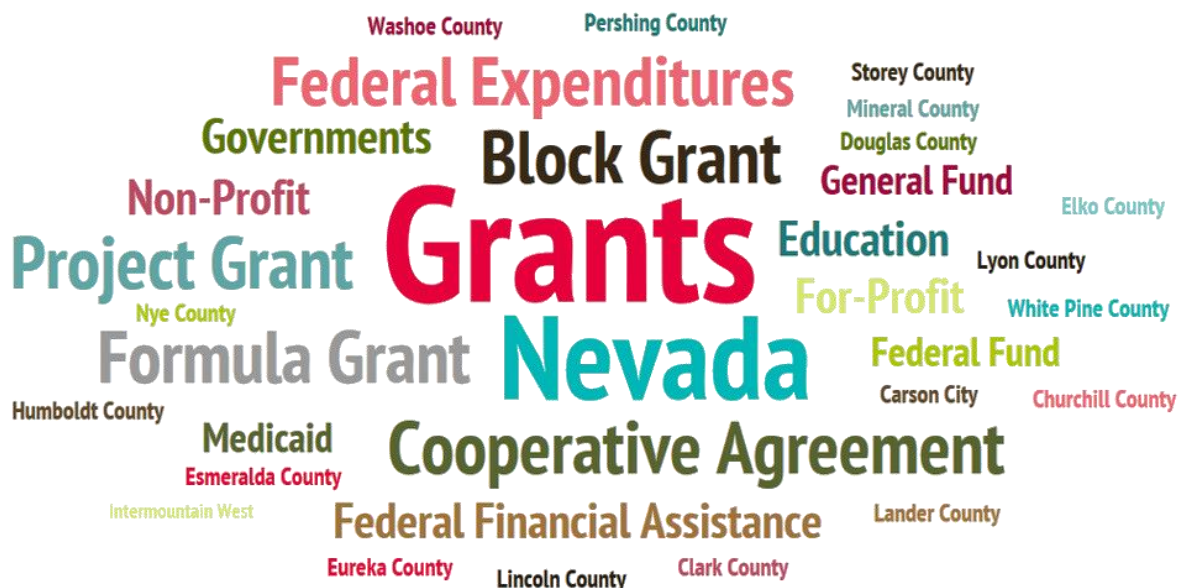


FEDERAL REVENUE STREAMS IN NEVADA: A DATA SNAPSHOT



FEBRUARY 2018



Abstract: Nevada's 2017-2019 biennium budget amounts to approximately \$26.2 billion. Federal funds account for more than one-third (34.3 percent) of all revenues in the biennium budget. Federal revenues also flow into Nevada's non-profits and local and county governments. This policy brief summarizes federal revenue streams in Nevada in recent years.

The Guinn Center, in partnership with Southern Nevada Strong, Nevada Grant Office, Community Foundation of Nevada, and the United Way of Southern Nevada, has been working to build state and local capacity to increase Nevada's federal grant competitiveness. The data contained in this policy brief has been presented at various meetings of stakeholders.

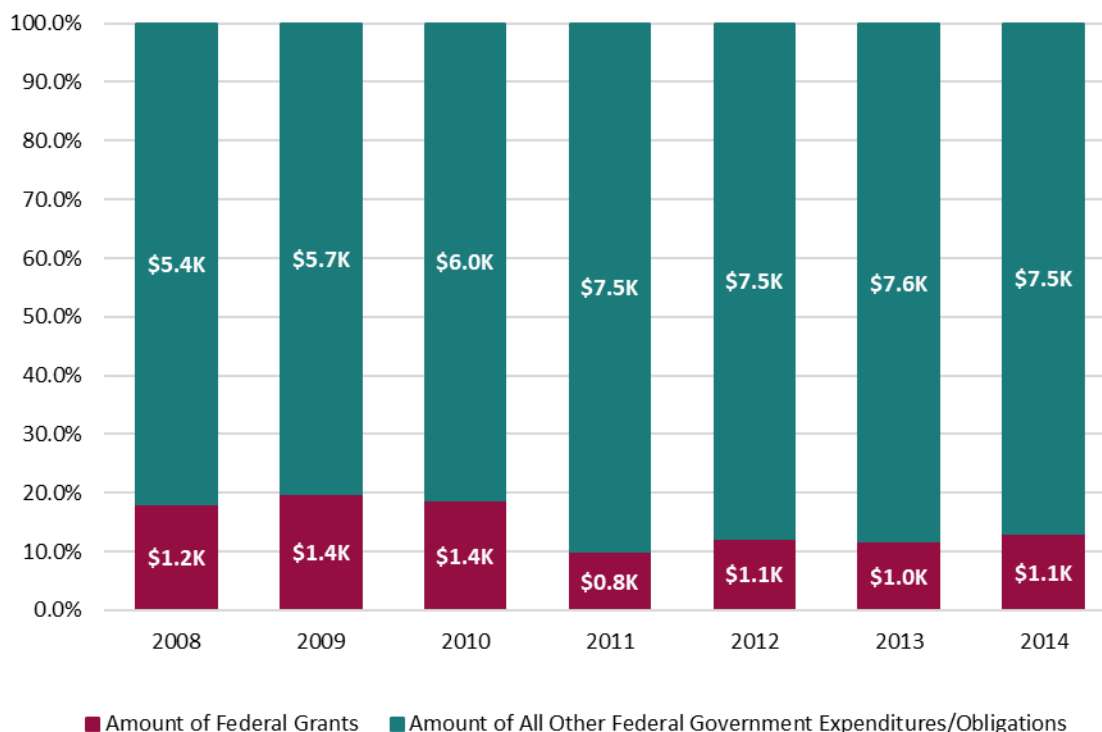
Total Federal Government Expenditures/Obligations Per Capita, Intermountain West States

	ARIZONA		CALIFORNIA		COLORADO		NEVADA		NEW MEXICO		TEXAS		UTAH	
	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank
FFY 2008	8,355.77	31	8,159.68	37	7,696.15	42	6,637.98	50	12,017.05	6	8,632.58	29	6,255.31	51
FFY 2009	9,555.96	32	9,360.24	37	9,514.08	34	7,148.49	51	13,669.99	6	9,164.11	43	7,434.65	50
FFY 2010	10,079.26	28	8,960.37	45	9,879.68	32	7,321.11	51	13,577.73	7	8,976.73	44	8,518.87	49
FFY 2011	11,134.34	14	9,630.28	33	9,838.31	32	8,285.32	50	13,872.64	7	9,334.18	39	7,949.95	51
FFY 2012	10,938.20	19	9,073.82	41	10,044.38	29	8,582.83	45	14,055.31	6	9,131.18	39	7,825.29	50
FFY 2013	10,294.87	20	9,076.95	38	9,425.81	34	8,618.13	42	13,255.23	6	9,001.83	39	7,268.99	51
FFY 2014	10,562.14	21	9,346.94	41	9,843.31	33	8,636.18	47	14,062.97	6	8,794.77	45	7,523.78	51

Source: Federal Government Expenditures/Obligations: FFY 2008-2010, *Consolidated Federal Funds Reports*, and FFY 2011-2014, Pew Charitable Trusts, *Federal Spending in the States: 2005-2014* | Population (for per capita adjustment): U.S. Census Bureau. *Note:* Expenditures/obligations are defined as retirement and disability, other direct payments, grants, procurement, and salaries and wages for FFY 2008-2010 *and* as retirement, nonretirement, contracts, grants, and salaries and wages for FFY 2011-2014. Ranked by the Guinn Center, from highest amount per capita to lowest.

Between federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 and FFY 2011, Nevada ranked near or at the bottom (50th or 51st) of all states in federal government expenditures/obligations per capita. Federal spending in Nevada has tended to be relatively low throughout the Great Recession and recovery, as is true for the neighboring state of Utah. With the exception of New Mexico, the rest of the Intermountain West states had a moderate level of federal spending over this time frame. From FFY 2008 through FFY 2014, New Mexico enjoyed fairly high levels of federal spending, with rankings that place it at either 6th or 7th.

Grants vs. All Other Federal Government Expenditures/Obligations in Nevada (Per Capita)



Source: Federal Government Expenditures/Obligations: FFY 2008-2010, *Consolidated Federal Funds Reports*, and FFY 2011-2014, Pew Charitable Trusts, *Federal Spending in the States: 2005-2014* | Population: U.S. Census Bureau. Note: Expenditures/obligations are defined as retirement and disability, other direct payments, grants, procurement, and salaries and wages for FFY 2008-2010 *and* as retirement, nonretirement, contracts, grants, and salaries and wages for FFY 2011-2014. Each stacked column segment is calculated as a percentage of total federal expenditures/obligations per capita.

Grants per capita were disproportionately low relative to all other federal government expenditures/obligations per capita between federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 and FFY 2014. In FFY 2011, when grants per capita as a percentage of total federal expenditures/obligations per capita was the lowest (\$829; 10 percent), just 10 cents of every federal dollar in Nevada was grant money, while the other 90 cents of each federal dollar were allocated to all other federal expenditures/obligations per capita. The slightly higher grants per capita amounts in FFY 2009 and FFY 2010 likely reflect additional money provided to the state by the federal government under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Beginning in FFY 2011, the additional expenditures began to taper off and then increased again in FFY 2012. Grants per capita remained flat, that is, at or above FFY 2012 levels, in subsequent years.

Total Federal Financial Assistance Per Capita, Intermountain West States

	ARIZONA		CALIFORNIA		COLORADO		NEVADA		NEW MEXICO		TEXAS		UTAH	
	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank
FFY 2008	6,037.69	17	5,114.83	39	4,916.85	44	4,542.56	49	7,865.13	7	5,869.79	20	3,788.19	51
FFY 2009	8,333.16	29	7,807.22	39	6,957.88	47	6,409.37	50	11,623.55	8	9,178.90	22	5,536.08	51
FFY 2010	7,798.74	23	6,508.18	38	7,000.62	31	5,137.26	51	10,235.67	8	7,423.52	28	5,346.04	50
FFY 2011	8,231.35	21	7,555.76	32	6,659.10	39	5,554.24	50	10,409.68	16	11,953.58	10	4,905.77	51
FFY 2012	9,110.02	26	7,745.69	36	7,294.68	40	6,188.37	48	11,294.06	23	13,409.76	14	5,158.50	51
FFY 2013	9,618.46	26	7,895.41	33	6,982.17	41	6,296.82	47	10,643.66	22	12,498.05	20	4,741.61	51
FFY 2014	9,030.24	17	6,590.46	37	6,960.63	33	5,363.73	49	10,347.10	15	5,716.92	46	4,797.08	51
FFY 2015	9,477.35	16	6,805.30	37	6,868.97	34	6,260.96	44	10,634.28	14	6,046.47	47	4,719.79	51
FFY 2016	10,347.00	17	7,386.71	35	7,127.72	39	6,046.60	49	10,970.41	14	6,084.74	48	4,763.62	51
FFY 2017	8,994.15	16	6,511.93	32	6,279.04	35	5,130.75	48	10,203.61	13	5,721.05	43	4,126.91	51

Source: Federal financial assistance: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) | Population (for per capita adjustment): U.S. Census Bureau.

Note: Federal financial assistance includes contracts, grants, loans, and “Other Financial Assistance.” (See Glossary in Appendix B for additional details.) Ranked by the Guinn Center, from highest amount per capita to lowest.

In comparison to the other Intermountain West states, federal financial assistance per capita is relatively low in Nevada and Utah. Both states rank at or near the bottom of all states over the 10-year period. In the Silver State, federal financial assistance per capita was highest in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 with the implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. (Amongst other provisions, ARRA provided state and local fiscal relief.) Federal financial assistance per capita has remained in the \$5,100-\$6,300 range since then.

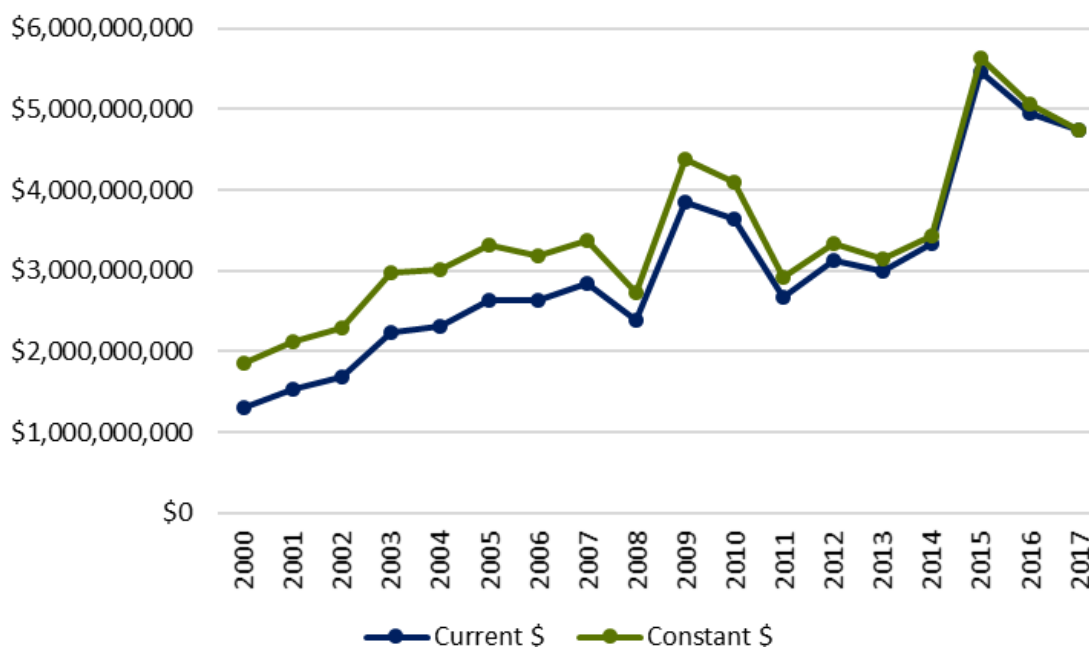
Federal Grants Per Capita, Intermountain West States

	ARIZONA		CALIFORNIA		COLORADO		NEVADA		NEW MEXICO		TEXAS		UTAH	
	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank
FFY 2008	689.55	29	555.62	45	638.78	34	582.11	38	1,144.97	6	447.01	50	566.10	41
FFY 2009	1,962.15	39	2,063.66	29	1,681.16	46	1,418.26	49	3,406.83	3	1,879.22	42	1,714.83	45
FFY 2010	2,139.36	19	1,741.88	37	1,634.34	41	1,252.33	50	2,914.36	5	1,766.11	33	1,676.66	40
FFY 2011	1,721.34	26	1,896.18	19	1,183.26	48	781.06	51	2,403.14	5	1,457.08	38	1,150.13	49
FFY 2012	1,633.33	31	1,601.40	32	1,334.02	41	1,030.04	49	2,749.17	5	1,420.15	36	1,292.14	43
FFY 2013	1,350.77	37	1,718.99	20	1,303.42	41	984.19	49	2,185.18	9	1,334.20	38	1,211.83	43
FFY 2014	1,900.21	28	2,002.10	23	1,696.57	35	1,136.59	50	2,617.36	6	1,463.67	44	1,353.22	47
FFY 2015	2,010.06	22	2,108.72	19	1,734.05	35	1,822.31	30	3,116.26	4	1,550.28	41	1,246.37	48
FFY 2016	2,055.88	24	2,398.71	15	1,850.21	33	1,603.35	43	2,705.48	7	1,603.46	42	1,331.25	48
FFY 2017	1,981.46	23	2,429.35	12	1,711.47	33	1,475.78	44	2,954.49	5	1,475.00	45	1,278.61	50

Source: Grants: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) | Population (for per capita adjustment): U.S. Census Bureau. Note: Ranked by the Guinn Center, from highest amount per capita to lowest.

Federal grants per capita in Nevada are lower, on average, than the other Intermountain West states. While this does not hold true for all years, the general pattern places the state at or near the bottom of the rankings. Federal grants per capita were lowest in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008. After that, they increased in FFY 2009, with the infusion of funds via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, declined slightly in FFY 2010 and FY 2011, increased again in FFY 2012, and then decreased in FFY 2013. Nevada saw an increase in grants per capita as a result of Medicaid expansion in FFY 2014 and FFY 2015. (Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX, is categorized as a grant, and expansion went into effect on January 1, 2014.) Federal grants per capita decreased thereafter, both in FFY 2016 and FFY 2017, though the Medicaid expansion remains in effect.

Federal Grants Awarded in Nevada (Current Dollars vs. Constant Dollars)

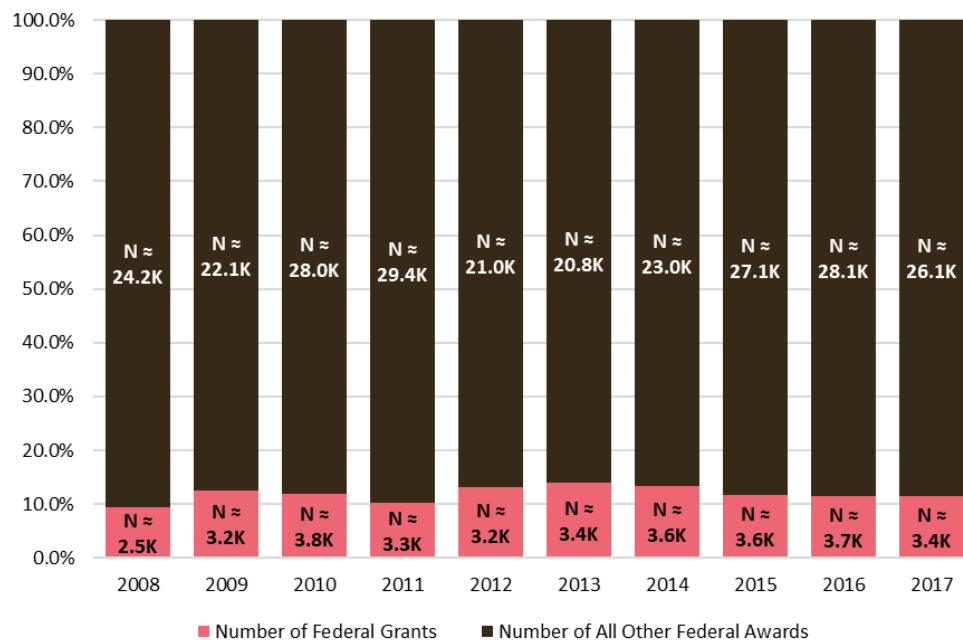


Source: Grants: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) | Inflation Adjustment: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "CPI-All Urban Consumers (Current Series)"

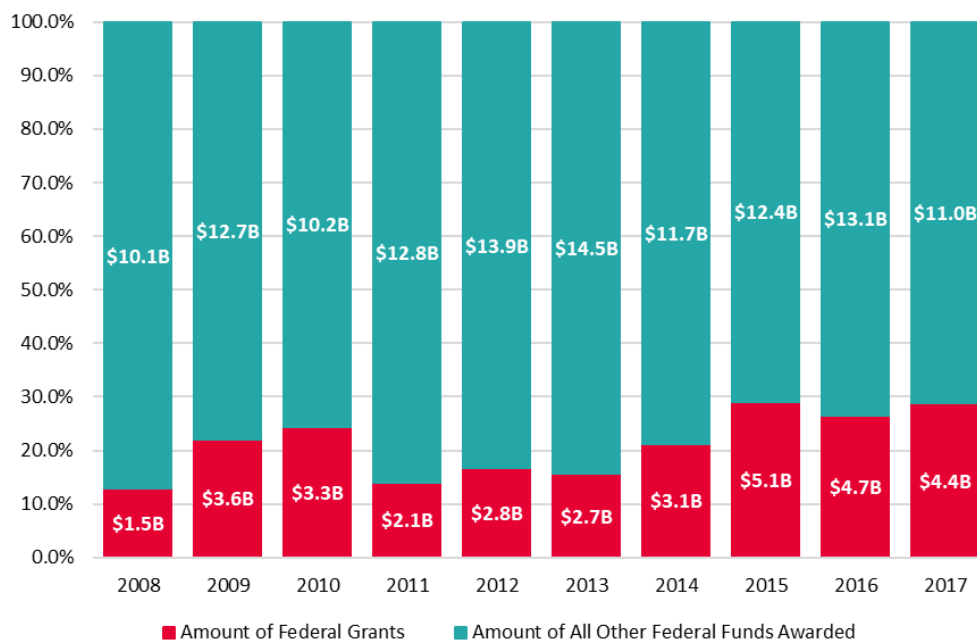
The figure shows total federal grant money awarded to Nevada between federal fiscal year (FFY) 2000 and FFY 2017 in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation) and constant dollars (inflation-adjusted). Over the 18-year period, federal grant money has kept pace of inflation. Federal grants awarded to the state increased steadily from FFY 2000 to FFY 2003, before leveling off through FFY 2007. Total grant money declined slightly in FFY 2008, before increasing considerably in FFY 2009 with the addition of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 funds. The next spike, in FFY 2015, signifies the first full year that Nevada's Medicaid expansion money was reflected in the federal grant award total. Total grants have increased by 154.4 percent over FFY 2000 and FFY 2017, even when inflation is taken into account. (See Appendix A for total grant money awarded directly to Nevada's counties in current and constant dollars.)

Grants vs. All Other Federal Funds Awarded in Nevada

Number of Grants vs. Number of All Other Federal Awards



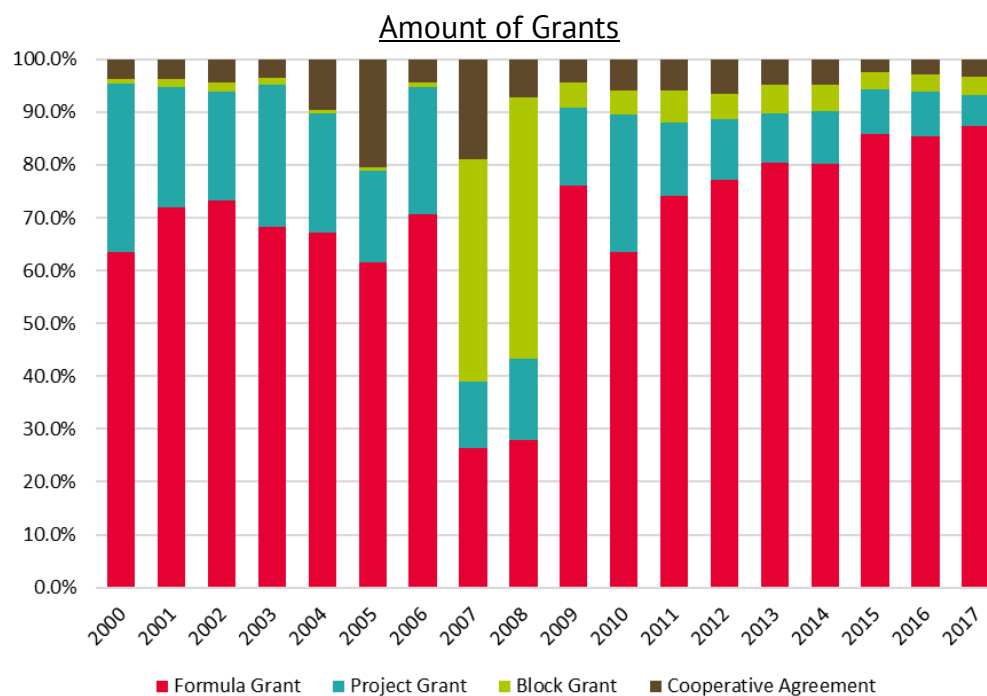
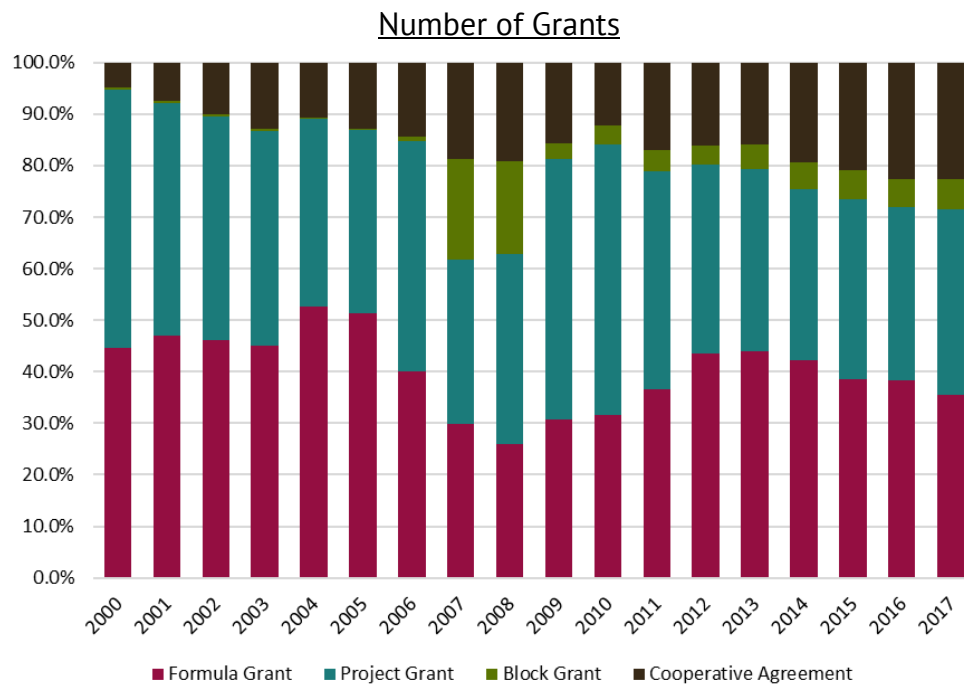
Amount of Grants vs. Amount of All Other Federal Funds Awarded



Source: USAspending.gov. Note: Each stacked column segment is calculated as a percentage of the total.

Relative to other types of federal financial assistance, such as contracts and loans, amongst others, the number of federal grants received by Nevada is somewhat small. Since federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009, the state has been awarded 3,000 to 4,000 federal grants per year. In FFY 2016, for example, Nevada received 3,671 federal grants but 28,093 other federal awards. The amounts have varied over time and do not correlate with number of awards.

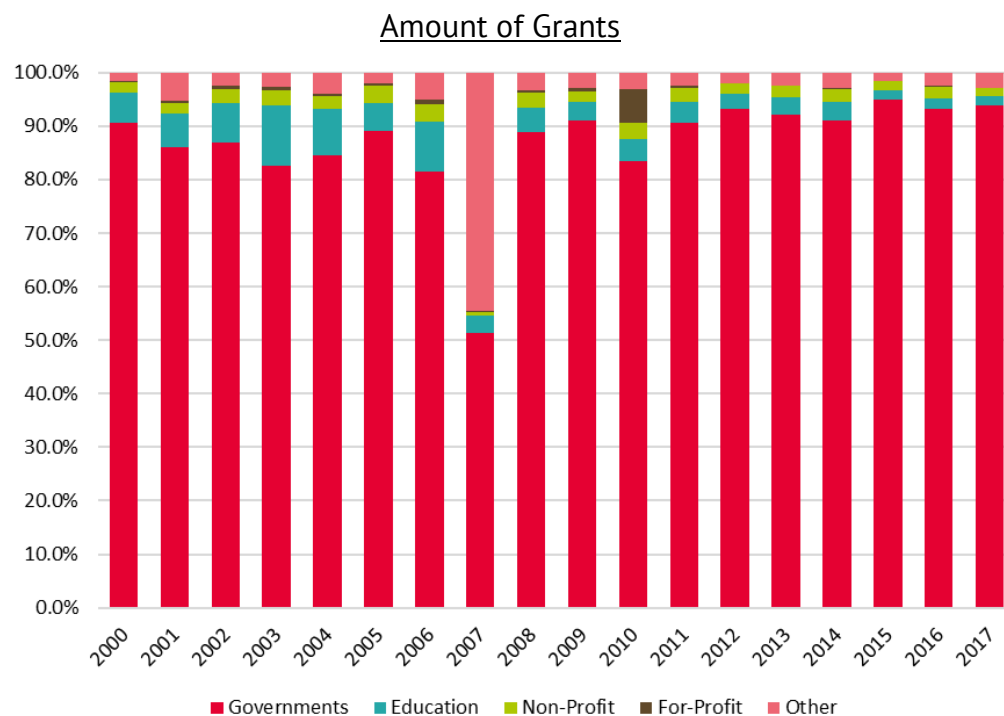
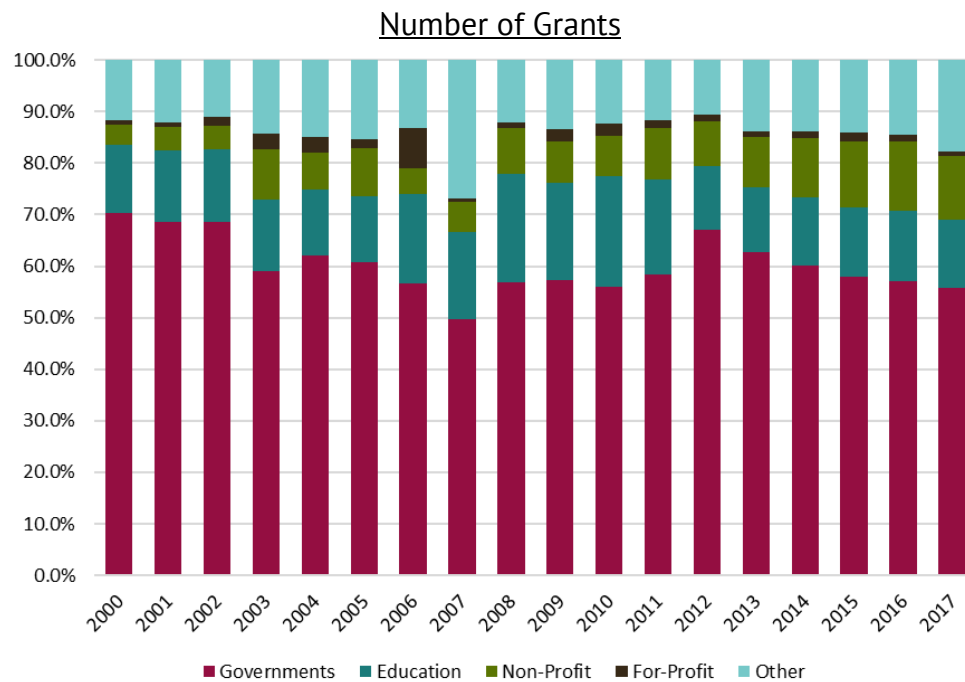
Federal Grants Awarded in Nevada, by Assistance Type



Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov). Note: Each stacked column segment is calculated as a percentage of the total. Medicaid is coded in the original data erroneously as a block grant for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2007 and FFY 2008. Data is presented as provided in the source material.

When broken out by assistance type, Nevada has tended to receive fairly equal numbers of formula grants and project grants, followed to a much lesser extent by cooperative agreements and block grants. However, with respect to grant amounts, formula grants far outweigh other grant types. For example, in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011, the state received roughly \$2.0 billion in formula grants, or 74.2 percent of all federal grant money. In the same year, project grants amounted to about \$366 million, or 13.7 percent of all federal grant money. Increases in federal grant money for formula grants vis-à-vis all other types of assistance, beginning in FFY 2015, likely reflect Medicaid expansion, as federal funding for that program is categorized as a formula grant.

Federal Grants Awarded in Nevada, by Recipient Type

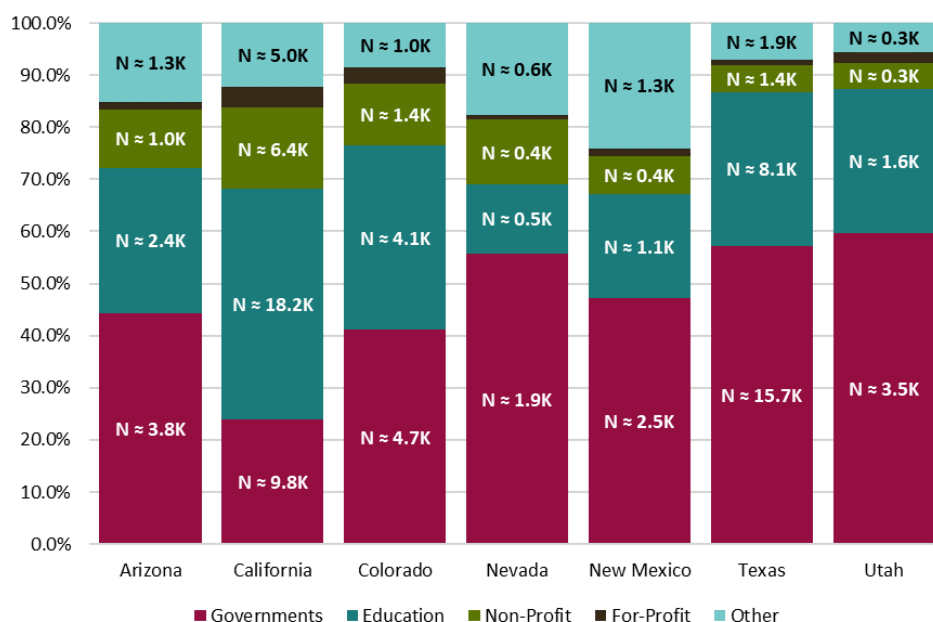


Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov). Note: Each stacked column segment is calculated as a percentage of the total. Medicaid is coded in the original data erroneously as a recipient type of "All other" for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2007. Data is presented as provided in the source material.

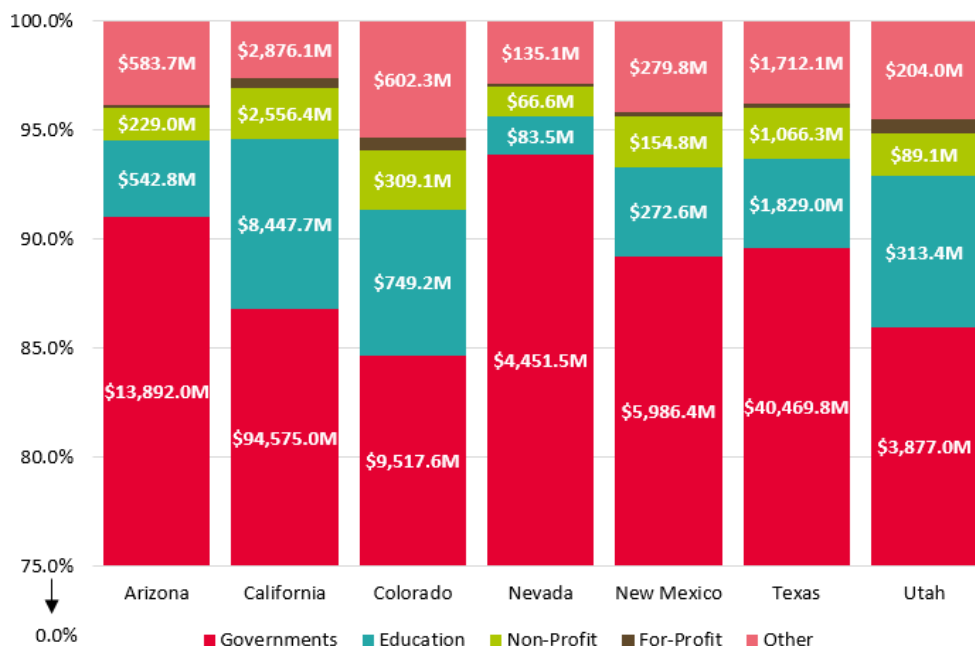
Governments of all jurisdictional types, combined, received the majority of federal grants awarded to Nevada. The preponderance of federal grant money has been allocated to governments. For example, in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016, governments received about \$4.7 billion in federal grant dollars, or 93.2 percent of all federal grant money in the state. By way of comparison, non-profits received about \$101.4 million in federal grant dollars, or 2.0 percent of all federal grant money in the state.

Federal Grants Awarded in Intermountain West States, by Recipient Type: Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017

Number of Grants



Amount of Grants



Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov). Note: Each stacked column segment is calculated as a percentage of the total.

In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017, Nevada received the fewest federal grants of all Intermountain West states. Of all the Intermountain West states, Nevada's governments received the highest percentage of federal dollars, as a share of the total, at 93.9 percent. However, the total amount its governments received, about \$4.5 billion, was the lowest in the region (e.g., California's governments received \$94.6 billion) and the third-lowest per capita, regionally, at \$1,748.28.

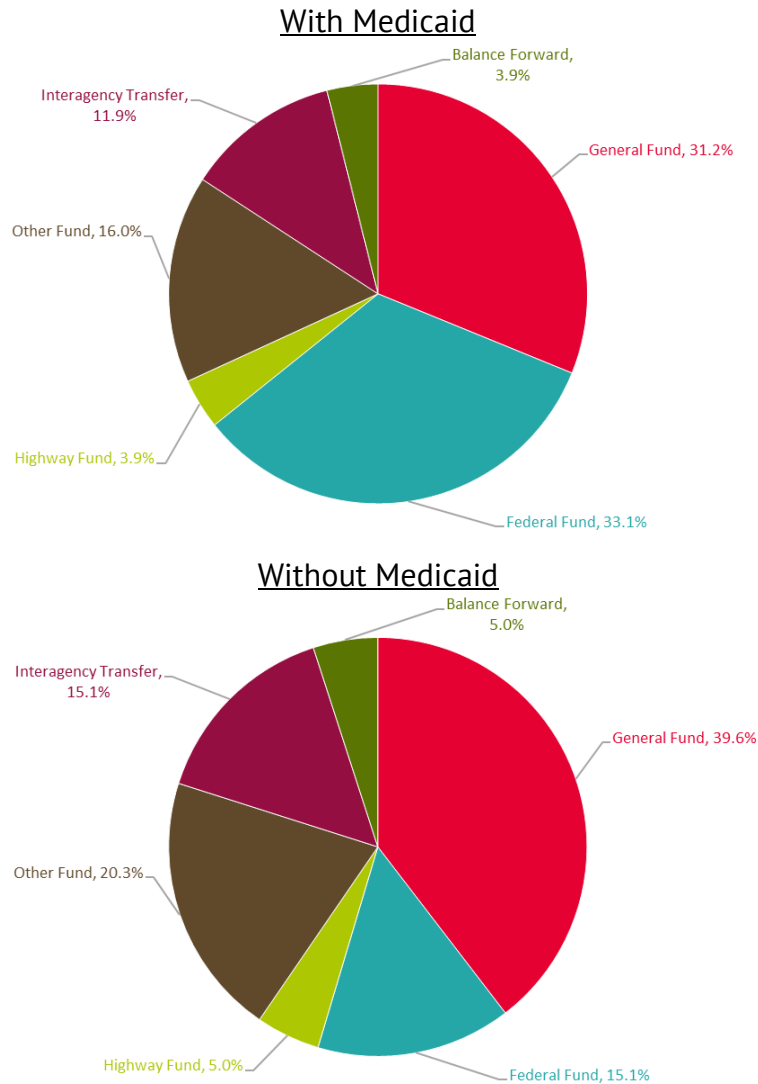
Nevada's Departments, by Funding Source



Source: Open Government, open.nv.gov. Note: 2017-2018 Biennium; Governor's Recommended Activity Budget.

The distribution of five major funding sources that finance Nevada's operations, by state agency, is displayed here for the 2017-2019 biennium. Approximately 99 percent of the state's Federal Fund is comprised of grants. The Department of Agriculture, the Adjutant General, the Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation, and the Department of Health and Human Services receive/will receive the greater part of their revenue from the Federal Fund, and, by extension, federal grants.

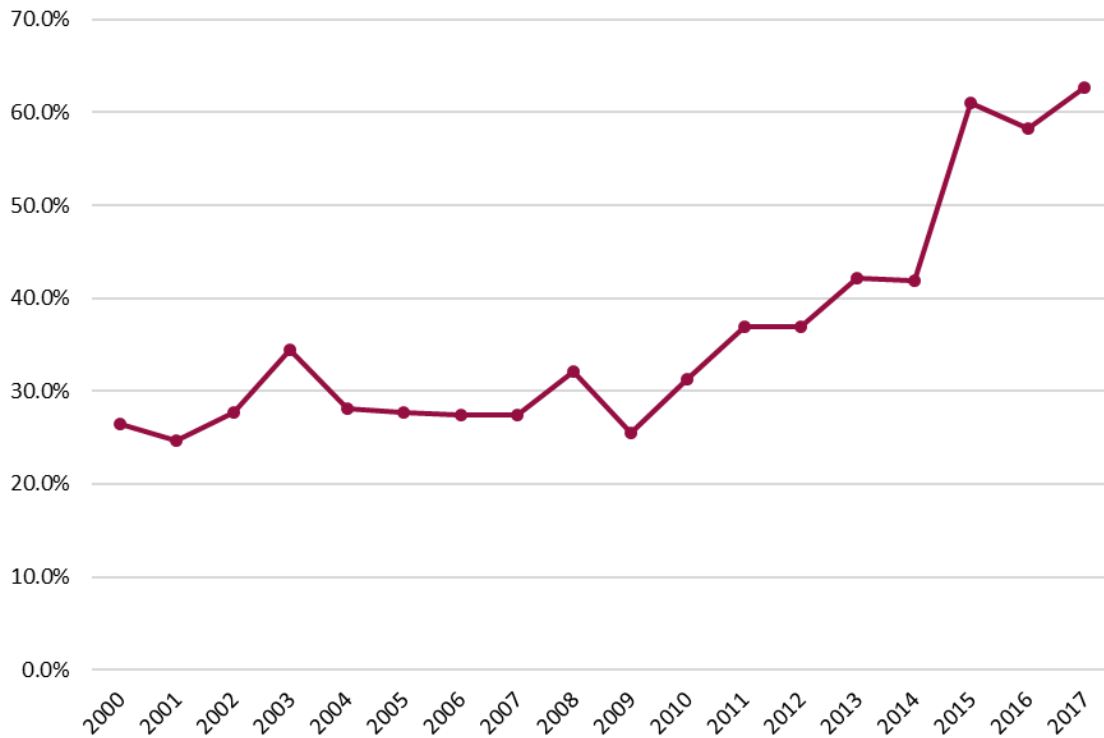
Revenue Sources for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017



Source: Revenue: Open Government, open.nv.gov | Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX: USAspending.gov. *Note:* Percentage of the Total Legislatively Approved Budget. “Without Medicaid” is a stylized calculation, as computed by the Guinn Center.

The top pie chart shows actual revenue sources for state fiscal year (SFY) 2017. (Total revenue for SFY 2017 amounted to about \$12 billion.) The bottom pie chart presents a hypothetical version in which federal matching (grant) money for Nevada Medicaid (Title XIX) is excluded. Medicaid comprises 64.2 percent of the state’s Federal Fund, so when subtracted—as in the bottom figure—its effect on total revenue becomes apparent. In the absence of Medicaid dollars, the Federal Fund would decrease by more than half, from 33.1 percent to 15.1 percent. As 99.9 percent of the SFY 2017 Federal Fund consists of grant money, the considerable weight of Medicaid skews the grant picture.

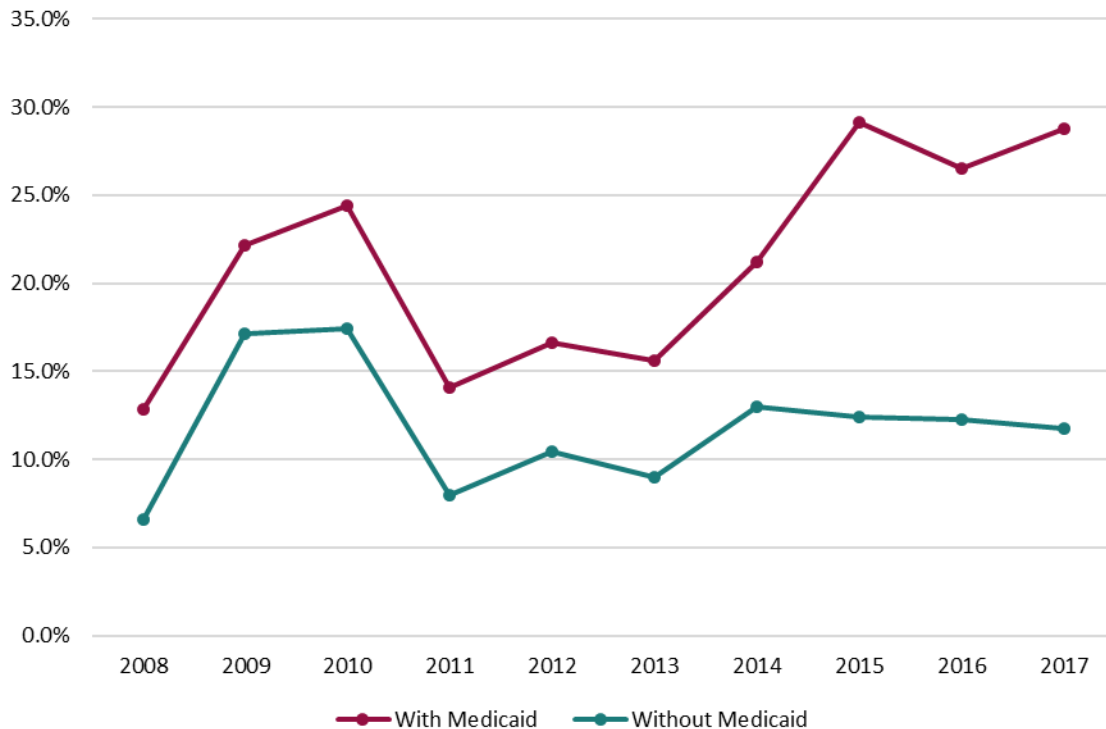
Nevada Medicaid (Title XIX) as a Percentage of Federal Grants Amount Awarded



Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov)

Nevada Medicaid, as a percentage of the amount of federal grant money awarded in the state, increased substantially only twice between federal fiscal year (FFY) 2000 and FFY 2008. After dipping in FFY 2009, it began to increase at a fairly consistent rate through FFY 2014, though there was some leveling-off during that time frame. The spike in FFY 2015 results from the additional funds that flowed to Nevada with its expansion of Medicaid in on January 1, 2014 (FFY 2015 was the first full fiscal year of funding). From FFY 2000 to FFY 2017, Medicaid as a share of all federal grants in the state increased by 36.1 percentage points.

Amount of Grants Awarded as a Percentage of Amount of All Federal Funds Awarded: With Medicaid vs. Without Medicaid



Source: USAspending.gov. Note: Medicaid refers to Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX. "Without Medicaid" is a stylized calculation, as computed by the Guinn Center.

The dollar amount of grants awarded as a percentage of the dollar amount of all federal funds awarded in Nevada is displayed here: the burgundy line is the actual data, while the turquoise line shows the hypothetical case of Medicaid exclusion from the totality of grant awards. Up until the full year of Medicaid expansion money, that is, federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015, the lines correspond with one another. Beginning in FFY 2015, however, the lines diverge considerably. Actual grant dollars, as a percentage of the total, spike to the 25 percent to 35 percent range. Hypothetical grant dollars exhibit a flattening-out effect, with a slight decrease, in the 10 percent to 15 percent range. This suggests that the grants landscape in Nevada may be distorted by the influence of Medicaid funding.

The Effect of Medicaid on Federal Financial Assistance and Grants, Intermountain West States: Federal Fiscal Year (FFY 2017)

Federal Financial Assistance Per Capita

	WITH MEDICAID		WITHOUT MEDICAID	
	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank
Arizona	8,994.15	16	7,584.99	16
California	6,511.93	32	4,716.67	42
Colorado	6,279.04	35	5,266.45	31
Nevada	5,130.75	48	4,140.23	48
New Mexico	10,203.61	13	8,137.86	14
Texas	5,721.05	43	4,902.45	38
Utah	4,126.91	51	3,491.22	51

Federal Grants Per Capita

	WITH MEDICAID		WITHOUT MEDICAID	
	Amount (\$)	Rank	Amount (\$)	Rank
Arizona	1,981.46	23	572.30	44
California	2,429.35	12	634.10	37
Colorado	1,711.47	33	698.88	25
Nevada	1,475.78	44	485.26	49
New Mexico	2,954.49	5	888.74	12
Texas	1,475.00	45	656.40	32
Utah	1,278.61	50	642.93	34

Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) | Population (for per capita adjustment): U.S. Census Bureau. Note: : Federal financial assistance includes contracts, grants, loans, and "Other Financial Assistance." (See Glossary in Appendix B for additional details.) Ranked by the Guinn Center, from highest amount per capita to lowest. Medicaid refers to Nevada Medicaid, Title XIX. "Without Medicaid" is a stylized calculation, as computed by the Guinn Center.

The impact of Medicaid on federal financial assistance per capita and grants per capita is felt acutely throughout the Intermountain West states. In the absence of Medicaid, federal grants per capita in Nevada decreases by nearly \$1,000 per capita. The largest loss per capita, in the theoretical absence of Medicaid funding, is in New Mexico, at roughly \$2,100 per capita. For Arizona and California, their rankings drop from 23 to 44 and 12 to 37, respectively.

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About the Kenny C. Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

The Kenny C. Guinn Center for Policy Priorities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, bipartisan, independent research center focused on providing fact-based, relevant, and well-reasoned analysis of critical policy issues facing Nevada and the Intermountain West. The Guinn Center engages policy-makers, experts, and the public with innovative, data-driven research and analysis to advance policy solutions, inform the public debate, and expand public engagement.

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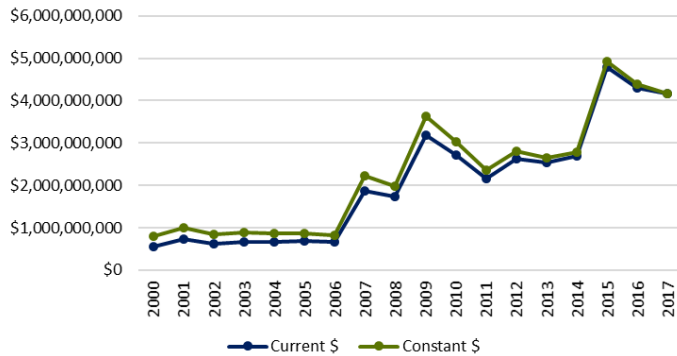
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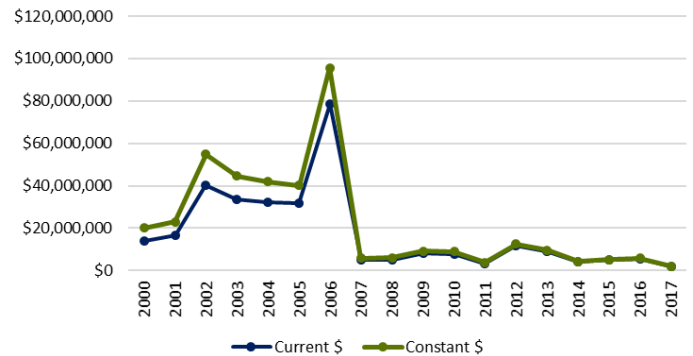
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Appendix A. Federal Grants Awarded to Nevada's Counties

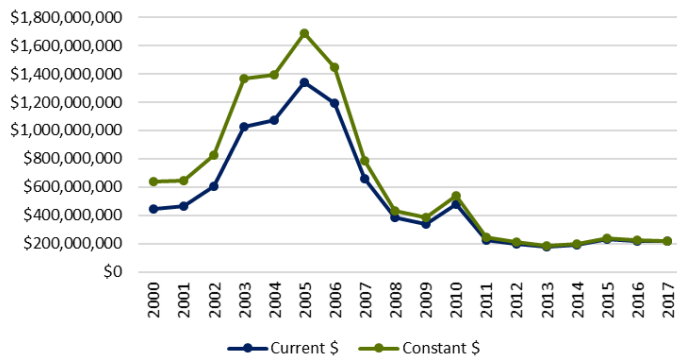
Federal Grants Received by Carson City: FFY 2000-2017



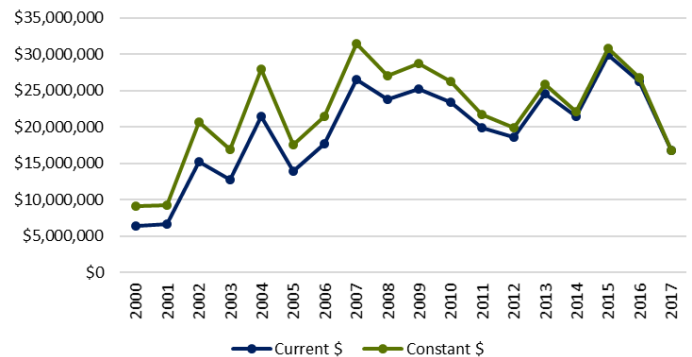
Federal Grants Received by Churchill County: FFY 2000-2017



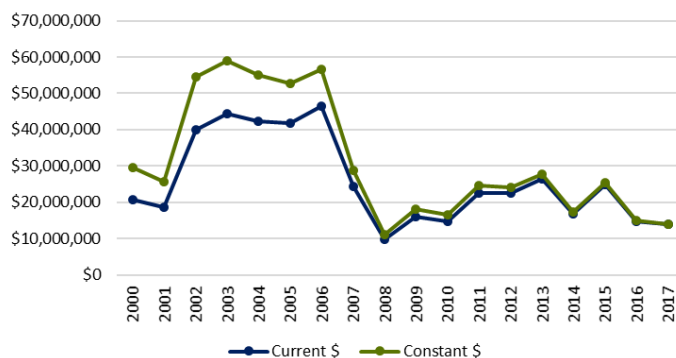
Federal Grants Received by Clark County: FFY 2000-2017



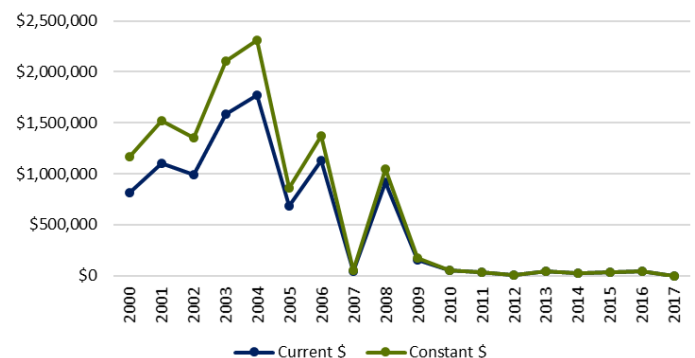
Federal Grants Received by Douglas County: FFY 2000-2017



Federal Grants Received by Elko County: FFY 2000-2017



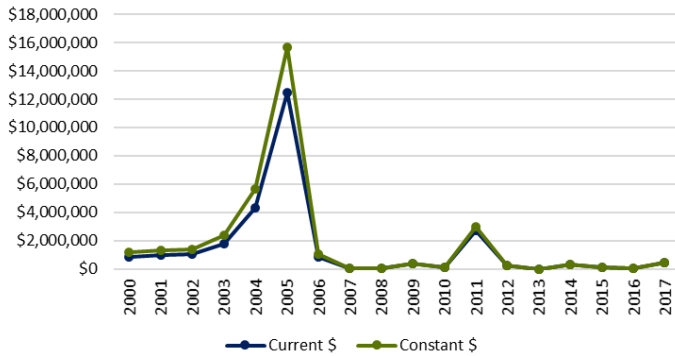
Federal Grants Received by Esmeralda County: FFY 2000-2017



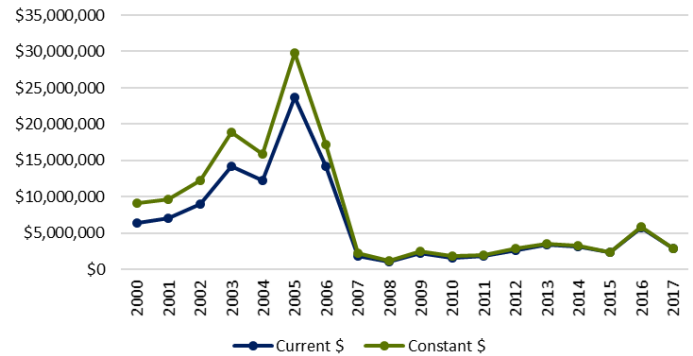
Source: Grants: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) | Inflation Adjustment: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "CPI-All Urban Consumers (Current Series)"

Appendix A. Federal Grants Awarded to Nevada's Counties (cont'd)

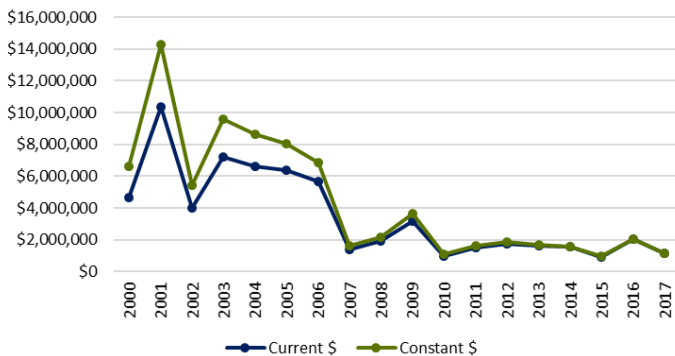
Federal Grants Received by Eureka County: FFY 2000-2017



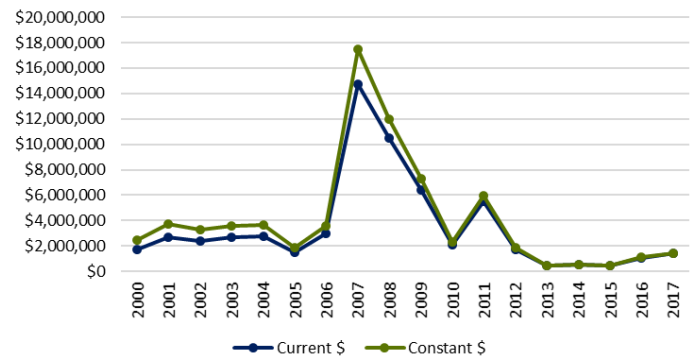
Federal Grants Received by Humboldt County: FFY 2000-2017



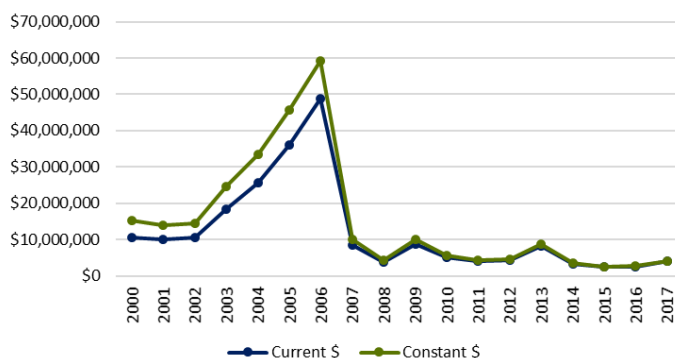
Federal Grants Received by Lander County: FFY 2000-2017



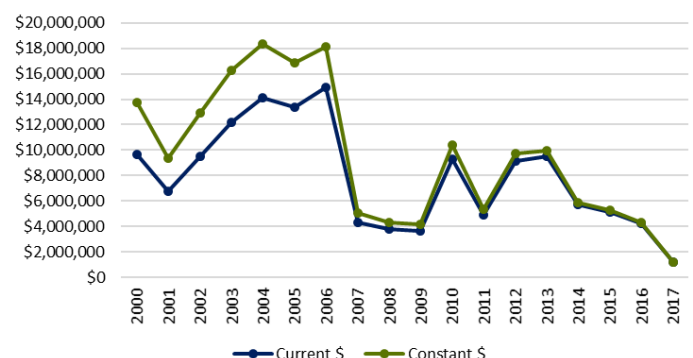
Federal Grants Received by Lincoln County: FFY 2000-2017



Federal Grants Received by Lyon County: FFY 2000-2017



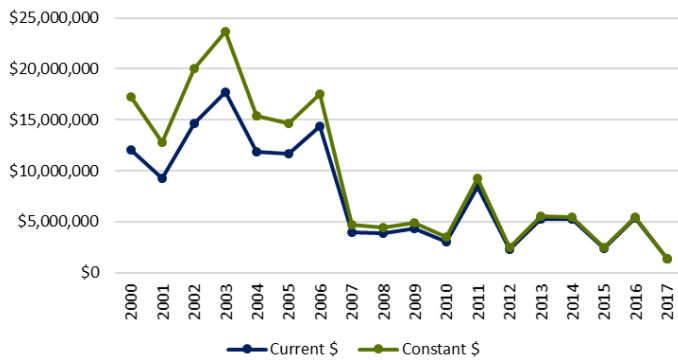
Federal Grants Received by Mineral County: FFY 2000-2017



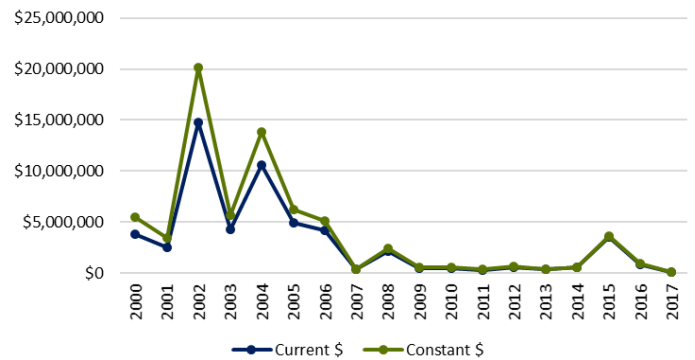
Source: Grants: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) | Inflation Adjustment: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "CPI-All Urban Consumers (Current Series)"

Appendix A. Federal Grants Awarded to Nevada's Counties (cont'd)

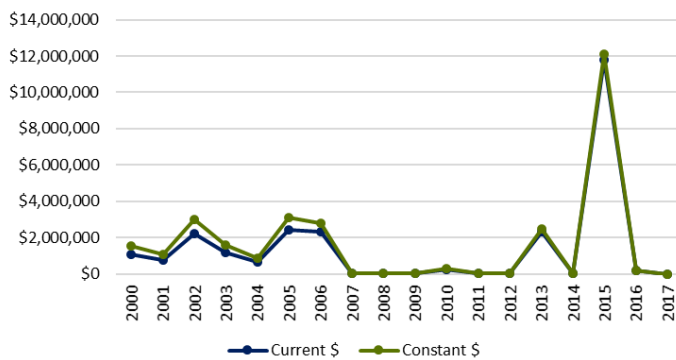
Federal Grants Received by Nye County: FFY 2000-2017



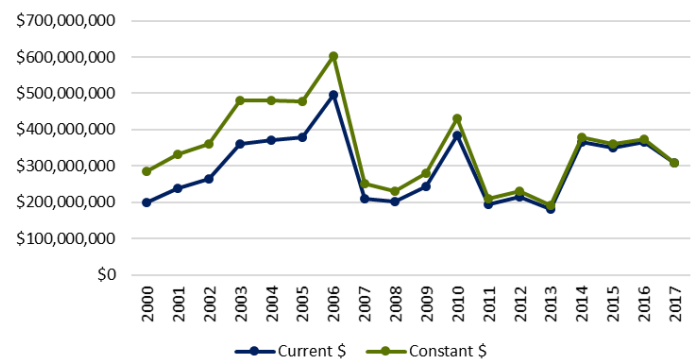
Federal Grants Received by Pershing County: FFY 2000-2017



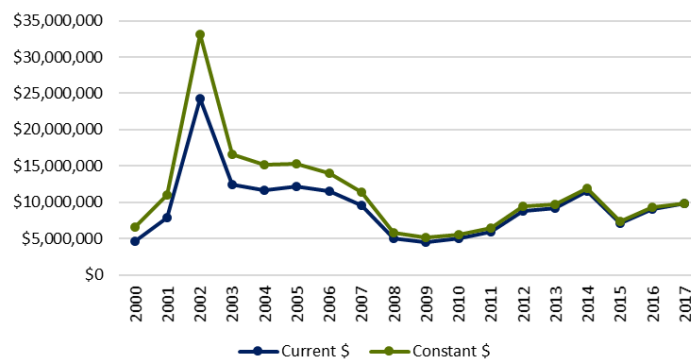
Federal Grants Received by Storey County: FFY 2000-2017



Federal Grants Received by Washoe County: FFY 2000-2017



Federal Grants Received by White Pine County: FFY 2000-2017



Source: Grants: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov) | Inflation Adjustment: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "CPI-All Urban Consumers (Current Series)"

Appendix B. Data Notes

Glossary

- *Block Grant*: “Funding to a regional government with general provisions on how the money is to be spent.” (Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov))
- *Cooperative Agreement*: “A grant requiring substantial involvement between the recipient of the grant and the federal agency and has different reporting requirements than other grants.” (Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov))
- *Expenditures/Obligations*: For federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 through FFY 2010: retirement and disability, other direct payments, grants, procurement, and salaries and wages. (Source: Consolidated Federal Funds Reports) | For FFY 2011 through FFY 2014: retirement, nonretirement, contracts, grants, and salaries and wages. (Source: Pew Charitable Trusts, Federal Spending in the States: 2005-2014)
- *Federal Financial Assistance*: Awards for contracts, grants, loans and “Other Financial Assistance,” which “[i]ncludes direct payments to individuals (such as Medicare and food stamps), insurance payments (such as, unemployment benefits, flood insurance), and other types of assistance payments (such as, reimbursements for prescriptions for veterans).” (Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov))
- *Formula Grants*: “Allocations of money to States or their subdivisions in accordance with distribution formulas prescribed by law or administrative regulation, for activities of a continuing nature not confined to a specific project.” (Source: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance)
- *Grant*: “An award of financial assistance from a federal agency to a recipient to carry out a public project or service authorized by a law of the United States.” (Source: [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov))
- *Project Grants*: “The funding, for fixed or known periods, of specific projects. Project grants can include fellowships, scholarships, research grants, training grants, traineeships, experimental and demonstration grants, evaluation grants, planning grants, technical assistance grants, survey grants, and construction grants.” (Source: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance)

Additional Notes

- There is some overlap between expenditures/obligations and federal financial assistance, but we present both types of data, as they capture different dimensions of federal flows of money into Nevada.
- All grant data presented herein is for prime awards, that is, grant money received directly from a federal agency (versus sub-awards, which are received by secondary recipients from direct recipients).
- According to [USAspending.gov](https://www.usaspending.gov), “An amount may appear as a negative if the agency made a modification to an award but there was no additional funding; part of the funding for an award was reduced or de-obligated by the awarding agency; there is a negative subsidy on a loan and the funds are being returned to the Treasury; or the agency has submitted duplicate corrections reports.” As the Guinn Center wanted to capture grant awards by year, all negative numbers in the data were recoded to zero.

Appendix B. Data Notes (cont'd)

Caveats

- 1) Some data presented herein is adjusted by population size (e.g., grants per capita). This allows for equalized comparisons across states. As the Nevada Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management has noted, however, “A more accurate comparison would be to evaluate grant dollars received, divided by the targeted populations or eligible recipients, rather than dividing by the state’s population” (Source: Nevada Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management. 2015. “2015 Biennial Report.” Page 7. Available: http://grant.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/grantnv.gov/Content/About/2015_BIENNIAL_REPORT.pdf.) However, such an analysis is not possible at this time, given the current data availability.
- 2) In selected tables, the Guinn Center ranked states on certain metrics. Readers should interpret these rankings with caution: They are intended only to place Nevada within the context of other states and no inference should be made that a “high” or “low” ranking has any intrinsic value. Many factors influence the flow of federal funds, so a high ranking may mean (amongst others) that the state has a large federal presence or it could mean that the state is fairly poor and highly dependent on federal support (Source: Nevada Office of Grant Procurement, Coordination and Management. 2017. “2017 Biennial Report.” Page 5. Available: http://grant.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/grantnv.gov/Content/About/2017_BIENNIAL_REPORT.pdf).
- 3) Much of the data in this report is drawn from USAspending.gov, an official website of the U.S. government, in which “[e]very transaction reported by federal agencies for federal contracts, grants, loans, and other financial assistance” must be reported (Source: USAspending.gov). It is the definitive dataset on federal financial assistance and is the most complete time series currently available. However, it is not without its limitations.
 - As the FAQs on the USAspending.gov website note, there is a reporting requirement only for those awards in excess \$25,000; this means that some awards below that threshold may be reported and some may not, which lends skew to the data.
 - The site also indicates that “data from 2008 to present is displayed on charts, graphs, and maps; data prior to 2008 can be downloaded from the Download Center” (Source: USAspending.gov). In conducting our research, the Guinn Center found that there were many instances in which the summary data and downloadable data did not match. As such, we did not include contradictory information in any single table and/or figure.
 - A Congressional Research Report stated the following: “A [Government Accountability Office] GAO report released on November 8, 2017, assessed the quality of data reported by agencies under new DATA Act standards in May 2017. GAO identified issues and challenges with the completeness and accuracy of the data submitted, use of data elements, and disclosure of data limitations on a new beta version of USAspending.gov. Users of USAspending.gov should be aware that while search results may be useful for informing consideration of certain questions, these results may also be incomplete or contain inaccuracies” (Source: Jennifer Teefy. “Tracking Federal Awards: USAspending.gov and Other Data Sources.” Congressional Research Service. December 7, 2017. Pages 1-2. Available: <https://fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R44027.pdf>).