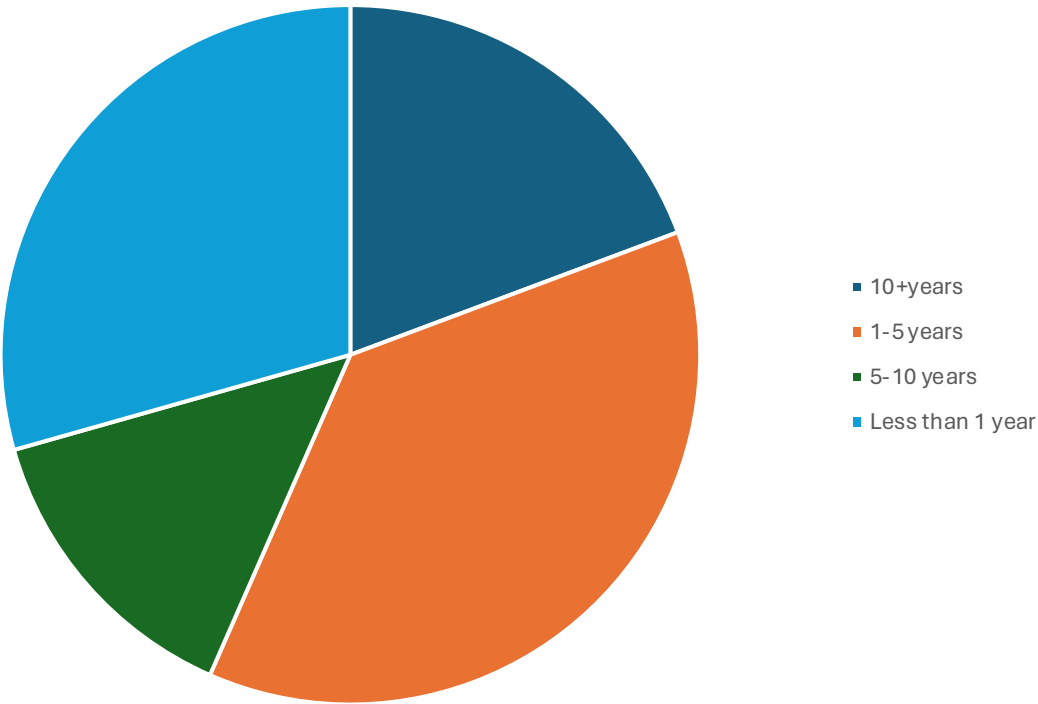
1. Colorado River Commission – Community Project Funding Request- Silver State Generation and Transmission Cooperative, **Grant Amount: \$200,000.00**
2. Business & Industry – Office of Labor Commissioner - State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula Grant, **Grant Amount: \$510,000.00**
3. Nevada Women in Trades – Women in Apprenticeship & Nontraditional Occupations, **Grant Amount: \$750,000.00**
4. Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada – 2024 Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program, **Grant Amount: \$900,000.00**
5. MainStreet Gardnerville – USDA Local Food Promotion Program, **Grant Amount: \$500,000.00**
6. Office of Workforce Innovations (OWINN) – DOL Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs (Round 2) – in progress

Stakeholder Support Overview

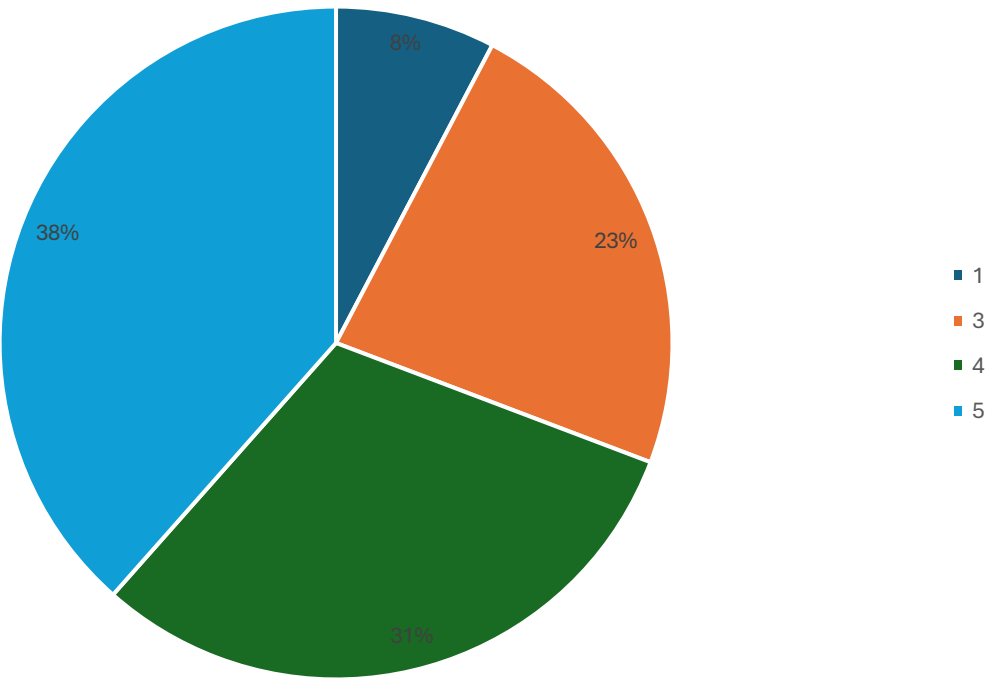
- Western Nevada Development District - 2024 Show Me More Money Summit – Panelist *Coalition Partners/Breaking Down Silos*
- Meetings/Support provided to all Stakeholders
 - Technical support questions
 - Grant writing support & assistance
 - Grant discovery overview
 - Grant Matching Program
- Increase in requests from for-profit business owners for assistance on business grants.

Post-Event Survey

Experience of Attendees



Average Rating of Event



Survey Feedback

“This was a great introduction to Grant writing, I learned a lot just from what short time there was, Would love to further my education in Grant Writing.”

“The presenters efficiently provided a great deal of information in a brief time frame which is nice, and I felt accommodated a variety of schedules enabling many to attend. “

“The OFA webinars are always great - thank you! It would be helpful to know what the requirements are (if any) to demonstrate that an agency has "exhausted all efforts" to meet the local match requirement for an upcoming Federal grant opportunity in order to apply for the matching grant funds program. “



Request for Additional Support

A deep dive into the Uniform Guidance. How to interpret that document.

Additional resources for tribes and federally chartered tribal business corporation.

Anything that you feel we could benefit from would be appreciated. The more we know the more effective we can be with the process of working with grant funding.

Drafting thorough subawards as a result of winning a grant.

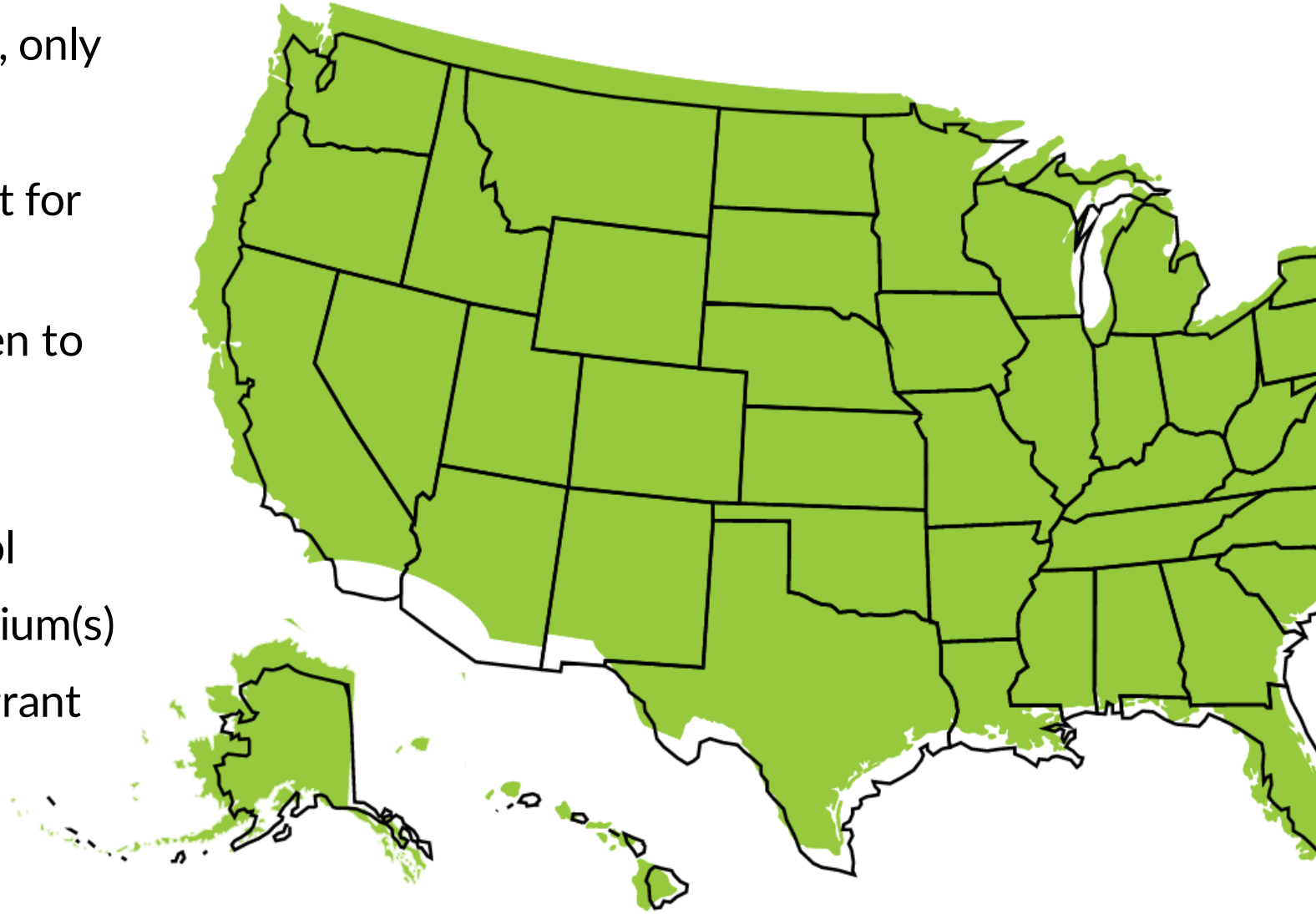
Help to develop the partnerships to go after grants and manage them; who are best to work with; other non-profits, gov agencies, education entities?

It would be nice to have a certification path like the Certified Contract Manager program.

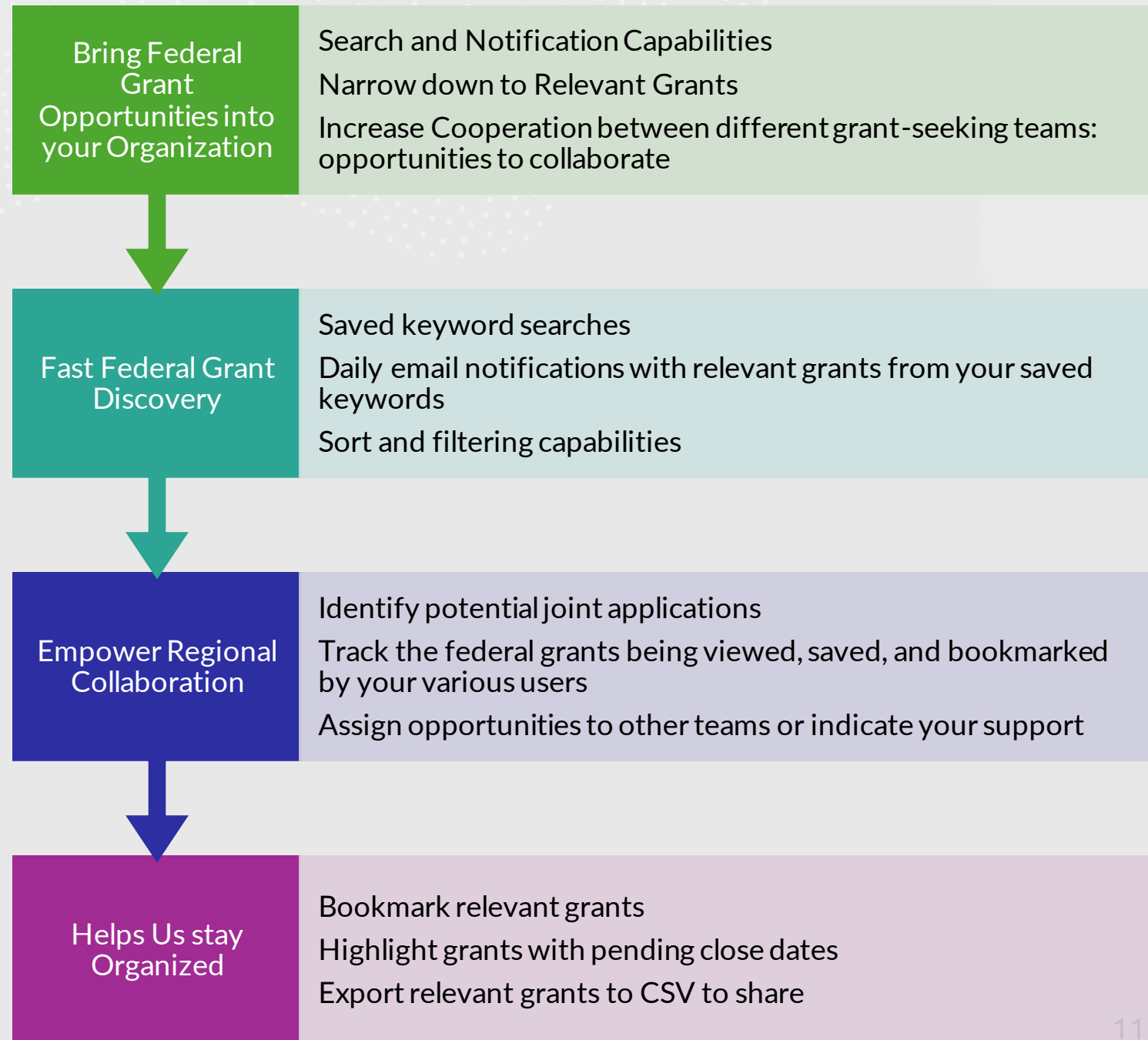


US Digital Response Nevada Federal Grant Identification Tool

- Began as a Pilot with State Agencies, only
- Scaled Statewide
- Requires that users submit a Request for Access
- Agree to be contacted and to be open to collaboration/sharing of information
- Identify and self report type of organization and goals for use of tool
- Asked to express interest in Consortium(s)
- Asked if they would like to act as a grant reviewer

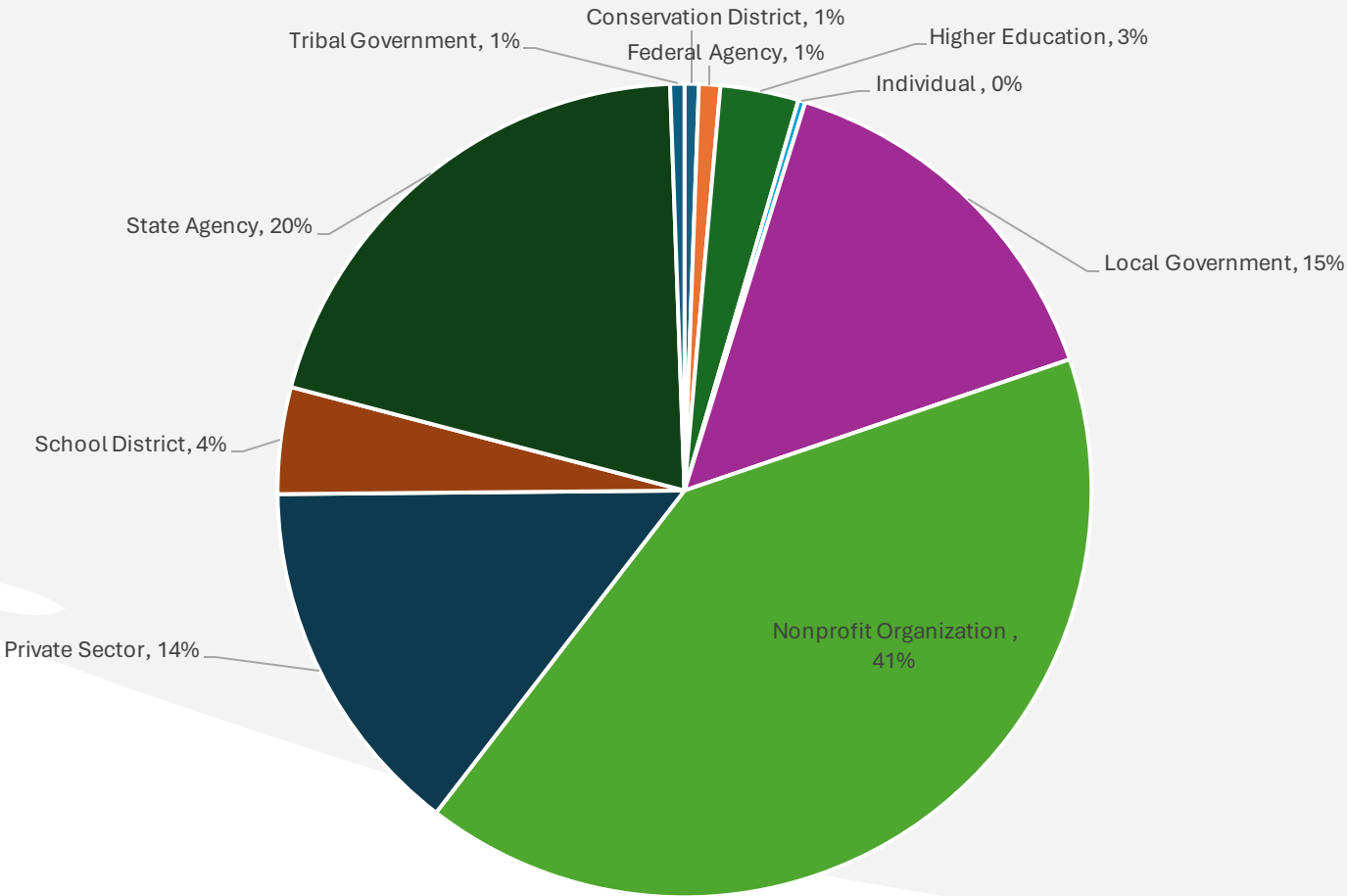


What is the USDR Grant Identification Tool?



USDR Members

Conservation District	1%
Federal Agency	1%
Higher Education	3%
Individual	0%
Local Government	15%
Nonprofit Organization	41%
Private Sector	14%
School District	4%
State Agency	20%
Tribal Government	1%



Office Hours

- Monthly for stakeholders:
 - OFA Provides Support and Technical Assistance
 - Stakeholders bring feedback, questions, requests
 - Networking opportunity and online, in-person connections are being made
- Informing USDR Updates
 - New Collaboration Features
 - NV Office Hours Takeaways

The screenshot displays the 'Federal Grant Finder' interface. At the top, the 'US DIGITAL RESPONSE' logo is visible alongside the user profile 'Abraham Bruckman, City of Rockville, MD'. The main header shows a breadcrumb 'Browse Grants' and a title 'Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) Competition'. Below the title are links for 'View on Grants.gov', 'Copy Link', and 'Print'.

A table lists key details about the grant:

Opportunity Number:	RFA-NS-24-014
Open Date:	Sep 21, 2023
Close Date:	Dec 31, 2025
Grant ID:	346398
Agency Code:	Department of Housing and Urban Development
Award Ceiling:	\$479,250
Category of Funding Activity:	Community Development, Housing
Opportunity Category:	Discretionary
Opportunity Status:	Posted
Appropriation Bill:	Department of Health and Human Services
Cost Sharing:	Yes

The 'Description' section contains two paragraphs. The first paragraph describes the NIH Research Education Program (R25) and its goal to support research education activities. The second paragraph details the fully integrated educational activities, including preparing undergraduate students from diverse backgrounds for Ph.D. programs in the neurosciences.

On the right side, the 'Grant Activity' section shows a 'Follow' button and a list of notes from other users, including Craig Rhie Madsen, Paula Lawrenson, and Catherine Calzoni. Below this is an 'Applied' section with a 'Has your team applied to this grant?' toggle and a list of users who have applied, including Dale Lorde.

USDR Office Hours Findings and Themes

Finding 1: Networking is key to grant seeking

Interacting with others to exchange information and develop professional or social contracts

Finding 2: State, local, philanthropic grants can be as important as Federal grants

Users expressed that though some apply primarily for federal funding there is also a need to apply for a mix and Federal funding is not always a priority

Finding 3: People use a variety of tools to share and discuss grant opportunities

Including, MS Excel, SharePoint, Email Threads, Listservs, MS Teams

Finding 4: Search Needs Vary

“I would rather have more people to help apply for grants than help identify them. There are more than enough opportunities to apply for already” -- DETR

Finding 5: Bookmarking, how we share grants in the platform can be revised

“[Bookmarking] will allow both of us as coordinators to not go after the same grant. Will be better to share all the information in the beginning”



Consortiums

- Stemmed from an Office Hour
- Pilot
 - Workforce Development Consortium
- Scaling
 - Education Consortium
 - Rural Development Consortium

Continued Scaling, Tentative January

- Housing and Urban Development (TBD)



Consortium Roles, Responsibilities and Expectations

Governor's Office of Federal Assistance

USDR Nevada Federal Grant Identification Tool
Grant Writer on Staff -- Capacity Support
Grant Matching Program
Technical Assistance
Lead Applicant – Support Lead
Grant Discovery/Search
Grant/Project Management

U.S. Federal Representative Support

Call in with Federal Rep or Webinar
Advocacy Joint Letter of Support
Inquiry on grant status after submission
Congressional Direct Spending funding
Grant Discovery/Search

Stakeholders

Each stakeholder can obtain a letter of commitment
Everyone can put in some money to compliment reimbursement requirement(s)
Grant writing
Grant Discovery/Search

Workforce
Development
56 Members

Rural Development
73 Members

Education
52 Members



Highlights

- ✓ Networking, i.e., warm hand off to Labor Office and wrote their formula grant application for apprenticeship
- ✓ Consortium development
- ✓ Letters of Support
- ✓ Grant Writer
- ✓ Lead Applicant Identification
- ✓ Current Consortia pending for application for competitive Digital Equity Funding from Rural Development Group
- ✓ DOL PATHWAY 6, pin, NDOC exploring capacity to develop a competitive proposal
- ✓ Platform for agencies and groups to request or make a call for collaborators (2 such instances to date)
- ✓ Platform to share upcoming subaward opportunities, i.e., OSIT

Tech Hub Designation

- ❑ Initiative Includes
 - ❑ 16 of Nevada's 17 Counties
 - ❑ 7 of the State's 8 Regional Development Authorities
 - ❑ Both Nevada Economic Development Districts
- ❑ Over 60 Consortium Partners
 - ❑ Including OFA
- ❑ Focus: Advanced energy and industrial efficiency technologies
- ❑ Over the next 5 years the Tech Hub aims to create
 - ❑ 3,000 New Businesses
 - ❑ Expand 2,000 Existing Ones
 - ❑ Generate 50,000 New Jobs



AGENDA ITEM 8

Review of draft outline for the statewide plan and the proposed workplan
including expectations of Council Members for consultation

Nevada State Plan for Maximizing Federal Assistance

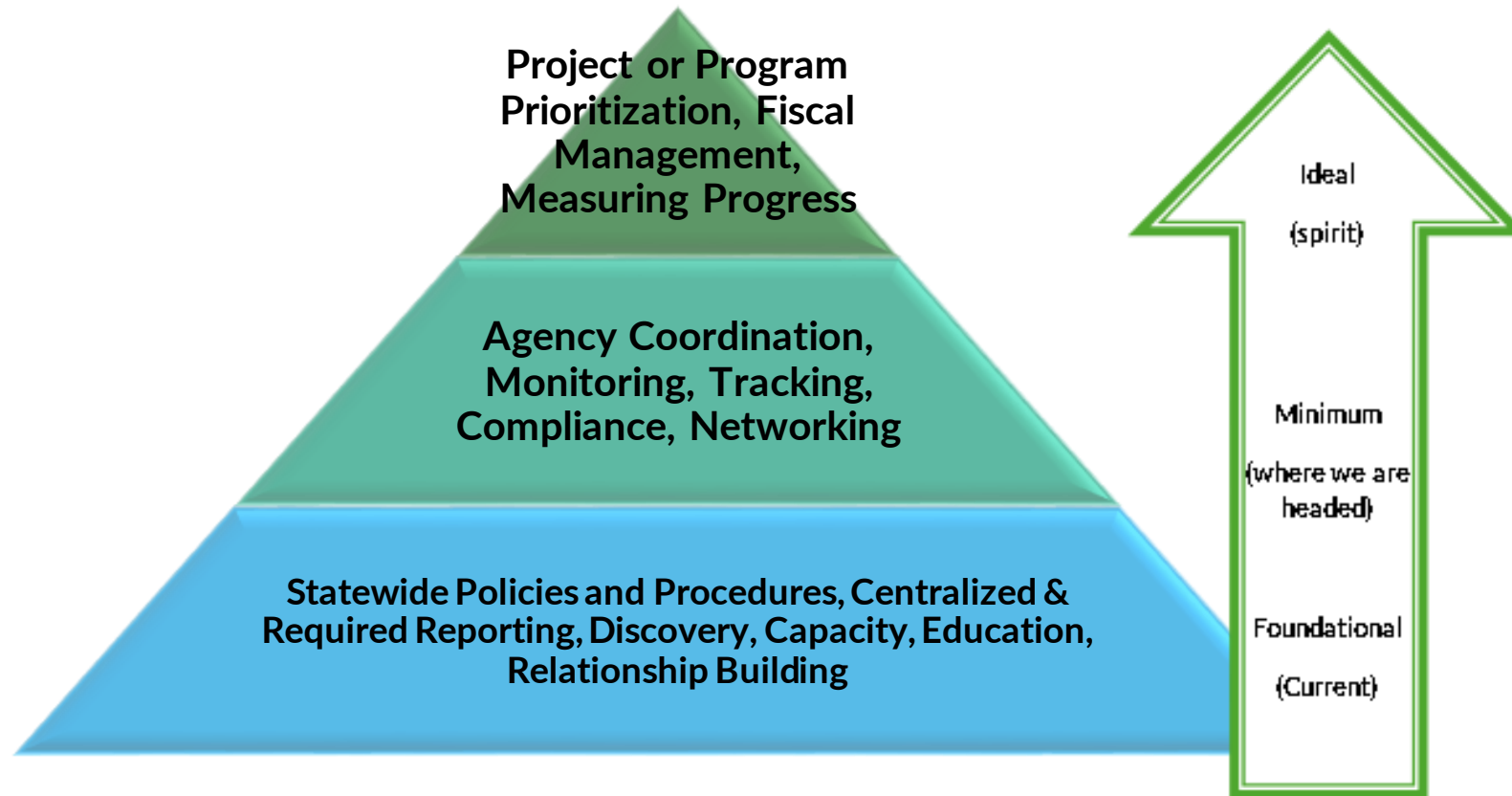
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The Director of the Office of Federal Assistance (OFA) is responsible for developing and periodically revising this State Plan in consultation with the Nevada Advisory Council on Federal Assistance (NACFA). NRS 223.486 reads that the State Plan must include:

- (a) Methods for expanding opportunities for obtaining federal assistance, including, without limitation, expanding opportunities for obtaining matching funds for federal assistance through the Nevada Grant Matching Program created by [NRS 223.490](#);
- (b) Methods for streamlining process, regulatory, structural and other barriers to the acquisition of federal assistance that exist at each level of federal, state or local government;
- (c) Methods for the effective administration of grants, including, without limitation, best practices relating to indirect cost allocation;
- (d) Opportunities for:
 - (1) Reducing administrative costs associated with obtaining federal assistance; and
 - (2) Coordination between state agencies, local agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations to avoid duplication and achieve common goals;
- (e) Specific tasks which must be performed to improve the administration of grants and maximize the amount of federal assistance received by this State and a schedule for implementing any such tasks;
- (f) Performance metrics and targets relating to obtaining and maximizing federal assistance and improving the administration of grants; and
- (g) Best practices for considering whether to respond to a grant opportunity, including, without limitation, the monetary and programmatic cost of implementing a grant.



Hierarchy of Needs – Where We Are and Where We Aim to Go



Methodology

- ❑ For ease of reading and accessibility the Office of Federal Assistance has divided the plan to reflect the various needs of our diverse stakeholder audience
- ❑ Written in four parts
- ❑ Intent is to inform the State as to current practices and challenges in centralizing statewide federal grant practices management
- ❑ This plan would be published in its entirety for transparency.



Sections

Part I: This section provides a review of the current systems to identify, receive and manage federal funding in Nevada, including an analysis of current federal funding within the state and existing challenges.

Part II: This section includes the State Plan for Maximizing Federal Assistance addressing the requirements as set forth in NRS 223.486, as well as the identified goals and required objectives to meet goal outcomes.

Part III: This section will address the tasks that must be completed in the immediate to improve federal grant performance in Nevada as well as recommendations and best practices to inform non-federal entities on how to best improve federal grant management within their organizations. This section informs NRS 223.486 (1)(e) and NRS 223.486 (1)(g) and is to provide external guidance to stakeholders.

Part IV: This section will address the performance metrics identified by the Office of Federal Assistance in consultation with the Nevada Advisory Council of Federal Assistance to improve the states performance in applying, receiving, and effectively managing federal grants, responding to NRS 223.486(1)(f).



Format & Timeline

The format includes identified requirements within Nevada Revised Statute as well as narrative to provide context and pertinent historical information to each requirement

The format is as follows:

Requirement
Goal
Objective

While the State Plan does not specify a fixed timeline for achieving its goals and objectives, the Office acknowledges the pressing need to optimize federal assistance in Nevada to address the various needs statewide.

The State Plan will be reviewed at least annually by the Office, serving as a dynamic tool to guide the day-to-day activities of the Office staff and adapt to evolving priorities and challenges



Part II: Example

Requirement 2: Expanding opportunities for obtaining matching funds for federal assistance

The Nevada Grant Matching Program (GMP) was originally established as a pilot program (AB489, 2019) and subsequently became a permanent program, with the passage of AB 445 in the 2021 legislative session. The GMP receives \$1 million in annual funding, with balance forwarding of funds occurring in the even fiscal years. Remaining funds in odd fiscal years are reverted to the General Fund.

The original GMP pilot program had a difficult launch, as the timing of the initial rollout coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a temporary halt to the program, in an effort to reduce state funding expenditures. In early 2022, the GMP was able to relaunch, and as a permanent program, and efforts by the Office to market and educate qualified applicants were fully implemented.

External challenges to the GMP include the state fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) and the federal fiscal year (October – September) falling within different time periods, delays in passage of federal budgets, federal grant notice of funding opportunities that do not align with the state fiscal year, and the delay between submitting a federal grant application and receiving notification if a federal award was received.

Working with internal and external challenges that are poised, for state fiscal years 2020 – 2023, the GMP has successfully awarded \$559,615, bringing into the state \$2,838,562 in federal funding. For the current state fiscal year 2024 GMP awards total \$69,819 and \$350,000 have been committed, resulting in an anticipated total of \$3,010,420 in federal funding.

To further advance the success of the GMP, the goals and objectives outlined below aim to accomplish the directive in *Requirement 2: Expanding opportunities for obtaining matching funds for federal assistance*.

- Goal 1.2: Review existing legislation and unintended barriers

- Objective 1.2.a: Recommend language to support amending existing regulatory barriers

- Goal 2.2: Amend existing barriers to GMP funding including language on new awards

- Objective 2.2.a: Remove existing barriers to GMP funding including language on new awards

- Objective 2.2.b: Amend internal policies to address current barriers to funding

- Goal 3.2: Increase the number of GMP applicants and total expenditure of GMP funding

- Objective 3.2.a: Develop appropriate and effective messaging

- Objective 3.2.b: Expand communication efforts, messaging, and outreach on GMP

- Objective 3.2.c: Develop and present webinars to educate potential awardees on eligibility and application processes



Part III: Tasks & Best Practices

Matrix of Effort

Minor-effort and negative-impact: can be referred to as busy work or fill-ins. These activities normally require little work and have little impact on our community

Significant-effort and negative-impact: tasks that require a lot of time and effort but have little impact on the community. They can be known as timewasters or thankless tasks

Positive-impact and minor-effort: these tasks are low hanging fruit, or quick wins. They are actionable tasks that impact the community significantly and do not require a lot of work from you

Positive-impact and significant-effort: these are those major projects that need a lot of work, time, commitment, and attention but have a significant or large impact in the community





Part IV: Performance Metrics

Requirement	Goal	Metrics
Requirement 1 Methods for expanding opportunities for obtaining federal assistance	Accessible grant discovery resources to all stakeholders	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Percentage increase in the number of stakeholders accessing federal grant discovery resources annually.2. The number of new stakeholders engaged in federal grant discovery efforts through the developed tool.3. Number of curated grant lists created and shared with stakeholders quarterly.
	Accessible intergovernmental review process	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Percentage of stakeholders reporting improved understanding of the intergovernmental review process annually.5. Number of stakeholders accessing the online dashboard for application submission notices quarterly.6. Percentage increase in public comments and feedback received on SF424 submissions quarterly.
	Single Point of Contact Reporting Compliance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. The percentage of state applications supported align with identified state priorities.8. Number of successful state applications that align with priorities.9. Survey feedback on perceived reduction in competition and duplication.10. Comparison of estimated administrative costs to actual costs.11. Number of initiatives implemented to streamline grant administration processes.



Next Steps

- **Immediate Timeline (Present – September 2024)**
 - Review suggestions/input of the NACFA
 - Continue with the drafting of the State Plan
 - Continue collecting input from stakeholders (Matrix of Effort Exercise)
- **Future Timeline (October 2024 – December 2024)**
 - Present completed draft to NACFA/consult for additional input/edits
 - Post draft online for comment period
 - Post final draft of plan – January 2025

AGENDA ITEM 9

GRANT MATCHING PROGRAM REVIEW

The Office will provide information and performance of the Grant Matching Program and challenges and solutions for access to funding, including proposed program and policy amendments to reduce barriers to funding

Nevada Grant Matching Program

History

- The Grant Matching Fund (GMF) pilot program was created during the 2019 Legislature by Assembly Bill 489 with the funding appropriated by Senate Bill 528.
- Assembly Bill 445 of the 2021 Nevada legislative session extended the Grant Matching Program through June 30, 2022.
- The program became permanent beginning July 1, 2022, and is administered by the Governor's Office of Federal Assistance.



Nevada Grant Matching Fund – Pilot Program (AB489, 2019)

- Grant Matching Fund – Business Plan Creation & Implementation – December 2019
 - Business Plan for the implementation of the Grant Matching Fund-submitted and approved by the Interim Finance Committee.
 - The original business plan for the program followed the requirements of AB489 for implementation.
 - Presentation to IFC included the information the Business Plan would evolve as more stakeholders would become more engaged in the program.
 - First GMF Award (FY19)
 - City of North Las Vegas – Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant: \$45,129.00
- The original GMP pilot program had a difficult launch, as the timing of the initial rollout coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in a temporary halt to the program, in an effort to reduce state funding expenditures



Nevada Grant Matching Program – AB445 (2021)

- Grant Matching Fund Program, became permanent with the passage of AB445 (2021)
 - Removed the requirement for IFC approval, prior to awarding funds to recipients.
 - Modified qualified applications, only for competitive, federal grant opportunities
 - Funded with transfer of funds from the Abandoned Property Trust Account - \$1.0 Million each fiscal year
 - Remaining funds:
 - Balance forward in even fiscal years
 - Revert to General Fund in odd fiscal years
- Grant Matching Fund Account can receive grants, gifts or donations
- Added OFA Director consults with NACFA with the GMP process



Grant Matching Program - Today

Per NRS, there is a focused parameter provided for which federal grant opportunities and which stakeholders qualify for the program.

1. Must be a federal competitive grant, with a matching funds requirement.
2. Within the scope of the eligible GMP applicants;
3. The grant will provide not less than \$2 for each \$1 received from the Grant Matching Account;
4. It attempted but was unable to secure adequate matching funding through its own budget or in-kind resources;
5. Prioritize grants that:
 - a. Add services to constituents;
 - b. Align with the documented priorities of the state agency, local agency, tribal government or nonprofit organization;
 - c. Address the needs of underserved or frontier communities;
 - d. Help state agencies, local agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations build capacity for future grant opportunities; and
 - e. Enable a state agency, local agency, tribal government, or nonprofit organization to sustain the grant within its next budget cycle.
6. Eligible Applicants
 - a. State Agencies
 - b. Local Agencies
 - c. Tribal Governments
 - d. Nonprofits

Nevada Grant Matching Program – Relaunch in 2022

- After two fiscal years of dormancy, the Grant Matching Program relaunched in early 2022
- Focused efforts to support the relaunch included:
 - ☐ Training new department staff
 - ☐ Marketing
 - ☐ Website Updates
 - ☐ Creation of new resources/help guides/FAQ's
 - ☐ Stakeholder Outreach
 - ☐ Presentations (in-person and webinar)



Nevada Grant Matching Program – Awards

Fiscal Year	Awardee	Opportunity	Match Award Amount
FY19	City of North Las Vegas Fire Department	Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant:	\$45,129.00
FY22	City of Las Vegas	US Economic Development Administration (EDA)/American Rescue Plan Act Economic Adjustment Assistance	\$225,216.00
FY23	Western Nevada College	US Environmental Protection Agency Pollution Prevention Grant Program	\$289,270.50
FY24	City of Las Vegas – Las Vegas Fire & Rescue	Dept. of Homeland Security Fire Prevent and Safety Grant	\$2,775.37
FY24	Carson City Arts Initiative	National Endowment for the Arts – NEA Challenge America	\$3,193.00
FY24	Walker Lake Paiute Tribe	Dept. of the Interior – WaterSmart Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for FY 24 – Task D: Domestic Water Supply Projects	\$63,831.00** Waiting on NoGA
Total			\$629,414.87

Nevada Grant Matching Program – External Challenges

- The state fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) and the federal fiscal year (October – September) falling within different time periods;
- Delays in passage of federal budgets;
- Federal grant notice of funding opportunities that do not align with the state fiscal year;
- Delay between submitting a federal grant application and receiving notification if a federal award was received;
- Delay in awardee receiving the NOGA from the federal agency.



Nevada Grant Matching Program – Internal Challenges

- Emergency Match/NOGA's received, do not qualify for the program (policy/procedure);
- Funds remaining in odd fiscal years revert to the General Fund (NRS);
- Funds committed, but not awarded (due to lack of receiving federal grant award) are reverted to the General Fund in the odd fiscal years;
- Limited funding to promote/market the program to the statewide stakeholders.



Nevada Grant Matching Program – Modification for Increased Accessibility

Recommendation for Modification of an Internal Process:

To remove one barrier, it is proposed to allow for grants that have been awarded to eligible applicable be permitted to be considered for the GMP, within 90 days of receiving their federal Notice of Grant Award.

This will allow for more eligible applicants to apply for the program, as this has been a disqualifier for past applicants.

