



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 17, 2022*

DATE: Thursday, May 12, 2022

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Sarah Bates, Law Librarian II, Washoe County Law Library
775-328-3254, sarah.bates@washoecourts.us

THROUGH: Alicia L. Lerud, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court

SUBJECT: Recommendation to acknowledge a Federal 2021 Library Services and Technology Act American Rescue Plan Grant award of [\$35,132.00], no County match required, awarded to the Washoe County Law Library, Second Judicial District Court, from the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records retroactive from April 8, 2022 – September 30, 2022, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Law Library has been awarded \$35,132.00 from the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records to fund the purchase of 2 prefabricated meeting room pods from Room.com for the Washoe County Law Library to provide a private space for members of the public to access video conference technology to attend library programs, classes, meetings, and events held online.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

On September 28, 2021, the Board acknowledged a \$20,000.00 grant for the Washoe County Law Library which was also awarded from the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records.

On June 22, 2021, the Board acknowledged a \$4,500.00 grant for the Washoe County Law Library which was also awarded from the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records.

BACKGROUND

Due to COVID-19, many programs, meetings, events, court hearings, etc. are now being held virtually. With a desire for social distancing, there is a need in the community for space to connect while maintaining privacy. However, in the Law Library, we have few private spaces with the essential technology to accomplish this.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

One common reason patrons request a private Zoom room is to attend the Zoom Lawyer in the Library program, where participants can speak with a volunteer attorney for free for 15 minutes. It is wildly popular and provides an invaluable resource, free legal assistance, to hundreds of people in our community per year (1,351 people in 2021). Additionally, people use Zoom rooms to attend court hearings, mediation appointments, job interviews, online classes, and other meetings that have been moved to an online environment.

While Nevada has a reasonably high number of people with broadband Internet access, 14.5% of households in Washoe County do not have a broadband Internet subscription. 10.2% of people in Washoe County live in poverty. (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/washoecountynevada>). We also see numerous people in the Law Library who have a smartphone, but do not know how to use Zoom or do not have a data plan that will support video conferencing. Even those who may have Internet access and a cell phone are required to attend an online meeting from a quiet atmosphere, which is not possible in many people's homes.

With the proper computer equipment and the expertise of Law Library staff, patrons feel more comfortable attending an online meeting in the Law Library. Adding private meeting rooms, in the form of prefabricated pods, to the Law Library would give patrons the opportunity to meet either independently or in a small group, while physically distanced from others and in a quiet, safe location.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Zoom Rooms to Address the Digital Divide

Scope of the Project: The scope of this project is for the purpose of enforcing child support obligations, locating non-custodial parents, establishing paternity, obtaining child support, and adjusting support orders to meet the requirements of the Nevada Plan pursuant to Title IV-D of federal law.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Improve Public Safety, Security and Health.

On-Going Program Support: None

Award Amount: \$35,132

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

Funding Source: Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records

Pass through From: Institute of Museum and Library Services - a Federal 2021 Library Services and Technology Act American Rescue Plan Grant (LSTA ARP)

CFDA Number: 45310-ARP

Grant ID Number: ARP-37

Match Amount and Type: No match required

Indirect Cost Rate (applicable to the award): N/A

Special Terms & Conditions: There are no special terms or conditions.

Sub-Awards and Contracts: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board acknowledge the Federal 2021 Library Services and Technology Act American Rescue Plan Grant, the adopted FY 22 budget will be increased by \$35,132 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts.

Increase Revenues:

IO 11996 – 431100 - (SJDC LSTA ARP – Federal Grants)	\$35,132
--	----------

Increase Expenditures:

IO 11996 – 711504 - (SJDC LSTA ARP – Equipment non Capital)	\$35,132
---	----------

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge an American Rescue Plan Act Grant award of [\$35,132.00], no County match required, awarded to the Washoe County Law Library, Second Judicial District Court, from the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records retroactive from April 8, 2022 – September 30, 2022, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: Move to acknowledge an American Rescue Plan Act Grant award of [\$35,132.00], no County match required, awarded to the Washoe County Law Library, Second Judicial District Court, from the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records retroactive from April 8, 2022 – September 30, 2022, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.