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Nevada's counties are directly responsible for providing over 20% of the State's Medicaid budget. Counties also fund care for Medicaid patients in over 85% of the State's free-standing nursing homes.

Services to Our Most Vulnerable

In many ways counties are the local social safety net for Nevadans in need. All counties support or provide human services including senior services, child protective services, and services to the homeless. Counties also support health care to the indigent and county hospitals that provide emergency and trauma care, clinical services, and cancer and cardiac care.

Public Health Infrastructure & Opioid Recovery

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada ranked last in funding devoted to public health. Improving public health capacity and infrastructure is vital to the overall health of our state. County governments with local knowledge of their own communities' needs, capacities, and networks are critical to this infrastructure building. Despite a lack of public funding for health, counties have provided public health services on an unprecedented scale in recent years, including much of the front-line response to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing efforts to develop systems and programs that help Nevadans recover from the opioid epidemic. As signatories to the One Nevada Agreement, county governments and their community partners across the state are mobilizing to conduct opioid recovery needs assessments and to develop programs and services tailored to the needs of their communities.

Community Services

Counties provide vital services to all Nevadans, from issuing birth certificates and marriage licenses to providing meals to seniors. Counties also build and maintain parks, swimming pools, libraries, and community centers. These county services ensure healthy, safe and vibrant communities for Nevada's residents and businesses.

Nevada's 17 counties range in population from 736 residents in Esmeralda County to 2.3 million people in Clark County. The largest Nevada county is over 18,000 square miles, and the smallest is 157 square miles. While many residents live in urban areas, where hospitality and business services lead Nevada's economy. Rural counties contribute to the state's economy through mining, manufacturing, ranching and agriculture. Counties provide basic public infrastructure including sewer, water, wastewater, and flood control systems.

Employment

Counties are an important part of our State's economy, employing thousands of Nevadans statewide.

Public Lands & Recreation

Nevada is the state with the largest percentage of public land in the country, and counties provide important public services on BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands including maintaining roads, providing law enforcement and emergency medical response, and creating local land use plans in accordance with FLPMA.

Counties are responsible for running elections, including presidential, state and local contests. Counties in Nevada fund and oversee polling places and coordinate poll workers each election cycle.