



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 12, 2019

DATE: Tuesday, November 05, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Amber Howell, Director, Human Services Agency
(775) 785-8600, ahowell@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve retroactive authorization to travel and travel reimbursements for three non-County employees (foster youth advocates) in the approximate amount of [\$2,645], to attend the California College Pathways (CCP) 2019 Blueprint conference in Los Angeles, CA , October 28-29, 2019 using grant funds provided by the Walter S. Johnson Foundation (WSJF). (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Agency needs retroactive authorization for three non-employee travelers who are foster youth education advocates using grant funding provided by the Walter S. Johnson Foundation (WSJF.) Per County Code 5.335 Section 3, BCC approval is required for non-employee travel. Retroactive approval is required due to the timing of the conference and associated travel dates and the alignment of scheduled BCC meetings.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

The WSJF partners with state and county social service agencies, post-secondary institutions, community-based organizations, and other foundations to create an integrated system of services for current and former foster youth aged 14 to 24. The focus is to address barriers to completing educational goals at the systems and classroom level; and to provide career and employment training programs which complement educational and training support programs. To that end, HSA receives a grant from WSJF in support of our work with current and former foster youth, which in part funds educational advocacy and tutoring services to foster youth in our care.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Additional funding is provided by the WSJF to the California College Pathways (CCP), which is a statewide partnership managed by John Burton Advocates for Youth that provides resources and leadership to campuses, K-12 districts, and community organizations to help foster youth to successfully transition into and succeed at community colleges and four-year universities. CCP is hosting a two-day conference in October 28-29, 2019 that combines meaningful engagement opportunities with in-depth workshops presented by professionals with a passion and aptitude for supporting foster youth to achieve their higher education goals.

An HSA caseworker and three Education Advocates were invited as delegates by the WSJF and CCP conference committee members to attend the 2019 conference to advance their knowledge and skills as subject matter experts providing these services in preparation for becoming presenters at future conferences. The WSJF grant funding allows HSA to pay for the attendance and travel costs for County personnel as well as for the education advocates; however, County Code 5.335 Section 3 requires BCC approval for non-employee travel.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Human Services Agency's FY20 adopted budget includes authority for the conference, travel, and related expenses within the existing grant IO 20458.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve retroactive authorization to travel and travel reimbursements for three non-County employees (foster youth advocates) in the approximate amount of [\$2,645], to attend the California College Pathways (CCP) 2019 Blueprint conference in Los Angeles, CA , October 28-29, 2019 using grant funds provided by the Walter S. Johnson Foundation (WSJF).

POSSIBLE MOTION

If approved, a possible motion would be "Move to approve retroactive authorization to travel and travel reimbursements for three non-County employees (foster youth advocates) in the approximate amount of [\$2,645], to attend the California College Pathways (CCP) 2019 Blueprint conference in Los Angeles, CA , October 28-29, 2019 using grant funds provided by the Walter S. Johnson Foundation (WSJF)."