



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021

DATE: Thursday, June 03, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, County Grants Administrator, Manager's Office
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THROUGH: Christine Vuletich, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a subgrant of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES), to Renown Health in an amount not to exceed [\$1,435,217] for Washoe County's regional share of the increase in hospital capacity for COVID-19 response; with a grant period retroactive from November 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, and if approved, authorize the County Manager to sign the Washoe County Subgrant Agreement between Washoe County and the Renown Health; and approve the Resolution necessary for same. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)- Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocation of federal assistance through the State of Nevada, Governor's Finance Office, provides aid necessary to cover expenses related to the COVID-19 outbreak. This subgrant will support Washoe County's regional share of the increase in hospital capacity necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioners must approve a grant of public funds by a resolution, per NRS 244.1505.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 4, 2020 the Board of County Commission accepted federal assistance of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)- Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocation from the State of Nevada Governor's Finance Office in the amount of [\$20,254,818; no county match], retroactive from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

The CARES Act authorized \$150 billion through the Fund for state and local governments, including \$1.25 billion for Nevada. Our region received a total allocation of \$86,109,092 distributed as follows:

Washoe County	\$20,254,818
City of Reno	\$46,678,013
City of Sparks	\$19,176,261

Under the CARES Act, the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) may be used to cover costs that:

1. Were **incurred** during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.
2. Are **necessary expenditures** incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19.
3. Are NOT accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government.

COVID-19 Surge - Winter 2020

Beginning in September of 2020, Renown Health began to see a growing trend in the number of COVID-19 patients being admitted to its' hospitals. Unlike previous surges, this increase in daily hospitalizations continued through November, raising peak daily census across both Renown hospitals to well beyond core bed capacity. As we approached November, the increased number of COVID-19 patients was coupled with limited skilled, intermediate care and group home capacity, and in some cases, facilities were closed to new admissions. As a result, from November 2020 through January 2021, Renown continued to experience a daily need for patient care at levels well beyond prior physical hospital capacity.

Managing that level of demand without compromising the healthcare needs of our community required immediate investment in critical infrastructure related to the following:

- Creating appropriate treatment environments in the alternate care site, including monitoring capabilities, as well as full hospital beds and other care infrastructure, for the higher than anticipated complexity and acuity of patients with COVID-19.
- Additional capacity at South Meadows to both meet the excess COVID-19 demand, as well as provide a place for recovered COVID-19 patients in need of post-acute services but who were unable to be placed with those services due to external capacity restrictions at skilled nursing and other post-acute facilities.
- A means of effectively coordinating the admitting, transferring and discharging of COVID-19 patients in an environment where nursing teams traditionally responsible for that work were called to the bedside, and where the COVID-19

bed demand was at a scale where a sophisticated, technology-driven, system wide perspective was necessary to get patients to the care they needed, when they needed it.

- Lastly, an option for the home monitoring of patients who had recovered from COVID-19 but remained at high-risk of post-COVID-19 complications, allowing them to open up beds for more critical patients who were in need of in-hospital care.

Without immediate investment in critical capacity interventions, Renown would not have been able to provide effective care for the thousands of individuals seen during that period.

Hospital expansion costs totaled \$2,870,435. The three jurisdictions agreed to share the cost of the regional hospital expansion using the cost share distribution agreed to in the Interlocal Agreement for Incident Command and Coordinated Response to COVID-19.

Washoe County	50%	\$1,435,217
City of Reno	35%	\$1,004,653
City of Sparks	15%	\$430,565

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board approve this subaward of CRF-CARES funds the fiscal impact will be a reduction in the available CRF-CARES in the amount of \$1,435,217 to be expended under IO-11733 GL 710119-Subrecipient Payments.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve a subgrant of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES), to Renown Health in an amount not to exceed [\$1,435,217] for Washoe County's regional share of the increase in hospital capacity for COVID-19 response; with a grant period retroactive from November 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, and if approved, authorize the County Manager to sign the Washoe County Subgrant Agreement between Washoe County and the Renown Health; and approve the Resolution necessary for same.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "move to approve a subgrant of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act - Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES), to Renown Health in an amount not to exceed [\$1,435,217] for Washoe County's regional share of the increase in hospital capacity for COVID-19 response; with a grant period retroactive from November 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, and if approved, authorize the County Manager to sign the Washoe County Subgrant Agreement between Washoe County and Renown Health; and approve the Resolution necessary for same."