



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service  
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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 28, 2024*

**DATE:** May 8, 2024

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Ryan Gustafson, Director, Human Services Agency  
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**THROUGH:** Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept Subaward Amendment #6 to the Family First Prevention Services Act, Family First Transition Act grant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) for an increase in funding of [\$25,000.00; no county match], for a total five-year award of \$733,162, and extend the grant period from September 30, 2024 to September 30, 2025; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant award; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

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### **SUMMARY**

Recommendation to accept Subaward Amendment #6 to the Family First Prevention Services Act, Family First Transition Act grant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) for an increase in funding of [\$25,000.00; no county match], for a total five-year award of \$733,162; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant award; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), Family First Transition Act supports implementation of evidence-based practices to promote the well-being of children, youth, and families and prevent unnecessary foster care placements. The request to accept Subaward Amendment #6 will increase the funding by \$25,000.00 and will support year five of a five-year grant subaward.

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

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On November 28, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #9, the Department's request to accept a FFY24 Family First Prevention Services Act, Family First Transition Act Subaward Amendment #5 from the State of Nevada, Division of

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

Child and Family Services to increase the subaward by \$68,858.49 to a total amount of \$708,162.00; no county match retroactively and extended the grant period from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2024 to support services that prevent children entering the child welfare system as well as improve outcome for children and families in the child welfare system affected by trauma.

On January 11, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #12, the Department's request to accept a FFY22 Family First Prevention Services Act, Family First Transition Act Subaward Amendment #2 from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to increase the subaward by \$406,775.51 to a total amount of \$638,351.51; no county match retroactively and extended the grant period from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2022 to support services that prevent children entering the child welfare system as well as improve outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system affected by trauma.

On March 23, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #15, the Department's request to accept a FFY21 Family First Prevention Services Act, Family First Transition Act subaward from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of \$231,525; no county match retroactive from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 to provide services that prevent children entering the child welfare system as well as improve outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system affected by trauma.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was enacted on February 9, 2018 to amend sections of Title IV-B and Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The FFPSA supports the use of evidence-based practices to promote the well-being of children, youth, and families and to maintain children with their birth families. For children who enter foster care, the law encourages use of family-based care and places limits on the availability of Title IV-E foster care funding for congregate care placements unless they meet specific requirements.

To support implementation of FFPSA and further its family first goals, Congress passed the Family First Transition Act on December 20, 2019. Among other provisions, the Act authorized \$500,000,000 for federal FFPSA Transition Grants. WCHSA was approved a five-year FFPSA Transition Grant for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2025 for a total subaward amount of \$708,162.00.

The first year of funding for this subaward was approved at \$231,525.00 for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Subaward Amendment #2 added an additional \$406,778.51 to the budget for year two and extended the subaward period through September 30, 2022. Year three of the subaward grant, FFY23, did not include additional funding from the Division of Child and Family Services and Amendment #3 extended the subaward period to September 30, 2023. Further in FFY23, Amendment #4 modified the budget to move funding from Travel/Training and Other to Contractual for continued support of the evidence-based early childhood education program through a contract with the University of Nevada, Reno Early Head Start. Year four, FFY24, of the

subaward grant extended the grant period to September 30, 2024 and added \$69,858.49 to fully allocate the total subaward amount of \$708,162.00 through Amendment #5. The subaward grant continued supporting evidence-based practices that promote the well-being of children, youth, and families and improve outcomes for children and families.

The Amendment #6 to the subaward provides additional funding to support a formal program evaluation currently underway through a contract with the University of Nevada, Reno to evaluate programs that do not meet the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse criteria. The project evaluates therapy interventions identified by the State through the Family First Prevention Services Act work group, Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. The Act requires an evaluation strategy for programs in the State's five-year prevention plan.

WCHSA received Subaward Amendment #6 on April 27, 2024; therefore, the request is to accept this award amendment retroactively.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, Title IV-B, Subpart 2: Families First Prevention Services Act Family First Transition Act Grant

**Scope of the Project:** This grant will enable WCHSA to closely align with the objectives and strategies of the Family First Prevention Services Act, Family First Transition Act by: (1) integrating new evidence-based models to support children and families; (2) enhancing internal systems and integrating new training models for staff; (3) partnering with UNR Early Head Start to provide parent training and support for expectant parents and parents of young children; and (4) increasing evidence-based practices available for families as required by the Act.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** To support children and families engaged with child welfare in multiple ways: (1) Provide additional prevention services for families in crisis to avoid removal of children from their birth families as often as possible. Research continues to show that trauma is reduced for most families, and children see more successful outcomes when they can remain with their birth family. (2) When removal from the home is deemed necessary, promote use of home-based foster care rather than group/congregate homes. (3) Increased and integrated evidence-based practices in internal systems for serving children and families.

**On-Going Program Support:** The FFPSA Transition Subaward Amendment represents year four of the five-year award totaling \$733,162.00 to assist with local level transition expenses to comply with updated FFPSA regulations and standards. It is anticipated that the multi-year award will fund all related transition expenses, and ongoing program support will not be necessary.

<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$231,525.00	Original Award (no indirect)
	\$406,778.51	Amendment #2 Increase (no indirect)
	\$ 0.00	Amendment #3 Grant Period Extension

\$ 0.00	Amendment #4 Adjust Budget Category
\$ 69,858.49	Amendment #5 Increase (no indirect)
<u>\$ 25,000.00</u>	Amendment #6 Increase (no indirect)
\$733,162.00	Total Five-Year Award

**Grant Period:** October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2025

**Funding Source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

**Pass Through Entity:** State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services

**Assistance Listing #/CFDA:** 93.556

**Grant ID Number:** 93556-20-303

**Match Amount and Type:** Match is not required

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** Multiple contracts will be funded through this award. All contracts will follow the County’s competitive bid process and Federal grant procurement guidelines as defined in 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Guidance.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY24, Human Services Agency’s Child Protective Services Fund (228) adopted budget will be increased by \$25,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 11817	-431110	Federal Grants	\$ 25,000.00
		<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>
IO 11817	-710100	Professional Services	\$ 25,000.00
		<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>

The grant has no county match requirement and there are no indirect costs included in the grant budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept Subaward Amendment #6 to the Family First Prevention Services Act, Family First Transition Act grant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) for an increase in funding of [\$25,000.00; no county match], for a total five-year award of \$733,162; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant award; 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 Subaward Amendment #6 to the Family First Prevention Services Act, Family First Transition Act grant from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) for an increase in funding of [\$25,000.00; no county match], for a total five-year award of \$733,162; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant award; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.”*