



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: Dana Searcy, Housing & Homeless Services Manager
(775) 328-2720, dsearcy@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services to operate a Housing Stability Self-Help Desk at the Reno Justice Court with term of agreement from May 11, 2022 to September 30, 2022 and professional services and associated costs billable on a monthly basis [not to exceed \$135,175.00 of Emergency Rental Assistance allocation from the U.S. Department of the Treasury]; authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

On February 9, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners accepted an Emergency Rental Assistance allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of \$6,564,663.20. Washoe County is to use these funds for emergency rental and utility assistance as well as housing stability services and all funds must be expended by September 30, 2022. To further support Washoe County residents experiencing housing instability, it is recommended that Washoe County enter into an agreement for services with Washoe Legal Services to provide housing stability and eviction prevention services and support by operating a Housing Stability Self-Help Desk at the Reno Justice Court from May 11, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations, Stewardship of our Community

PREVIOUS ACTION

On December 14, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved an amendment to the subgrant of Emergency Rental Assistance to Housing Authority of City of Reno to extend the grant period end date to September 30, 2022.

On February 18, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved a subgrant of Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the United States Department of the Treasury to the Housing Authority of the City of Reno in an amount not to exceed \$6,380,855 for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program, with a grant period from February 23, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On February 9, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners accepted an Emergency Rental Assistance allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of \$6,564,663.20.

BACKGROUND

In February 2021, Washoe County received Emergency Rental Assistance funds through The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 in the amount of \$6,564,663.20. The County subgranted an amount not to exceed \$6,380,855 to the Housing authority of the City of Reno for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program. The program assists qualifying households with emergency rental, both rental arrears and prospective rent, and utility payments to prevent evictions and increase housing stability for County residents who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury requires that all Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA1) funds be expended by September 30, 2022. As of May 10, 2022, the County has remaining unobligated funds from the initial \$6,564,663.20 allocation from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. These remaining funds will be used to procure housing stability and eviction prevention services from Washoe Legal Services in the form of a Housing Stability Self-Help Desk at the Reno Justice Court.

FISCAL IMPACT

Unobligated available funds and budget authority for this Professional Services Agreement exists within the Grants Division Fund Center 101-3, Internal Order 11809 for FY22.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve an Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services to operate a Housing Stability Self-Help Desk at the Reno Justice Court with term of agreement from May 11, 2022 to September 30, 2022 and professional services and associated costs billable on a monthly basis [not to exceed \$135,175.00 of Emergency Rental Assistance allocation from the U.S. Department of the Treasury]; authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to approve It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve an Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services to operate a Housing Stability Self-Help Desk at the Reno Justice Court with term of agreement from May 11, 2022 to September 30, 2022 and professional services and associated costs billable on a monthly basis [not to exceed \$135,175.00 of Emergency Rental Assistance allocation from the U.S. Department of the Treasury]; authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement.”*