



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 10, 2022*

DATE: Thursday, May 05, 2022

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager
Office of the County Manager
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve amended allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) for the following projects:

1. Safe Camp Capital project in a total amount of \$4,693,132 (an increase of \$193,132 over the \$4,500,000 allocated and approved by the Board on July 20, 2021)
2. Our Place Enhancements project in a total amount of \$926,477 (an increase of \$476,477 over the \$450,000 allocated and approved by the Board on December 14, 2021), and
3. Our Place Community Garden Fencing project in a total amount of \$164,377 (an increase of \$34,377 over the \$130,000 allocated and approved by the Board on December 14, 2021),

and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to approve amended allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) for the following projects:

1. Safe Camp Capital project in a total amount of \$4,693,132 (an increase of \$193,132 over the \$4,500,000 allocated and approved by the Board on July 20, 2021)
2. Our Place Enhancements project in a total amount of \$926,477 (an increase of \$476,477 over the \$450,000 allocated and approved by the Board on December 14, 2021), and
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AGENDA ITEM # _____

and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. The Board of County Commissioners will approve all ARPA-SLFRF over \$500,000 and approval all cross-fund and/or cross-function budget appropriation transfers.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Addressing Homelessness with a Regional Approach

PREVIOUS ACTION

On January 11, 2022 the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved an amended allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in a total amount of \$7,971,644 for the Cares Campus – Facilities Operations FY22 project (including \$1,861,112 allocated and approved by the Board on December 14, 2021), with a period from January 11, 2022 through December 31, 2023, and authorized the creation of 28 new full-time positions funded 100% by the SLFRF grant funds for up to 18 months, and as such when grant funding is eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; resulting in an additional allocation of \$6,110,532 in ARPA funds (on top of the \$1,861,112 already allocated by BCC action on 12/14/21) in order to fund additional staff positions to support homeless shelter operations.

On December 14, 2021, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in a total amount of \$40,201,764.00, directed the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and cross-functional budget appropriation transfers, as well as authorized Human Resources, per Job Evaluation Committee (JEC) evaluation as applicable, to create necessary positions to the 23 proposed projects. The Cares Campus – Facilities Operations FY22 project was approved in the amount of \$1,861,112.

On July 20, 2021, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners accepted Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of [\$91,587,038; no county match], authorized the County Manager to sign award documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law, and established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Washoe County has been awarded a grant of \$91,587,038 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). On May 17, 2021, Washoe County received payment from the Department of Treasury in the amount of \$45,793,519, fifty percent of the award funds. The SLFRF provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Eligible Uses

As a recipient of an SLFRF award, Washoe County has substantial discretion to use the award funds in the ways that best suit the needs of county constituents – as long as such use fits into one of the following four statutory categories:

1. To respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts;
2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the recipient that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
3. For the provision of government services, to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such recipient due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the recipient prior to the emergency; or
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Safe Camp

Amid growing community concerns over the safety, public health and environmental concerns for the region, at a concurrent meeting held on November 18, 2020, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Reno and Sparks City Councils voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4th Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent unemployment spurring housing insecurity and concerns of people living in encampments.

One of the purchased parcels included the Governor's Bowl Park which was discussed to be a safe camping location. The location would serve as a safe space, where encampments along the Truckee River could relocate, providing access to restrooms, meal service, and will be a more secure location for individuals not wishing to move into shelters.

The purpose for the Safe Camp is to:

- Provide a sanctioned location for people currently living outside that reduces the environmental, public health and safety concerns of unregulated encampments.
- Provide a sanctioned camping location to reduce the negative impacts of unsheltered people being forcibly removed from a location.
- Engage sheltered residents in housing focused conversations, service referrals and housing placements from this stable location.

Our Place

Work for the Our Place Housing Project was substantially completed in September 2020 with some longer-term work to modulars and fencing that has been recently completed. All permanent buildings on site are now in use and most temporary facilities have been removed.

As part of the original scope of work, security fencing was installed around the lower portion of the project area only with vehicle gates and pedestrian gates to maintain secure access to the facility. The lease with the State of Nevada requires that all areas occupied by Washoe

County have perimeter fencing. This left areas of the site without perimeter security fencing which would need to be installed to comply with the lease terms. Installation of the fencing in this package will bring Washoe County into conformance with the lease terms for fencing.

During construction there was significant disturbance to landscape areas around several buildings on the campus. The most impacted was Building 600-601 which underwent the most extensive interior and exterior renovations. As a value engineering measure, landscaping was removed from the scope of work and intended to be bid at a later date. The primary challenges are lack of outdoor spaces to utilize and tracking of dirt into the building which causes damage to the flooring. This becomes much more challenging during rain and snow events due to tracked mud. Staff has toured the facility and identified the areas that require work to bring the landscape to a useful and maintainable state.

There is also significant deferred maintenance on the exterior of the buildings that was also not addressed during the main scope of work and needs to be completed to bring the buildings up to Washoe County standards. The exterior work includes selective siding replacement/repair, prep and paint with approved materials to match the site color scheme which is off white body with black trim.

The Our Place Community Garden is a 2.6-acre farm on the Our Place. The garden will be providing the residents with the opportunity to learn how to provide for themselves. This will happen through a variety of activities, such as growing and preparing their own food, providing individuals with their food handler's certification, and educating them on a variety of healthy sustainable food sources. The Community Garden needs to be fenced to secure the farm from trespass and possible vandalism.

Office of the County Manager – Housing and Homeless Services			
Project #1	Washoe County Safe Camp Capital	\$4,500,000	BCC Approved 7/20/21
Description:	Major components include filling the Governor's Bowl to increase usable acreage, replacing tents with 50 modular housing pods, covered shade structure, and the addition of a small structure to serve as multi-purpose building (day center, case management office space, etc.).		
Positions:	None		
Category:	Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons		

Requested Amendment	Washoe County Safe Camp Capital	\$193,132	Approval Recommended
Description:	The additional cost was incurred due the Governors Bowl being filled 50%, which increased acreage; this in turn required a redesign of the safe camp to allow for future development of the property. Further City of Reno Conditional Use Permit process and NDOT requirements required considerably more design than originally anticipated.		
Category:	Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons		
	Washoe County Safe Camp Capital	\$4,693,132 Total Project Costs	

Washoe County Human Services Agency			
Project #9	Our Place - Enhancements	\$450,000	Approved 12/14/21
Description:	The Campus has been designed to meet COVID social distance recommendations and feel like a home, not an institution. Completing the fencing, landscaping, and miscellaneous repairs and interior/exterior finishes preserves the building and property, ensuring residents are safe and have access to housing in a socially distant environment. The fencing is required by contract and supports the safety of the residents from external threats such as violent domestic partners, drug dealers, etc. In addition to shelter the staff provide case management, job search, medical screening, and housing assistance. Due to the pandemic many members of this population suffered additional struggles obtaining and maintaining jobs and housing. Housing prices have soared in our area making it increasingly difficult for women and families to have safe and stable options. Our Place campus provides temporary safe options for these clients.		
Positions:	None		

Requested Amendment	Our Place - Enhancements	\$476,477	Approval Recommended
Description:	Due to higher than anticipated costs as the result of increased price of materials, supply chain disruptions and labor shortages, it is necessary to increase budget authority in the Our Place Site Enhancements project.		
Category:	Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons		
	Our Place - Enhancements	\$926,477 Total Project Costs	

Washoe County Human Services Agency			
Project #10	Our Place – Community Garden Fence	\$130,000	Approved 12/14/21
Description:	A 2.6-acre collaborative community garden/mini-farm will be established to support the homeless population of women and families living on the Our Place campus. This project will support the fencing around the perimeter of the garden to secure the garden space.		
Positions:	None		

Requested Amendment	Our Place – Community Garden Fence	\$34,377	Approval Recommended
Description:	Due to higher than anticipated costs as the result of increased price of materials, supply chain disruptions and labor shortages, it is necessary to increase budget authority in the Our Place Site Enhancements project.		
Category:	Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons		
	Our Place - Enhancements	\$164,377 Total Project Costs	

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board approve the requested project amendments, the FY22 SLFRF COVID Recovery budget (Fund 270, Fund Center 270-8) and Capital Projects Fund (Fund Center 402-0) budgets will be adjusted with the following cross-fund and/or cross-functional net-zero appropriation transfers

Safe Camp project (PW920716) will be increased from \$4,500,000 to \$4,693,132 for a total increase of \$193,132.

Our Place Site Enhancements project (PW920717) will be increased from \$450,000 to \$926,477 for a total increase of \$476,477.

Our Place Garden Fencing project (PW920719) will be increased from \$130,000 to \$164,377 for a total increase of \$34,377.

(Fund) Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
Revenue:		
(270) CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	431100-Federal Grants	(\$703,986)
(270) IO 19112 – OCM-SLFRF-HSA OP Site	431100-Federal Grants	\$476,477
(270) IO 11945 – OCM-SLFRF-HSA-Garden Fence	431100-Federal Grants	\$34,377
(270) IO 11906– OCM-SLFRF-Safe Camp	431100-Federal Grants	\$193,132
Expenditures/Transfers		
(270) CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$703,986)
(270) IO 11906– OCM-SLFRF-Safe Camp	814092-Transfer to Public Works Construction	\$193,132
(270) IO 19112 – OCM-SLFRF-HSA OP Site	814092-Transfer to Public Works Construction	\$476,477
(270) IO 11945 – OCM-SLFRF-HSA-Garden Fence	814092-Transfer to Public Works Construction	\$34,377
(402) PW920717-Our Place Site Improvements-SLFRF	781001-Land Improvement Capital	\$476,477
(402) PW920717-Our Place Site Improvements-SLFRF	622270-Transfer from Other Restricted	\$476,477
(402) PW920719-Our Place Garden Fence	781001-Land Improvement Capital	\$34,377
(402) PW920719-Our Place Garden Fence	622270-Transfer from Other Restricted	\$34,377
(402) PW20716-Safe Camp Facility-SLFRF	781001-Land Improvement Capital	\$193,132
(402) PW20716-Safe Camp Facility-SLFRF	622270-Transfer from Other Restricted	\$193,132

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve amended allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) for the following projects:

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and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"move to approve an amended allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) for the following projects:*

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