



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 13, 2026

DATE: Dec. 1, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Julia Ratti, Behavioral Health Administrator
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to (1) accept a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, in the amount of [\$162,766, no match] from January – December 2026 to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health Crisis Response System and support other regional behavioral health initiatives, and (2) direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Regional Behavioral Health Initiatives Fund (RBHIF) was established with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to allow for donations and contributions toward regional behavioral health initiatives designed to improve wellness and address a growing need for behavioral health services. The bulk of the initial contributions to the fund are designated to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health Crisis Response System and are accounted for separately in a Crisis Response System subaccount within the RBHI.

The RBHIF has received sufficient contributions to award the second grant from the fund in the amount of [\$162,766, no match] to be used to hire provide funding for a Human Services Program Specialist within the Office of the County Manager, indirect costs, and activities necessary to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health Crisis Response System. The position will be eliminated once the funding is exhausted unless alternate funding is secured.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On Dec. 10, 2024 the BCC accepted the first grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada RBHIF to support the region's efforts to build out an improved

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behavioral health Crisis Response System, directed Finance to make necessary budget adjustments, and created a new position within the Office of the County Manager.

On May 14, 2024, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved a fund agreement to establish the Regional Behavioral Health Initiatives Fund with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to enable acceptance of funds for behavioral health initiatives of regional significance include designated contributions to support an improved behavioral health crisis response system.

BACKGROUND

On October 24, 2023, at their Strategic Planning Meeting, the Board tasked staff with supporting regional behavioral health initiatives, including creating a new position of Behavioral Health Administrator and another position to support the work.

Staff recommended creating a Regional Behavioral Health Initiatives Fund to be administered by the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Similar to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Regional Behavioral Health Initiatives Fund is able to accept donations and contributions to support regional behavioral health initiatives.

Multiple regional partners including local governments, the State of Nevada, hospitals, managed care organizations, behavioral health organizations, and family and patient advocate organizations have been working collaboratively on the Crisis Response System initiative since June 2021. The work was supported by a vendor contracted by the Health District using local dollars in FY 22 and 23 and ARPA dollars in FY24 and 25. The project is now sufficiently underway so that it is more efficient and effective to have internal staff support. Supporting the crisis response system buildout and implementation consumes a significant portion of this position's time. Remaining capacity is available to support behavioral health initiatives of regional significance.

The first grant from the RBHIF designated to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health crisis response system including funding to support a new position and associated costs. The first grant was accepted by the BCC in December 2024. A new position was created with the position filled and beginning work in January 2025.

This agenda item requests the approval of a second grant from the RBHIF to continue to fund the position and associated costs in order to continue the Crisis Response System initiative as well as support additional behavioral health related initiatives.

Contributions received and pledged to the RBHIF at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada in 2024 include:

\$80,000 received from Silver Summit Health Plan (plus commitment of \$20,000 per year for an additional two years)

\$40,000 from Northern Nevada Public Health (plus commitment of \$20,000 per year for an additional three years)
\$20,000 from City of Reno
\$20,000 from the City of Sparks
\$20,000 from Anthem
\$20,000 pledge from United Healthcare for contribution in 2025
\$1,051.54 from other donors

Contributions received in 2025 include:

\$20,000 from Silver Summit Health Plan (fulfilling year 2 pledge)
\$20,000 from Northern Nevada Public Health (fulfilling year 2 pledge)
\$20,000 from Renown Health (plus commitment of \$20,000 per year for an additional two years)
\$20,000 from United Healthcare (fulfilling pledge from 2024)
\$20,000 from Washoe County
\$20,000 from Anthem
\$6,200 from CSP Foundation

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: *Crisis Response System and Regional Behavioral Health Initiatives*

Scope of the Project: *To support improvement of the regional behavioral health crisis system of care and other behavioral health initiatives of regional significance.*

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: *Improved response to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.*

On-Going Program Support: *These grant funds will be utilized to continue a full-time Human Services Program Specialist position to provide project management, data collection, reporting and other support to advance the crisis response system and other regional behavioral health initiatives.*

Award Amount: \$162,766

Grant Period: *Jan. – Dec. 2026*

Funding Source: *Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, RBHIF*

Pass Through Entity: *N/A*

CFDA Number: *N/A*

Grant ID Number: *N/A*

Match Amount and Type: *No match.*

Sub-Awards and Contracts: *N/A*

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the Manager's Office FY26 adopted budget will be amended by \$162,766 in revenues and expenditure as follows:

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>G/L Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 29087	-484195	Non-Governmental Grants	\$ 162,766.00
		Total Revenue	\$ 162,766.00
IO 29087	-701412	Salary Adjustment	\$ 105,458.00
	-705360	Benefit Adjustment	\$ 52,308.00
	-710300	Operating Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
		Total Expenditures	\$ 162,766.00

These funds are anticipated to be utilized to continue to fund a Human Services Program Specialist and associated costs. If the grant award is discontinued or not renewed, the department/program will seek to fund or eliminate the positions.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners (1) accept a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, in the amount of [\$162,766, no match] from January – December 2026 to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health Crisis Response System and support other regional behavioral health initiatives, and (2) direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be, "*Move to (1) accept a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, in the amount of [\$162,766, no match] from January – December 2026 to support the region's efforts to build out an improved behavioral health Crisis Response System and support other regional behavioral health initiatives, and (2) direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.*"

Attachment: *Crisis Response System Award from Community Foundation of Northern Nevada*