



# 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 Court "Court Assistance Program (CAP)" in the amount of [\$122, 355.00 for FY26, no match required]. The program focuses on reducing recidivism in 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 \$30,588.75 retroactively July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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**

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## 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 \$122,355.00 had been approved for FY26 to support CAP Court. Quarterly distributions of \$30,588.75 will occur in July 2025, October 2025, January 2026, and April 2026, with adjustments for any carryover from the previous fiscal year.

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

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

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

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

**June 24, 2024:** Reno Justice “CAP Court” received \$122,355.00 in FY25 funding, with two quarterly distributions of \$30,588.75 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 \$122, 355.00 grant awarded by the Administrative Office of the Courts to support its Specialty Court program, CAP 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:**
  - 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 untreated behavioral health crises.
  - 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 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, Court Assistance Program (CAP)

**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:** \$122, 355.00  
**Grant Period:** July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 \$122, 355.00 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 12046 and may be transferred among court programs as needed. The Comptroller’s Office will make the appropriate budget amendments.

The FY26 budget already has \$54,493.43 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 \$67,8613.57 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object</b>	<b>G/L Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Revenue:		
IO 12046	432100 – State Grants	\$ 67,861.57
Expenditures:		
IO 12046	710100 – Professional Services	\$ 37,000.00
IO 12046	710313 – Gift Cards/Incentives	\$ 855.00
IO 12046	710500 – Other Expenses	\$ 19,006.57
IO 12046	710509- Seminars and Meetings	\$ 3,000.00
IO 12046	710519- Cellular Phone	\$ 1,000.00
IO 12046	711210 – Travel	\$ 7,000.00
IO 12046	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 “CAP Court” in the amount of [\$122, 355.00 for FY26, no match required]. The program focuses on reducing recidivism in adults who suffer from drug, alcohol, and mental health issues. The allocation is paid quarterly installments; and direct 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 “CAP Court” in the amount of [\$122, 355.00 for FY26, no match required] and direct the Finance to make the appropriate budget amendments.”