



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 28, 2022

DATE: June 1, 2022
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Jamie Hemingway, Interim Library Development Officer
327-8360 – jhemingway@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Jeff Scott, Library Director

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve Federal 2021 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Grant-In-Aid Award Funds from the State of Nevada in the amount of [\$73,192.00, no local match required] for a retroactive term of January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 for the purchase of modular office spaces to provide virtual workforce support for Washoe County residents; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and the Director to sign the grant award documents. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Library is requesting Board's approval of Federal 2021 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Grant-In-Aid Award Funds from the State of Nevada in the amount of [\$73,192.00, no local match required] for a retroactive term of January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 for the purchase of modular office spaces to provide virtual workforce support for Washoe County residents; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and the Director to sign the grant award documents.

County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Stewardship of our community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No Previous Action Taken.

BACKGROUND

Grant funded activities shall provide services and equipment as outlined in the approved grant application. Grant funds must be used to meet Nevada State Library Archives and Public Records Five Year Plan and Federal Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) American Rescue Plan (ARP) goals. Funds may not be obligated or encumbered after September 30, 2022.

In February 2022, the State of Nevada announced additional ARP grant opportunities. The application was due by March 18, 2022. These grant award monies are awarded to

AGENDA ITEM # _____

eligible libraries via a competitive process for the funding of innovative new programs or services that will support pandemic response recovery and solve a specific problem or meet an identified need of the library's current or potential users. The Washoe County Library System, based on community demand for workforce support, submitted an application to support virtual work in the library through the purchase of modular office spaces to accommodate the needs of Washoe County residents, which aligns with ARP priorities set by the Federal government. ARP funds fall under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) umbrella.

If approved, these grant awards will allow the Washoe County Library System to purchase modular office spaces that will provide virtual workforce support to small businesses, employers, employees, and students. The goal is to meet the LSTA goal to build the capacity of libraries to meet evolving information access needs through the purchase of modular meeting rooms and phone booths that can be installed at multiple locations. These modular workspaces will be bookable and will provide additional options for virtual work in the library. This will expand upon existing resources and will meet the increased need for virtual workforce support that came about during the onset of the pandemic.

The reason for a retroactive approval is because the award documents were received on May 11, 2022, and were submitted at the earliest available BCC meeting.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Virtual Office Space

Scope of the Project: These funds are federal grant monies used for the development of new programs or services that will support pandemic response and recovery and solve a specific problem or meet an identified need of the library's current or potential users. The \$73,192.00 awarded to the Washoe County Library System will be used for the purchase of modular meeting rooms and phone booths to support the virtual workspace needs of small businesses, employers, employees, and students.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Washoe County Library seeks to solve the problem of a lack of affordable, technology-equipped workspaces by adding designated, modular meeting rooms that will make it easier to work virtually in the library.

In the most recent Washoe County Library System Strategic Plan, workforce development was high on the list of needs from the public. In creating affordable spaces where patrons can hold meetings, have private conversations, and find virtual office space support, libraries can play a critical role in the economy of this post-COVID environment.

Grant funds will be used to purchase modular meeting rooms and phone booths that can be installed in multiple library locations. These spaces will benefit patrons and businesses that are currently competing for usage of library space as a workspace. These groups are seeking affordable spaces that can provide the privacy and technology they need to conduct business. These modular workspaces will provide an invaluable service to those

who need to book these virtual spaces for interviews, quick meetings, collaborative work, quiet study, and virtual calls. These monies will help to build the Washoe County Library System’s capacity to meet evolving information needs.

Supporting and facilitating workforce development for the residents of Washoe County is the responsibility of the Washoe County Library System. These grant funds will help the library fulfill that responsibility.

On-Going Program Support: N/A: Grant funds will not be used to support costs of ongoing programs.

Award Amount: \$73,192.00

Grant Period: January 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

Funding Source: Institute of Museum and Library Service

Pass Through Entity: State of Nevada

CFDA Number: 45.310

Grant ID Number: ARP-38

Match Amount and Type: None

Sub-Awards and Contracts: None

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY22 adopted budget will be increased by \$73,192.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
IO 12008 – LSTA ARPA Grant	431100 - Federal Grant-Revenue	73,192.00
IO 12008 – LSTA ARPA Grant	711504 – Equipment Non-Capital Expenditure	\$73,192.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve Federal 2021 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Grant-In-Aid Award Funds from the State of Nevada in the amount of [\$73,192.00, no local match required] for a retroactive term of January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 for the purchase of modular office spaces to provide virtual workforce support for Washoe County residents; direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and the Director to sign the grant award documents.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Recommendation to approve Federal 2021 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Grant-In-Aid Award Funds from the State of Nevada in the amount of [\$73,192.00, no local match required] for a retroactive term of January 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 for the purchase of modular office spaces to provide virtual workforce support for Washoe County residents; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and the Director to sign the grant award documents.”