



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 12, 2019

DATE: October 24, 2019
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Amber Howell, Director, Human Services Agency
ahowell@washoecounty.us 775-785-8600
THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept a partial FY20 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$557,904; \$139,476 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019; ratify the authority of the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant award and related documents; and approve 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]. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The receipt of grant awards requires acceptance by the Board of County Commissioners. HSA is requesting the Board accept \$557,904 as a 6-month award from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services to provide support to victims of crime as outlined by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) within Washoe County. This award represents one half of the total FY20 VOCA award HSA was awarded in the Request for Applications process.

The Professional Services Agreement with Megan Lucey, Esq. requires Washoe County Commission authorization as a service purchased from a business entity in which a member of the Commission (Bob Lucey) may have a significant pecuniary interest in accordance with NRS 281A.430(5).

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On November 27, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #8 accepting a grant award in the amount of \$918,000; \$229,500 County match from the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services retroactive to July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On March 27, 2018 the Board approved Item #9, accepting the FY18 Supplemental Victims of Crime Act sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$600,000; \$150,000 County match] retroactive for the period of September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. On September 12, 2018, the Division of Child and Family Services granted a no cost extension extending the term of the grant award through December 31, 2018.

On August 8, 2017 the Board approved item #22, the acceptance of the FY18 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award in the amount of \$2,087,400 (\$521,850 county match required for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. On May 8, 2018, the Division of Child and Family Services granted a no cost extension extending the term of the grant award through September 30, 2018.

On August 8, 2017 the Board approved item #8, to award Request for Proposal (RFP) #3023-17 for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim's Services Coordinator to Megan Lucey, Esq., the sole bidder, and approval of the Professional Services Agreement to provide Victim of Crime and Family Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Services Coordinator services in the amount of \$95,000 for FY18.

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 of 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, adolescents 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. For the purpose of the VOCA crime assistance grant program, a crime victim is a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial or emotional harm as a result of a crime. Since the last award period this grant award has 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.

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 through:

- Providing assessments of victim services program needs, monitor program and implement program enhancements.
- Analyze and assist with newly enacted legislation and barriers to adoption.

- Implement a pilot program within the specialty courts to review and expand the Temporary Assistance for Displaced Seniors (TADS) program focusing on senior victimization and resource needs for senior victims.
- Utilize knowledge of guidelines, regulations and law surrounding vulnerable populations which include children, adults and seniors as well as specific knowledge of VOCA, to coordinate and communicate VOCA victim's services program activities with internal and external County staff and partners; including research and maintenance of applicable information and guidance, both state and federal, regarding VOCA allowable activities as well as special projects around related areas.
- Serve as primary resource for information regarding victims' services for WCDSS, including policies, procedures, objectives and operational functions of assigned area(s).
- Interpret related regulations, policies and procedures; make decisions requiring specialized knowledge of technical practices and precedents regarding victim's service program grant compliance oversight; provide monthly status reports; and, oversee the VOCA budget and program expenditures as necessary and related to victims' services.

The Department does not have staff to perform the services stated above and determined there was a need for a VOCA Victim Services Coordinator contractor to successfully implement the victim services enhancement initiative. HSA worked with the County's Purchasing Department to develop RFP 3023-17 to solicit proposals from qualified entities to provide Victim Services Coordinator services. The RFP was duly advertised on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 in the Reno Gazette Journal and made available through online services of Demandstar.com. One sealed proposal was opened in the Washoe County Purchasing Department at 9:00am on May 25, 2017. As a result of a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of the sole proposal received in response to RFP #3006-17 the Department's evaluation team recommended to award an agreement to Megan Lucey, Esq.

As required by Washoe County policies, Ms. Lucey provided with her proposal a Public Disclosure Form dated May 24, 2017 disclosing that Commissioner Lucey is her husband. Commissioner Lucey had no contact with the Department or the Washoe County Purchasing Division concerning the grant, the development of the specifications or conditions in the RFP, the review and evaluation of the proposals, or the recommendation to select Ms. Lucey's proposal.

The Department received the Notice of Award for this grant on October 10, 2019 with an effective date of July 1, 2019; 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, elder abuse, economic exploitation and underserved populations such as seniors and will provide an array of support including shelter, nutrition, case management, crisis intervention, medical, legal, counseling and other supportive services.

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

On-Going Program Support: VOCA funds are awarded each year, those funds would be used to support the costs of any ongoing programs

Award Amount: \$557,904 (**\$557,904 Direct/ \$29,856 Indirect**)

Grant Period: July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Funding Source: Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act

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

CFDA Number: 16.575

Grant ID Number: 2017-VA-GX-0085

Match Amount and Type: \$139,476 (cash match)

Sub-Awards and Contracts: Based on RFP 3023-17, the Department will contract with Megan Lucey for professional services related to victims' services program activities in a total amount of \$95,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award there is no additional fiscal impact as this award was anticipated and included in the Human Services Agency FY20 VOCA adopted budget (IO-11511).

Indirect costs are included in the award as outlined in the Washoe County Grant Manual. No amendment is necessary for the indirect revenue.

As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured.

This award requires a cash match of \$139,476. The expenditure to meet the match requirement will be posted to IO 60440 in which there is sufficient budget authority.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners to accept a partial FY20 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$557,904; \$139,476 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019; ratify the authority of the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant award and related documents; and approve 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].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to accept a partial FY20 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$557,904; \$139,476 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019; ratify the authority of the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant award and related documents; and approve 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]."