



*Title: Nevada Open Government Initiative*

*Category: Digital Government: Government to Citizen (G to C)*

*State: Nevada*

**Executive Summary**

Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons issued an executive order giving citizens more information about state finances and other state information.

The Nevada Governor Executive Order, Requiring Transparency and Accountability in Government Finances, Contracts and Grants may be found at [http://gov.state.nv.us/EO/2008/EO-2008-03-18\\_NevadaOpenGovernment.pdf](http://gov.state.nv.us/EO/2008/EO-2008-03-18_NevadaOpenGovernment.pdf).

Gibbons signed the Nevada Open Government Initiative on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2008, unveiling a fully operational website on that day at which citizens can review complete state financial records, with information about state contracts, grants and expenditures that still continues.

The site was opened in March of 2008 without requiring large funding or an increase in staffing. The state is hosting the information for the citizen on the site <http://open.nv.gov/> including the state budget information and charts presented to the Legislature. The site lists salary information for workers by job category but does not include names or list detailed the private personal deductions for insurance and other personal items.

The Web site has an ease of searching and provides the citizen with a level of detail for analysis and answering questions. The information will be placed on the site over time through as authorized. The site as it was established easily enabled the linkage to the Nevada Information Related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The site "is to include financial information from the treasurer, controller, Legislative Counsel Bureau, as well as the administrative office of the courts," the Nevada Governor stated.

Nevada adopted an open government initiative early in 2008, a movement spurred by President Bush's signing in 2006 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, which created a similar federal Web site.

Nevada's posted information includes online disclosure of the Nevada report to taxpayers, related revenue shortfall charts, and state purchasing/procurement contracts and Governor's PODCAST link which is regularly updated and iPod compatible.

**Project Description:**

The project provides a website for communication to the citizen, increasing the accountability and transparency of the information at the state level. This ongoing posting of material required governance policies and dissemination processes to be put into place, as well as authorization methodology between multiple levels of government.

The postings have included items such as the Executive order for the initiative requiring transparency and accountability in government finances, contracts and grants, the Nevada Report to Taxpayers, related revenue shortfall charts, and State Purchasing Contracts.

The revenue budget shortfall charts were displayed for review at the following link:

[http://budget.state.nv.us/Budget\\_2007\\_09/budget\\_reserves/revenue\\_shortfall\\_charts.pdf](http://budget.state.nv.us/Budget_2007_09/budget_reserves/revenue_shortfall_charts.pdf)

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**Significance to the operations of government:**

The communications to the citizen through the website are particularly of benefit as the current budget shortfalls, with deficits that may possibly impose cuts that hurt vulnerable residents. The dissemination through the website increases the services provided by state government to the citizen and also reduces the inherent costs to communicate in other effective manners.

**Public Value of Project:**

An Informed Citizen Base benefits all residents of the state. The state saves in alternative communication costs, as the information is owned by the citizen – the taxpayer.

One study of communication methods concluded mass mailing collateral and postage costs for postcards .54 (cents) or letters at .84 (cents) each would exceed the budget available.

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Future projects for the Transparency in Government site will continue to improve over time. This project was launched on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in a timely and solution based manner to fulfill the immediate need as identified and continues to fulfill the growing demands for open government as presented. The site as it was established easily enabled the linkage to the Nevada Information Related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The current news value of Open Government Initiatives is vast. The avenues to disseminate the values of this project are numerous. This will afford the ability to move into the future with the citizen engaged in the actions of government.