



Grant Assistance Program Newsletter

The Grants Assistance Program

Federal administrative agencies award billions in funding every year to state agencies, municipalities, tribes, nonprofits, private individuals and organizations.

Too often, Nevada does not receive these needed funds from lack of applications to programs. The grant application process can be intimidating at times; however, I am committed to helping guide Nevadans who are seeking grants and may need further assistance.

For more information on my office's grant program, including on letters of support or grant tracking assistance, please visit [my website](#).

Below is a list of recently announced or updated federal grant opportunities that are currently accepting applications. Please keep in mind that this is not a comprehensive list of all open grant solicitations and other opportunities may exist, so consult [Grants.gov](#) or the **Nevada Governor's Office of Federal Assistance** for more opportunities.

UPDATE -- Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and 2027 Community Project Funding:

In November 2025, Congress passed three government funding bills for FY 2026:

- Agriculture Appropriations Act, 2026
- Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026
- Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026

The remainder of the government funding bills for FY 2026 are currently under a continuing resolution that runs until January 30, 2026. As we work to complete the FY2026 process – with the hopes of including Community Project requests – please begin to consider “Community Project requests” for FY 2027. At this time, we still expect this process to continue in FY 2027, likely within the February to



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March 2027 timeframe. See this [document](#) for information pertaining to the Community Projects process for governments within Nevada, and the additional information below.

Public entities, such as state, local, or tribal governments, interested in funding a specific project in Nevada, may submit Community Project Requests for FY 2027. Nonprofits will not be eligible for this funding. All requests are received jointly by my office and Senator Rosen's office.

For guidance and examples of funding opportunities please consult [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2026 Community Project Funding Guidance and Accounts](#).

We will notify you of updates to that process through a future newsletter, but in the meantime please reach out to Kurt Lynch, at Kurt_Lynch@cortezmasto.senate.gov, with any questions. If you have any questions, please contact Kurt_Lynch@cortezmasto.senate.gov.

Examples of Past Community Project Funding Secured for Nevadans by Senator Cortez Masto:

- Henderson - Workforce Training - \$2 million
- Ely - Central Ely Sewer Upgrade - \$3.3 million
- Lander County - Austin Clinic - \$800,000
- Nye County – Tonopah Child Development Center - \$1 million
- CCSD Social Workers - \$950,000
- Fallon - Highway 50 - \$1.616 million



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Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking Executive Order:

On August 7, 2025, the Trump Administration on issued a sweeping executive order titled "[Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking](#)" (EO), which is aimed at overhauling the federal grantmaking process. The EO has significant implications for grant recipients. Grant recipients should expect more detailed reviews of both applications and ongoing projects, with greater emphasis on alignment with administration priorities.

Seeking Input --- Federal Funding Delays and Freezes:

Multiple Executive Orders have been issued under the new Administration that have resulted in reductions in staff, increased oversight of funding by Senior Trump political appointees, cancellation and pauses of grant programs, delays in funding announcements, and prohibitions of certain activities. While these actions have been challenged in court and, in some cases, injunctions have been issued, my staff and I understand there are ongoing challenges in accessing federal funding or applying to existing grant opportunities.

I want to understand in more detail the impact these actions have on Nevada. Recognizing this is a fluid situation, please let me know if there is any information you can share by answering questions through my [Grant Assistance form](#).

My staff and I are only using this information for internal awareness purposes, and will follow-up with any additional questions.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information or concerns about the status of an award or notice of funding opportunity please do not hesitate to reach out to my grants team at grants@cortezmasto.senate.gov.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Catherine Cortez Masto in blue ink, written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

Catherine Cortez Masto
U.S. Senator for Nevada



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Tips Before Starting the Grant Process

1. **Find out if you or your organization is eligible for a Grant.** Other government websites may be more suitable for [personal needs](#), [student loans](#), [small business assistance](#), or other [business opportunities](#) such as government contracting. The website [Government Benefits, Grants, and Financial Aid](#) may also be of help.
2. **If eligible, search for programs** at [Assistance Listings](#). Includes grants, loans, business and nonfinancial help.
3. **Check current federal grants opportunities** at [Grants.gov](#), register with [System for Award Management](#) (SAM), and apply online (links and instructions given at the website). Additional notices appear at [FedConnect](#).
4. **Create a SAM.gov account** as soon as possible, as the process to enable you to submit grant applications can be significantly delayed.
5. **Search foundations** for project funding: use the [Foundation Center](#) website or [Foundation Directory](#) to identify national, state, and community foundations.
6. **Learn how to write grant proposals:** Take the free online [Foundation Center Proposal Writing Short Course](#), or see other tips and sample proposals at Grantspace's [How Do I Write a Grant Proposal?](#)



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Nevada Governor's Office of Federal Assistance

The Nevada Governor's Office of Federal Assistance (OFA) provides a range of grant-related support, including grant identification, grant training, and grant matching. Please visit [Nevada's Federal Grant Resource](#) for additional help in your grant search.

Grant Opportunities

OFA diligently adds new curated grant opportunities to their [watch list](#) weekly. All of the grants listed are open to Nevadans, but they take the time to identify who the grant is for: state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, non-profits and more.

US Digital Response Grant Identification Tool

US Digital Response (USDR) in partnership with OFA offer a tool that compiles [grant opportunities](#) for those searching for federal grants, with ease, efficiency, and ability to facilitate coordination and collaboration with fellow grant seekers.

Federal Matching

Meet Federal Matching Requirements with The Nevada Grant Matching Program. The Office of Federal Assistance Nevada Grant Matching Program is available for state agencies, local agencies, tribal governments, and nonprofits applying for federal funds within the State of Nevada who need matching funds for the federal grant opportunity they are pursuing.

The Grant Matching Program receives \$1 million in funding each state fiscal year. These funds are here to help Nevada stakeholders meet up to 50% of the required federal grant match.



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To qualify for the Grant Matching Program, applicants must meet specific eligibility criteria. They must be seeking a new federal competitive or discretionary grant with a matching requirement outlined in the federal Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for which they are eligible. The GMP applicant must be applying directly for the federal grant (not a subaward or subrecipient). Additionally, the federal grant opportunity must be within the organization's scope, and all other avenues to meet the required match must have been exhausted.

Save time with OFA's [eligibility checker](#). Complete this short, 3-minute assessment to determine if your project is eligible for the Nevada Grant Matching Program.



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Examples of Grant Funding Secured for Nevadans by Senator Cortez Masto

- \$20 million to help Southern Nevada combat drought and protect Las Vegas Wash.
- \$18 million to improve road safety across Nevada.
- \$31 million to support Nevada public safety and victim services programs for police departments, courts, non-profits, and Tribes.
- \$14.9 million to boost regional workforce system in Northern Nevada.
- \$2 million to Bridge Counseling Associates to provide mental health services to Nevadans.
- \$24 million for road improvements in Downtown Ely.
- \$12.9 million in projects to support economic investment in Las Vegas' historic Westside.
- \$107 million invested in private sector battery manufacturing to create jobs in Nevada.
- \$6.7 million in housing grants for affordable housing, doubling what the state usually receives.
- More than \$1 million to Nevada organizations working to support trafficking victims.



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Grant Opportunities by Category

Housing

- [Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants for Fiscal Year 2025,](#)
Department of Housing and Urban Development

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants support the implementation of a comprehensive plan that focuses on the revitalization of a severely distressed public housing and/or HUD-assisted housing project, while also improving the surrounding neighborhood and providing supportive services to improve quality of life outcomes for residents of the target housing project.

Closing Date for Applications: 3/9/2025

Education and Research Funding

- [The Institutes for Higher Education Faculty and K-12 Educators Grant,](#)
National Endowment for the Humanities

This grant is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), supports professional development for educators. The program funds institutes—residential, virtual, or hybrid—that convene educators to explore significant humanities topics, fostering deeper understanding and innovative teaching approaches. Projects should engage participants through scholarly reading, discussion, site visits (e.g., museums, libraries), and interdisciplinary collaboration, with an emphasis on underserved educational institutions (community colleges, HBCUs, HSIs, TCUs). Awards range up to \$220,000 per project, and eligible organizations include state and local governments, tribal governments, nonprofits, and higher education institutions.



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Closing Date for Applications: 2/11/2026

Agriculture and Forests

➤ [Healthy American Forests Initiative](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), backed by the USDA Forest Service, offers this \$250,000–\$2 million funding opportunity to support watershed restoration and vegetation management on National Forest System lands. The program’s goals include promoting healthy ecosystems, strengthening rural economies, and reducing wildfire risk to protect communities. Funded projects may include activities like prescribed fire, vegetation removal, aquatic habitat improvement, and road decommissioning, all contributing to community safety, habitat restoration, and workforce development. To apply, projects must align with federal watershed or water source protection plans, demonstrate strong partnerships with local Forest Units, and deliver tangible and measurable conservation outcomes.

Closing Date for Applications: 1/13/2026

➤ [2026 America First Trade Promotion Program](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

This grant administered by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, advances U.S. agricultural exports through competitive funding for state agencies, trade groups, and cooperatives. With a program budget of up to \$285 million and approximately 60 anticipated awards, AFTPP seeks partners to spearhead innovative, measurable trade promotion activities in non-traditional and high-potential foreign markets (excluding China, Hong Kong, Macau, and tobacco).

Closing Date for Applications: 1/23/2026

Rare Earth



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➤ [Rare Earth Elements Demonstration Facility](#), *Department of Energy*

The Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC) is issuing this NOFO to request applications for projects to design, construct, commission and operate a Rare Earth Element (REE) Demonstration Facility that demonstrates the separation of REEs from feedstock derived from acid mine drainage, mine waste, or other deleterious materials to rare earth oxides and refining into rare earth metals at a single site.

Closing Date for Applications: 1/05/2026

Brownfields

➤ [FY26 Guidelines for Brownfield Multipurpose \(MP\) Grants](#), *Environmental Protection Agency*

The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization is announcing the availability of \$20 million dollars to award approximately 20 cooperative agreements for the Multipurpose Grant Program. Multipurpose Grants provide funding to carry out a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities, including planning and additional community engagement activities. An applicant may request funding up to \$1,000,000 to address hazardous substances and/or petroleum contamination at one or more brownfield sites. Activities carried out at each approved, eligible site may exceed \$200,000. EPA will determine eligibility for site-specific assessment and cleanup activities after the award of the grant throughout the project period. A Multipurpose Grant recipient may only expend grant funds for the remediation of a brownfield site it owns and may not issue a subaward to another site owner to conduct the remediation.

Closing Date for Applications: 1/28/2026

➤ [FY26 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants \(Community-wide Assessment Grants\)](#), *Environmental Protection Agency*



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The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization is soliciting applications for Community-Wide Assessment grants. It is anticipated that up to 70 awards will be made under this announcement. The amount of funding is expected to be \$35,000,000. Assessment grants provide funding for developing inventories of brownfield sites, prioritizing sites, conducting community involvement activities, conducting planning, conducting site assessments, developing site-specific cleanup plans, and developing reuse plans related to brownfield sites.

Closing Date for Applications: 1/28/2026

- [**FY26 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants \(Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes\)**](#), *Environmental Protection Agency*

This grant that is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), fund the identification, assessment, and planning for the reuse of brownfield sites—properties complicated by the presence or fear of hazardous contaminants. The grant supports the assessment of at least ten sites, community engagement, inventory building, and development of reuse plans (not cleanup). Critically, the program prioritizes communities with a history of economic disinvestment and environmental contamination. Grantees can request up to \$2,000,000 for a five-year term, with participant support costs like stipends or childcare eligible. No cost-sharing is required. Applications close on January 28, 2026, with notification in June 2026 and funding by September 2026.

Closing Date for Applications: 1/28/2026

- [**FY26 Guidelines for Brownfield Cleanup Grants**](#), *Environmental Protection Agency*

The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization is announcing the availability of \$107 million dollars for approximately 36 cleanup grants. Cleanup Grants provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the



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applicant. The goal of the grant program is to clean up contaminated properties with the aim of facilitating their sustainable reuse.

Closing Date for Applications: 1/28/2026

➤ **FY26 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants (Assessment Coalition Grants)**, *Environmental Protection Agency*

The Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization is announcing the availability of \$58.7 million dollars to award approximately 39 cooperative agreements under the Brownfields Assessment Coalition grant program. Assessment Grants provide funding for developing inventories of brownfield sites, prioritizing sites, conducting community involvement activities, conducting planning, conducting site assessments, developing site-specific cleanup plans, and developing reuse plans related to brownfield sites. A portion of the Assessment Grant funding must be used to conduct site assessments. Assessment Coalition Grants are designed for one “lead” eligible entity to partner with two to four eligible entities that do not have the capacity to apply for and manage their own EPA cooperative agreement and otherwise would not have access to Brownfields Grant resources.

Closing Date for Applications: 1/28/2026

➤ **FY26 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants (Community-wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes)**, *Environmental Protection Agency*

This grant that is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), fund the identification, assessment, and planning for the reuse of brownfield sites—properties complicated by the presence or fear of hazardous contaminants. The grant supports the assessment of at least ten sites, community engagement, inventory building, and development of reuse plans (not cleanup). Critically, the program prioritizes communities with a history of economic disinvestment and environmental contamination. Grantees can request up to



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Closing Date for Applications: 1/28/2026

Flood Mitigation

- [Fiscal Year 2024 Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current](#), *Department of Homeland Security - FEMA*

This grant aims to accelerate mitigation funding for communities impacted by recent flood disasters. Its core purpose is to help reduce or eliminate repetitive flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA is seeking applicants who can drive rapid, measurable flood mitigation—such as structural improvements in flood-prone areas—to support both acute disaster recovery and long-term resilience. The program’s unique value is its commitment to “swift” action, enabling qualified state and tribal governments to quickly deliver support and recovery for their NFIP-participating communities at risk of recurrent flooding. Applicants must provide a cost share or match, and the total available funding for this round is an estimated \$500 million.

Closing Date for Applications: 2/14/2026

Transportation

- [FY 2026 National Infrastructure Investments](#), *Department of Transportation*

The purpose of this notice is to solicit applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. The goal of the program is to fund projects that will have a significant local or regional impact and improve transportation infrastructure. BUILD grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, per statute, for planning or constructing surface



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transportation infrastructure projects that will improve safety; environmental sustainability; quality of life; mobility and community connectivity; economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism; state of good repair; partnership and collaboration; and innovation.

Closing Date for Applications: 2/24/2026

USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Programs for Infrastructure

- [Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development provides loan guarantees to eligible lenders to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Projects include fire and rescue stations, town halls, health care clinics and hospitals.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

- [Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development finances the construction of electric distribution facilities and improvements to electric service in rural areas.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

- [Multifamily Housing Loan Guarantee Program](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development works with qualified private-sector lenders to provide financing to qualified borrowers to increase the supply of affordable rental housing



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for low- and moderate-income individuals and families in eligible rural areas and towns.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

- [**Multifamily Housing Rental Assistance Program**](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development provides payments directly to the owners of USDA financed rural rental or farm labor housing on behalf of eligible tenants who cannot afford to pay their full rent.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

- [**On-Farm Labor Housing Loans**](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development provides low-interest loans to eligible borrowers to develop or rehabilitate rental housing for very-low- to moderate-income farm laborers.

Closing Date for Applications: **Open until funds are depleted**

- [**Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants**](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes; or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards to their homes.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

- [**Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program**](#), *U.S. Department of Agriculture*



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USDA Rural Development provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage and solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

➤ **Water & Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development helps private lenders provide affordable financing to qualified borrowers to improve access to clean, reliable water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

➤ **Water and Waste Disposal Pre-development Planning Grants**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development helps private lenders provide affordable financing to qualified borrowers to improve access to clean, reliable water and waste disposal systems in rural areas.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

Funding Opportunities for Tribes

➤ **Native American Affairs: Emergency Drought Relief for Tribes Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Section 80004**, *Department of Housing and Urban Development*

The Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-COMP) provides competitive grant opportunities to eligible IHBG formula recipients under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) to carry out eligible affordable housing activities for the benefit of low-income Tribal families.



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Closing Date for Applications: 1/15/2026

- **Grants for Rural and Native Alaskan Villages**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development offers this program to help remote Alaskan villages provide safe, reliable drinking water and waste-disposal systems for households and businesses.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

- **Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development helps get safe, reliable drinking water and waste-disposal services to low-income communities that face significant health risks.

Closing Date for Applications: NA

- **Water and Waste Facility Loans and Grants to Alleviate Health Risks on Tribal Lands**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture*

USDA Rural Development helps get safe, reliable drinking water and waste-disposal services to low-income communities that face significant health risks.

Closing Date for Applications: NA