



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 9, 2025

DATE: Thursday, December 04, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Justin Norton, Operations Manager, Regional Medical Examiner's Office
(775) 785-6114, jnorton@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve and accept grant funding from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$810,362.00 [no County match] for personnel, toxicology testing, training, travel, and operating expenses relating to the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, for a retroactive term of September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2026; and if approved, authorize the Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office to sign the grant award documents necessary to receive the grant; and direct Finance to make the necessary amendments to the Regional Medical Examiner's Office's Fiscal Year 2026 budget to reflect the receipt and use of the grant funds. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners approve and accept grant funds in the amount of \$810,362.00 from the State of Nevada for a retroactive term of September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2026. The funds will be utilized to pay for personnel expenses, training, toxicology testing, travel, and other operating expenses to investigate drug-related deaths and to provide data regarding these investigations to the state and other regional partners. This is the second year the Regional Medical Examiner's Office has received this grant.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

03/11/2025 – Board acceptance of SOR grant funding of \$819,094.00 for FY25 and FY26.

BACKGROUND

This grant is awarded to Washoe County from the State of Nevada. The purpose of the grant is to pay for personnel and operating expenses to investigate and analyze drug

AGENDA ITEM # _____

related deaths in the region and to generate statistical data for the state and community partners. The grant is retroactive from September 30, 2025 due to not receiving the grant award from the State of Nevada until November 2025.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: State Opioid Response

Scope of the Project: Enhanced capabilities for the Washoe County Medical Examiner to accurately identify and report on opioid, xylazine, and stimulant-related deaths, thereby providing critical data to inform public health strategies. This comprehensive testing and data dissemination will support targeted harm reduction efforts, improve community awareness, and ultimately contribute to a decrease in substance-related fatalities in the region.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: In addition to performing additional toxicology testing on those who die, statistical data can be used by law enforcement, health agencies, and other agencies to better understand the causes/factors of these deaths and find ways to reduce them.

On-Going Program Support: This is the second year of the program which is expected to continue for at least three years.

Award Amount: \$810,362.00

Grant Period: September 30, 2025 – September 29, 2026

Funding Source: United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Pass Through Entity: State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: 93.788

Grant ID Number: 5H79TI087835-02

Match Amount and Type: No match

Sub-Awards and Contracts: No sub-awards or contracts

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board accept this grant award, the Fiscal Year 2026 adopted budget for the Regional Medical Examiner's Office will be increased by \$637,698.55 in both revenue and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	431100 – Federal Grants	\$637,698.55
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	701412 – Salary Adjustment	\$32,336.55
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	705360 – Benefit Adjustment	\$123,000.00
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	701130 – Pooled Positions	\$85,000.00
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	701300 – Overtime	\$90,000.00
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	711210 – Travel	\$17,850.00
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	710104 - Toxicology	\$218,190.00
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	710509 – Software Maintenance	\$20,001.00
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$49,200.00
IO 12620 – State Opioid Response FY26 & FY27	711509 – Seminars and Meetings	\$2,121.00

*\$172,663.45 has been budgeted in FY26 for personnel expenditures already, this adjustment of \$637,698.55 brings the full award budget into alignment.

- No match required.
- Indirect costs are not allowable on this grant award.
- As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve and accept grant funding from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$810,362.00 [no County match] for personnel, toxicology testing, training, travel, and operating expenses relating to the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, for a retroactive term of September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2026; and if approved, authorize the Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office to sign the grant award documents necessary to receive the grant; and direct Finance to make the necessary amendments to the Regional Medical Examiner's Office's Fiscal Year 2026 budget to reflect the receipt and use of the grant funds.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve and accept grant funding from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$810,362.00 [no County match] for personnel, toxicology testing, training, travel, and operating expenses relating to the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant, for a retroactive term of September 30, 2025 through September 29, 2026; and if approved, authorize the Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office to sign the grant award documents necessary to receive the grant; and direct Finance to make the necessary amendments to the Regional Medical Examiner's Office's Fiscal Year 2026 budget to reflect the receipt and use of the grant funds."