



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *September 17, 2024*

DATE: Thursday, September 12, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Ryan Gustafson, Director, Human Services Agency
(775) 785-8600, rgustafson@washoecounty.gov

Pamela Mann, Division Director, Human Services Agency
(775) 785-8600, pmann@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept a FY25 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subgrant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$518,882.00; \$129,721.00 county match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025 to support victim services including emergency assistance including housing assistance, locksmith services, non-county travel, gift cards for gas, clothing and basic needs as well as case management and mental health services for domestic violence, sexual abuse/assault, exploitation, and homeless victims; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant agreement and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Recommendation to accept a FY25 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subgrant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$518,882.00; \$129,721.00 county match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025 to support victim services including emergency assistance including housing assistance, locksmith services, non-county travel, gift cards for gas, clothing and basic needs as well as case management and mental health services for domestic violence, sexual abuse/assault, exploitation, and homeless victims; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant agreement and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary budget amendments.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

On September 12, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #15 accepting a FY24 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$517,033; no county match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On July 19, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #10 accepting a FY23 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$879,493; no county match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.

On September 14, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #15 accepting a FY22 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$951,057; \$237,765 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; authorizing the creation of a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Human Services Worker III position with a fiscal impact of [\$127,627], and reclassifying existing position 70009676 from a Victim Witness Advocate (pay grade JJ) to a Human Services Case Worker III (pay grade NN) with a fiscal impact of [\$9,254].

On November 10, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #14 accepting a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Special grant subaward from the Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$200,400; \$50,100 County match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to provide emergency assistance support for victims with a focus on victims impacted as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis, to provide enhanced technology for Human Services Agency caseworkers, and to increase access to safety and services.

On August 31, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #17 accepting FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Traditional sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$1,000,000; \$250,000 County match] and approve a one-year VOCA Victim's Services Coordinator Professional Services Agreement with Megan Lucey, Esq. in the amount of [\$75,000] retroactive to July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

On July 21, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #14 accepting FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative subgrant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support services for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the amount of [\$150,000; \$37,500 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

On July 14, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #12 accepting a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative subgrant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support Homeless Services in the amount of [\$130,000; \$32,500 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

On July 14, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #7.1.2 accepting a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative subgrant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support mental health services for victims in the amount of [\$70,000; \$17,500 County match] retroactive from the period of July 1, 2020 to June 3, 2021.

On April 28, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #11 accepting a grant award in the amount of [\$557,904; \$139,476 County match] from the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services retroactive to July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, representing the second half of the total FY20 VOCA award HSA was granted in the Request for Applications process.

On November 12, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #15 accepting a grant award in the amount of [\$557,904; \$139,476 County match] from the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services retroactive to July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. The Board also approved the final year of the VOCA Victim's Services Coordinator Professional Services Agreement with Megan Lucey, Esq. retroactive for the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$95,000.

The Board has routinely accepted VOCA funds since October 2005.

BACKGROUND

A Federal Child and Family Services Review in 2004 found a lack of understanding for the impact of violence on children and families. In response to this critical area of need, the Department received permission from Finance in 2005 to apply for VOCA grant funds to provide direct services to children and their non-offending parents and siblings.

The primary purpose of VOCA is to support the provision of services to victims of crime throughout the nation. According to the VOCA program guidelines, services are defined as those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization; (3) help victims understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security. The VOCA crime assistance grant program defines a crime victim as a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of a crime. This grant award may provide services and assistance to any type of crime victim and is no longer limited to those victims of domestic violence as previous awards were. Non-County Travel and gift cards for gas, clothing and other basic needs are sometimes required to allow the family to quickly flee from the violent situation. The purchase of these gift cards are included in the budget for Residence Assistance.

A key initiative to the successful implementation of the grant goals is to enhance victim services available to child, adult, and senior victims in Washoe County. The FY25 VOCA grant eliminated two (2) staff funded positions and the goals for the FY25 VOCA subgrant are as follows:

- Provide emergency assistance support for victims.
- Ensure victim services staff provide quality services.
- Support the data collection system for grant reporting.
- Support effective and immediate crisis intervention and ongoing supports for victims.
- Provide increased access to mental health services to children who have been primary and/or secondary victims of crime.

- Provide targeted services to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Provide targeted services to victims of crime who are experiencing or are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

The Agency received the Notice of Subaward for this subgrant on August 14, 2024 with an effective date of July 1, 2024; therefore, the request to accept this award is retroactive.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program

Scope of the Project: VOCA funding will enhance the Human Services Agency's ability to provide services and assistance to residents including children, adults, and seniors who are victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, exploitation, and other crimes by providing an array of support for shelter, nutrition, case management, crisis intervention, medical and legal services, counseling, and other supportive services.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: VOCA funding will be used to serve Washoe County residents across the continuum of care to include children, adults, and seniors who are victims of crimes.

On-Going Program Support: VOCA funds have been received annually. The funding serves as an enhancement to ongoing efforts.

Award Amount: \$518,882.00 (**\$518,882.00 direct/no indirect**)

Grant Period: July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs
Office for Victims of Crime

Pass Through Entity: State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child and Family Services

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: 16.575

Grant ID Number: 16575-23-047

Match Amount and Type: \$129,721.00 cash match

Sub-Awards and Contracts: The Human Services Agency may contract with one or more vendors in the implementation of this program. All contracts will align with the County's procurement policies as well as federal grant procurement guidelines as defined in 2 CFR 200—Uniform Guidance.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and accept these amendments, Human Services Agency’s Child Protective Services Fund (228) FY25 adopted budget will be increased by \$518,882.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 12416	-431100	Federal Grants	\$ 518,882.00
		Total Revenue	\$ 518,882.00
IO 12416	-711210	Travel	\$ 6,231.00
	-710509	Seminars & Meetings	\$ 4,485.00
	-710529	Dues	\$ 150.00
	-710212	Software Subscription	\$ 46,132.50
	-710502	Printing	\$ 3,000.00
	-710729	Mental Health Assess	\$ 90,000.00
	-710312	Special Dept Expense	\$ 6,000.00
	-710563	Recruitment	\$ 40,000.00
	-710577	Uniforms & Special C	\$ 9,000.00
	-710712	Family Preservation	\$ 6,000.00
	-711213	Travel – Non-County	\$ 35,000.00
	-710734	Residence Assistance	\$ 272,883.50
		Total Expenditures	\$ 518,882.00

This award includes a cash match of \$129,721.00. The expenditures to meet this match requirement will be posted to IO 60440.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to accept a FY25 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subgrant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$518,882.00; \$129,721.00 county match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025 to support victim services including emergency assistance including housing assistance, locksmith services, non-county travel, gift cards for gas, clothing and basic needs as well as case management and mental health services for domestic violence, sexual abuse/assault, exploitation, and homeless victims; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant agreement and related documents; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be:
“Move to accept a FY25 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) subgrant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$518,882.00; \$129,721.00 county match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025 to support victim services including emergency assistance including housing assistance, locksmith services, non-county travel, gift cards for gas, clothing and basic needs as well as case management and mental health services for domestic violence, sexual

abuse/assault, exploitation, and homeless victims; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant agreement and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary budget amendments."