



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service  
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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 11, 2021*

**DATE:** Thursday, May 06, 2021

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Gabrielle Enfield, County Grants Administrator, Manager's Office  
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**THROUGH:** Christine Vuletich, Assistant County Manager  
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**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve the submission of the Safe Camp Pilot Project grant application in the amount of [\$244,062, no county match] to the State of Nevada Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus round two funding to be used specifically for the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the Coronavirus, and if approved authorize the County Manager to execute the document concerning same. (All Districts)

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### **SUMMARY**

In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) notified the Nevada Non-Entitlement CDBG Program that it received a formula allocation in the amount of \$9,963,639 from the second round of CDBG-CV funding to be used specifically for the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the Coronavirus. This allocation is to be distributed across the state of Nevada to entitlement and non-entitlement areas, based on a HUD specific formula. Washoe County's allocation total is \$244,062.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** *Vulnerable Populations:  
Expand Appropriate Housing Options Across Community*

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On February 23, 2021 the Board of County Commissioners accepted federal assistance of Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Round 2 funds from the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development in the amount of [\$244,062; no county match], with a grant period of July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. Authorize the County Manager to sign award documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

## **BACKGROUND**

The designated Entitlement and Non-Entitlement cities and counties will submit projects to the State of Nevada – CDBG-CV Program. Cities, counties and non-profit organizations can submit projects to the designated jurisdictions. Washoe County will submit projects totaling \$244,062 to expend the county's CDBG-CV Round 2 allocation.

### **Safe Camp Pilot Project**

This grant will be utilized as a response to COVID-19 to ensure the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness in our community. Through a pilot safe camp, we aim to proactively prevent the spread of the virus by providing the basic infrastructure and hygienic supplies in a regulated outdoor campsite setting. This outdoor approach diverges from the existing congregate indoor shelters and unregulated outdoor encampments.

The safe camp will follow a harm reduction model in which staff proactively aim to mitigate the spread of the virus. Social distancing will be practiced. Frequently serviced restrooms and hand washing stations will ensure a more hygienic environment. Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided for staff and participants. Hygiene and cleaning supplies will ensure a clean and safe environment for everyone. Trained staff will help de-escalate conflicts among participants, freeing up emergency services to respond to possible life threatening COVID-19 needs in our community.

The safe camp model will ensure that people experiencing homelessness have a safe, low barrier option to begin the process of transitioning into housing. The safe camp staff will be trained to continually focus participant outreach on finding permanent housing. As more people are supported to successfully exit the camp into their own permanent housing solutions, we hope to further reduce the spread of the virus throughout the community.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Budget authority for this grant award exists within the Office of the County Manager – Grants Division, Funds Center 101-3 IO11816.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve Recommendation to approve the submission of the Safe Camp Pilot Project grant application in the amount of [\$244,062, no county match] to the State of Nevada Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus round two funding to be used specifically for the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the Coronavirus, and if approved authorize the County Manager to execute the document concerning same.

## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to approve the submission of the Safe Camp Pilot Project grant application in the amount of [\$244,062, no county match] to the State of Nevada Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus round two funding to be used specifically for the prevention of, preparation for, and response to the Coronavirus, and if approved authorize the County Manager to execute the document concerning same.”*