



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service  
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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 19, 2022

**DATE:** Thursday, July 14, 2022

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Andrew Sherbondy, Sergeant, Department of Alternative Sentencing  
(775) 399-0265; ASherbondy@washoecounty.gov

**THROUGH:** Justin Roper, Chief, Department of Alternative Sentencing  
(775) 221-8403; JRoper@washoecounty.gov

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the [amount not to exceed \$439,487.00; no County match required] to be used to pay for the establishment of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include authorizing the creation of the following positions, effective and contingent on JEC review and approval, funded 100% by the STAR grant award: one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Officer, one (1) FTE Mental Health Counselor II, one (1) FTE DAS Case Manager, and one (1) FTE Grants Coordinator; and as such, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the position will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; funding further includes two (2) PTE Peer Support Specialist positions contracted through Northern Nevada HOPES, program training costs, and operating expenses for the retroactive grant period of April 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023, and if approved authorize Chief Roper to execute grant award documents; direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments as evaluated by the Job Evaluation Committee, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts). FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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### SUMMARY

The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners must accept grants and approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

This funding is received from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health to support the development and implementation of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) program. The sub-award will be used to fund one

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

(1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Officer, one (1) FTE Mental Health Counselor II, one (1) FTE DAS Case Manager, one (1) FTE Grants Coordinator and two (2) PTE Peer Support Specialist positions contracted through Northern Nevada HOPES, in addition to funding for training and operating expenses for 11 months.

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

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

None.

### **BACKGROUND**

- The Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery program initiative was developed over the last year in an effort to provide probationers and pretrial releasees supervised by the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) with the wrap-around support necessary to successfully address foundational causes of opioid use disorder, as well as underlying criminogenic behaviors.
- Through the course of the STAR program, participants will engage in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), proctored in partnership through the Northern Nevada HOPES clinic as well as other community-based treatment providers, to include one-on-one counseling services, as well as weekly programming with a team composed of an Alternative Sentencing Probation Officer, a licensed, in-house mental health clinician, two peer Support Specialists, and a case manager.
- On-site programming will be curriculum driven, utilizing the Courage to Change interactive, evidence-based journaling series.
- The 12-month, phase-based program will include community guest speakers, job recruiters, and open forum discussions between participants and the STAR team to promote positive support and connection between law enforcement, treatment providers, and the participants.
- The assigned STAR probation officer and clinician dyad will be responsible for field-oriented supervision and intervention, meeting program participants in their homes and in the community to ensure sustained program compliance, and providing individualized support and crisis intervention at ground-level.

Reason for retroactive submittal: Item was submitted to the first available BCC meeting once paperwork was received and processed.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** *Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR)*

**Scope of the Project:** *Wrap-around programming and treatment services for opioid use disorder and criminogenic behaviors within the population served by DAS.*

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** *Takes an active role in addressing root-causes related to opioid use disorder and underlying criminal behaviors as they relate to individuals residing in Washoe County. The successful implementation of the STAR program has the potential to not only address recidivism in a meaningful way, but become a significant component in mending the damage done by the opioid epidemic as it relates to the residents of Washoe County.*

**On-Going Program Support:** *11-month grant period, with 5-year potential*

**Award Amount:** *Total \$439,487.00*

**Grant Period:** *04/1/2022-02/28/2023*

**Funding Source:** *Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) CAT 44*

**Pass through From:** *Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health*

**CFDA Number:** *93.959*

**Grant ID Number:** *SG 25659*

**Match Amount and Type:** *None*

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:**

*Northern Nevada HOPES: HOPES has a well vetted and established recruitment and training process for the Peer Support Specialist position, and can successfully identify and implement the quality of peer support specialists the STAR program requires in order to fill such crucial components on the team. This subaward covers the cost of two (2) part-time peer support specialists over an 11-month period, to include fringe calculation. Peer Support Specialists hired through HOPES for the STAR program will be assigned to the program as their primary duty.*

*The Empowerment Center: The Empowerment Center is a sober living and transitional housing entity for women that has agreed to provide housing and additional resources to STAR program participants. The Department of Alternative Sentencing plans to work closely with the Empowerment Center beyond the development of this program initiative in an effort to establish and maintain an effective network of treatment and resource providers. As a contracted entity, the Empowerment Center will provide a sober living environment for four (4) STAR Program participants to include programming such as*

*individual and group sessions, workforce development, transition planning, pro-social activities, and other associated services for the 11-month grant period.*

*CrossRoads: CrossRoads is a Washoe County entity that works closely with DAS as a sober living and transitional housing entity. The program coordinator, Frankie Lemus Jr., has been integral to the development of the STAR program. CrossRoads also has established pathways to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services through Well Care, as well as Northern Nevada HOPES, the primary clinic STAR will be utilizing for MAT. The close working relationship already in place between DAS and CrossRoads will allow for the successful implementation of housing and treatment resources for STAR program participants. As a contracted entity for the STAR Program, CrossRoads will reserve ten (10) beds for an 11-month period, as program participants are required to pay rent until a job is secured that will cover the cost. Covering rent costs for program participants, especially while they are in the initial, stabilization phase of programing, will allow them to focus on recovery and acclimation, rather than the barriers to success that housing can create.*

*The Change Companies: The Change Companies is the publishing entity of the Courage to Change Interactive Journaling curricula the STAR Program will be utilizing for its participants. The Change Companies provides a three (3) day Training for Trainers where STAR program staff will learn not only how to proctor the material, but how to train others as program staffing grows over time.*

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY23 Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing adopted budget will be increased by \$439,487.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object &amp; Description</b>	<b>G/L Account &amp; Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12015 – Federal Grants	431100 - FY23 STAR - Federal Grants	\$439,487.00
12015 – FY23-STAR	701412 - Salary Adjustment	\$182,446.55
12015 – FY23-STAR	705360 - Benefit Adjustment	\$98,240.45
12015 – FY23-STAR	710100 - Professional Services	\$108,708.00
12015 – FY23-STAR	710519 - Cellular Phone	\$1,650.00
12015 – FY23-STAR	710312 - Special Expenses	\$6,249.00
12015 – FY23-STAR	710311 - Supplies, Invent. Use	\$9,638.00
12015 – FY23-STAR	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$32,555.00

- *Due to the retroactive execution of this sub-award and subsequent recruitment timeline, a total of seven (7) months of salary is anticipated to be allocated through the awarded personnel budget for this grant period.*
- *No match required*
- *Funds will be drawn as a reimbursement*
  - *General funds are source of the upfront cash*

- *Indirect cost reimbursement in the amount of \$32,555 included at a rate of 8%.*
- *As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly, unless additional funding is secured.*

*All fiscal impact will need to be reevaluated in the case of any grant extension or renewal.*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the [amount not to exceed \$439,487.00; no County match required] to be used to pay for the establishment of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include authorizing the creation of the following positions, effective and contingent on JEC review and approval, funded 100% by the STAR grant award: one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Officer, one (1) FTE Mental Health Counselor II, one (1) FTE DAS Case Manager, and one (1) FTE Grants Coordinator; and as such, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the position will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; funding further includes two (2) PTE Peer Support Specialist positions contracted through Northern Nevada HOPES, program training costs, and operating expenses for the retroactive grant period of April 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023, and if approved authorize Chief Roper to execute grant award documents; direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments as evaluated by the Job Evaluation Committee, 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 approve the recommendation to accept the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the [amount not to exceed \$439,487.00; no County match required] to be used to pay for the establishment of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include authorizing the creation of the following positions, effective and contingent on JEC review and approval, funded 100% by the STAR grant award: one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Officer, one (1) FTE Mental Health Counselor II, one (1) FTE DAS Case Manager, and one (1) FTE Grants Coordinator; and as such, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the position will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; funding further includes two (2) PTE Peer Support Specialist positions contracted through Northern Nevada HOPES, program training costs, and operating expenses for the retroactive grant period of April 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023, and if approved authorize Chief Roper to execute grant award

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