



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: Sally Johnston, Program Assistant, Office of the County Manager, (775) 737-1855, sjohnston@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Interim County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$7,500.00] for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$2,500.00] grant to Awaken - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support outreach and services to adults and youth who have been sex trafficked; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to Horsemanship 4 Heroes – a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the therapeutic work they are doing for veterans, first responders, and their families; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to Sleep in Heavenly Peace - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the mission that no child should have to sleep on the floor; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct Finance to make the necessary disbursements of funds. (Commission District 3).

SUMMARY

This item requests the Board to approve Resolutions and disburse district funds in the total amount of [\$7,500.00] for Commission District 3.

Washoe County Strategic Objectives supported by this item:

1. Economic Impacts: Meet the Needs of Our Growing Community, Support a Thriving Community
2. Innovative Services: Strengthening Our Culture of Service

PREVIOUS ACTION

On September 16, 2025 the Board of County Commissioners directed a [\$5,000.00] grant to STEP2 – a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the mission of breaking the cycle of addiction and violence in families, by empowering women to build and maintain a clean and sober life; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to New Revival Church – a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the food pantry, Willa Mae's Closet, and school partnership taking place at Operation Revival in Sun Valley.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On August 19, 2025 the Board of County Commissioners directed a [\$2,000.00] grant to Washoe County Human Services Agency – Child Protective Services (HSA-CPS) – a government entity – to support FAM (Foster, Adopt, Mentor) Fest. FAM Fest brings together individuals, families, and organizations, who believe in the power community, the importance of belonging, and focuses on the vital role that all play in supporting those in foster care.

BACKGROUND

Modification of guidelines and adoption of resolution for County Commission District Special Funding on February 10, 2015, created Commission District Special Funds for each Commission District. On May 20, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget with special district funds allocated per Commission District in the amount of \$100,000.00. The monies appropriated are to support needs for all Washoe County residents.

Funds appropriated through the Commission District Special Funds must provide substantial benefit to the inhabitants of the County. The recipient must be a nonprofit organization, created for religious, charitable, or educational purposes, or a government entity. Funds shall not provide any personal or private benefit for the Commissioners, directly or indirectly benefit any campaign efforts by a commissioner, violate Ethics in Government law, or be used to purchase tickets to special events.

Commissioner Garcia has elected to support the following organization in fiscal year 2025-2026:

- A [\$2,500.00] grant to Awaken - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support outreach and services to adults and youth who have been sex trafficked.
- A [\$2,500.00] grant to Horsemanship 4 Heroes – a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the therapeutic work they are doing for veterans, first responders, and their families.
- A [\$2,500.00] grant to Sleep in Heavenly Peace – a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the mission that no child should have to sleep on the floor.

FISCAL IMPACT

Sufficient FY25-26 budget authority exists within the Cost Center District 3 Constituents (C100103) and account Payments to other Agencies (710400). This action requests approval and distribution of a [total of \$7,500.00] to Awaken, Horsemanship 4 Heroes, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Expense Disbursement is required as follows:

- Awaken: \$2,500.00

- Horsemanship 4 Heroes: \$2,500.00
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace: \$2,500.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$7,500.00] for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$2,500.00] grant to Awaken - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support outreach and services to adults and youth who have been sex trafficked; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to Horsemanship 4 Heroes – a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the therapeutic work they are doing for veterans, first responders, and their families; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to Sleep in Heavenly Peace - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the mission that no child should have to sleep on the floor; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct Finance to make the necessary disbursements of funds. (Commission District 3).

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve the Recommendation to approve, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, Commission District Special Fund disbursement in the amount of [\$7,500.00] for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; District 3 Commissioner Mariluz Garcia recommends a [\$2,500.00] grant to Awaken - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support outreach and services to adults and youth who have been sex trafficked; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to Horsemanship 4 Heroes – a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the therapeutic work they are doing for veterans, first responders, and their families; and a [\$2,500.00] grant to Sleep in Heavenly Peace - a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes – to support the mission that no child should have to sleep on the floor; approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct Finance to make the necessary disbursements of funds."