



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 14, 2025

DATE: September 9, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Emily Ruff, Specialty Court Program Coordinator, Reno Justice Court, 775-325-6532, eruff@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: James Conway, Court Administrator, Reno Justice Court, 775-325-6543, JConway@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Acknowledge allocation from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice DUI Court) in the amount of [\$20,250.00 for FY26, no match required]. The program focuses on reducing recidivism in DUI offenders who have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse issues by aiding participants with sober living, trauma related treatment, residential treatment, intensive drug and alcohol testing, and transitional living services. The allocation is paid in quarterly installments of \$5,062.50 retroactively July 1st, 2025 through June 30th, 2026. Funds are transferable among court programs; and direct Finance to make the appropriate budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

In January 2025, Reno Justice Court applied to the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada (JCSN) for funding to continue operation of its Specialty Court Programs. On July 24, 2025, Reno Justice Court received notification that \$20,250.00 had been approved for FY26 to support DUI Court. Quarterly distributions of \$5,062.50 will occur in July 2025, October 2025, January 2026, and April 2026, with adjustments for any carryover from the previous fiscal year.

DUI Court is a misdemeanor drug/alcohol court designed to address co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in high-risk high-need DUI offenders. The court targets reduction of recidivism for DUI offenders through intensive case management, trauma-specific therapy, substance abuse treatment, routine drug and alcohol testing, and structured housing support.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

AGENDA ITEM # _____

June 24, 2024: Reno Justice “DUI Court” received \$20,250.00 in FY25 funding, with two quarterly distributions of \$5,062.50 in July and October 2024, and remaining installments in January and April 2025.

BACKGROUND

- **Issue:** Reno Justice Court (RJC) requests retroactive approval to accept a \$20,250.00 grant awarded by the Administrative Office of the Courts to support its Specialty Court program, DUI Court, through the provision of sober living, residential treatment, drug and alcohol testing, assistance with basic needs, skills-based groups, distribution of incentives including gift cards, and transitional living services.
- **History & Context:**
 - RJC operates Specialty Courts serving individuals with significant behavioral health and substance use needs. Specialty Courts were developed in the 1980’s as an evidence-based intervention to reduce criminal recidivism in high risk, high need offenders.
 - RJC Specialty Courts follow the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards published by All RISE to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for participants in the Specialty Court program.
- **Current Status:**
 - The grant enables RJC to fund structured sober living services, mental health treatment, intensive supervision including routine drug and alcohol testing, skill building groups, assistance with basic needs, residential treatment, training for multidisciplinary staff members, clinical evaluations, risk and need assessments, and incentives for participants.
 - These services are critical in rehabilitating offenders and reducing their likelihood that they will re-offend upon program completion.
- **Public Impact:**
 - Promotes public safety by targeting DUI offenders and reducing the likelihood that DUI offenders will continue to drive intoxicated on public roads.
 - Reduces unnecessary incarceration, homelessness, mental health crises, continued substance use, and resulting criminal behavior by providing immediate access to evidence based services to address criminogenic risk and need.
 - Promotes safety, recovery, and stability for justice-involved individuals, many of whom have co-occurring disorders and complex trauma histories.
 - Strengthens public health and safety outcomes through improved engagement in treatment and reduced recidivism.
- **Impact on County Organization & Staff:**
 - Offsets costs associated with extended jail stays and emergency responses to DUI related accidents.
 - Enhances coordination among court staff, case managers, probation officers, and community providers without requiring new full-time county positions.
 - Supports data tracking and performance monitoring via existing systems (DCCM), ensuring measurable outcomes.
- **Reason for Retroactive Action:**
 - Reno Justice Court received notification of the grant award on July 24th, 2025 and funds were dispersed to the Court shortly thereafter before a BCC staff report could be prepared.

- Retroactive approval is requested to ensure compliance with County financial procedures and formally recognize the grant award.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY- Reno Justice Court Specialty Court Programs

Project/Program Name: Reno Justice Court, DUI Court

Scope of the Project: The scope of the Reno Justice Court (“RJC”) Specialty Court Programs is to help high risk participants overcome their chemical dependencies and mental health conditions, gain and maintain sobriety, and live clean, healthy lives to reduce recidivism in the community.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: RJC Specialty Courts will provide community members access to treatment services and strict community-based supervision which will rehabilitate defendants, thereby reducing criminal recidivism in Washoe County.

On-Going Program Support: On-going support of this program will be partially funded through program fees paid by participants. Reno Justice Court will continue to apply for additional grant funds from the JSCN on an annual basis.

Award Amount: \$20,250.00

Grant Period: July 1st, 2025 – June 30th, 2026

Funding Source: Judicial Council of the State of Nevada,
Administrative Office of the Courts

Pass through From: N/A

CFDA Number: N/A

Grant ID Number: N/A

Match Amount and Type: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

The \$20,250.00 allocation is provided through the Nevada Supreme Court’s Administrative Office of the Courts, Specialty Court Funding. There is no County match required. Funds will be deposited into a designated IO 12045 and may be transferred among court programs as needed. The Comptroller’s Office will make the appropriate budget amendments.

The FY26 budget already has \$2,221.28 as a carry forward from FY25. Should the board acknowledge this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 adopted budget will be increased by \$18,028.72 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Revenue:		

IO 12045	432100 – State Grants	\$ 18,028.72
Expenditures:		
IO 12045	710100 – Professional Services	\$ 4,778.72
IO 12045	710313 – Gift Cards/Incentives	\$ 500.00
IO 12045	710500 – Other Expenses	\$ 10,250.00
IO 12045	710509- Seminars and Meetings	\$ 1,000.00
IO	710519- Cellular Phone	\$
IO 12045	711210 – Travel	\$ 1,500.00
IO	711212 – Meals and Lodging	\$

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge RJC Specialty Court Program allocation from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice Court DUI Court in the amount of [\$20,250.00 for FY26, no match required]. The program focuses on reducing recidivism in DUI offenders who suffer from drug, alcohol, and mental health issues. The allocation is paid quarterly installments; and direct the Finance to make the appropriate budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to acknowledge allocation from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice Court DUI Court in the amount of [\$20,250.00 for FY26, no match required] and direct the Finance to make the appropriate budget amendments."