# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** July 19, 2022

**DATE:** Thursday, July 14, 2022

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Amber Howell, Director, Human Services Agency
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**THROUGH:** Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept 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 [$879,493.00; no County match] to support victim services including clothing, gas gift cards, food, housing support and mental health services, retroactive for the period of July 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts).

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## SUMMARY

The Washoe Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards and must approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Therefore, acceptance is requested for 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 [$879,493.00; no County match] to support victim services including clothing, gas gift cards, housing support and mental health services, retroactive for the period of July 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.

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

## PREVIOUS ACTION

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 Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) 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 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 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. 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.

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. Goals for this FY23 VOCA subgrant are as follows:

- Provide emergency assistance support for victims
- Support effective and immediate crisis intervention and ongoing supports for children and families
- Provide targeted services to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation
- Provide increased access to mental health services to children who have been primary and/or secondary victims of crime
- Provide targeted services to victims of crime who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, homelessness

The Department received the Notice of Award for this grant on June 7, 2022. Due to the timing of Commission meetings, 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 other crimes by providing an array of support including 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.

**On-Going Program Support:** VOCA funds are awarded each year. This funding serves as an enhancement to ongoing efforts.

**Award Amount:** $879,493 ($831,458 direct/$48,035 indirect)

**Grant Period:** July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2023

**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

**CFDA Number:** 16.575

**Grant ID Number:** 16575-20-148

**Match Amount and Type:** No match required. While VOCA funding typically requires matching funds, the match requirement for FY23 awards has been waived due to the national emergency that was declared under the National Emergencies Act and under the requirements of Public Law No.: 117.27.

**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

This award was anticipated, and $720,331.81 was included in the FY23 Child Protective Services Fund (228) adopted budget in IO 11868. A budget adjustment has been processed to move authority to the new internal order 12011. Should the board accept this grant award, the FY23 Child Protective Services Fund (228) adopted budget will be increased by $111,126.19 in both revenue and expenditures in the following accounts:

| Account Number | | Description | Amount of Increase/(Decrease) |
|---|---|---|---|
| IO 12011 | -431100 | Federal Grants | $ 111,126.19 |
| | | **Total Revenue** | **$ 111,126.19** |
| IO 12011 | -701412 | Salary Adjustment | $ 4,880.19 |
| | -710100 | Professional Services | $ 63,291.00 |
| | -710509 | Seminars Meeting | $ 2,550.00 |
| | -710519 | Cellular Phone | $ 780.00 |
| | -710734 | Residence Assistance | $ 21,889.00 |
| | -710872 | Food Purchases | $ 5,000.00 |
| | -711210 | Travel | $ 12,736.00 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Total Expenditures** | **$** | **111,126.19** |

This award does not require matching funds. Indirect costs in the amount of $48,035 are included in the award and will be recovered using salaries and wages as basis. 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.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept 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 [$879,493.00; no County match] to support victim services including clothing, gas gift cards, food, housing support and mental health services, retroactive for the period of July 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments.

## POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to accept 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 [$879,493.00; no County match] to support victim services including clothing, gas gift cards, food, housing support and mental health services, retroactive for the period of July 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments."