



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 14, 2020

DATE: June 24, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Amber Howell, Director, Human Services Agency
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support mental health services for victims in the amount of [\$70,000; \$17,500 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; authorize Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding has long supported critical County programs that provide services, support and empowerment to victims of crime. For the FY21 grant cycle, in addition to traditional VOCA funding, the State of Nevada Division of Child and Family (DCFS) also included the opportunity to apply for funding under a separate "Innovative" programs category. Under this category, an application was submitted and approved to provide additional mental health services for victims of crime.

The Agency would like to recommend the acceptance of a grant award from DCFS in the amount of [\$70,000; \$17,500 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to support a contract with a mental health clinician who will provide mental health services to children residing at Kids Kottage who have been victims of child abuse or neglect.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:

Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 28, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #11 accepting a grant award in the amount of [\$557,904; \$139,476 County match] from the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services retroactive to July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020,

AGENDA ITEM # _____

representing the second half of the total FY20 VOCA award HSA was granted in the Request for Applications process.

On November 12, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #15 accepting a grant award in the amount of [\$557,904; \$139,476 County match] from the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services retroactive to July 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. The Board also approved the final year of the VOCA Victim's Services Coordinator Professional Services Agreement with Megan Lucey, Esq. retroactive for the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$95,000.

On November 27, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #8 accepting a grant award in the amount of [\$918,000; \$229,500 County match] from the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services retroactive to July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

On March 27, 2018 the Board approved Item #9, accepting the FY18 Supplemental Victims of Crime Act sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$600,000; \$150,000 County match] retroactive for the period of September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. On September 12, 2018, the Division of Child and Family Services granted a no cost extension extending the term of the grant award through December 31, 2018.

On August 8, 2017 the Board approved item #22, the acceptance of the FY18 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award in the amount of [\$2,087,400; \$521,850 county match required] for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. On May 8, 2018, the Division of Child and Family Services granted a no cost extension extending the term of the grant award through September 30, 2018.

On August 8, 2017 the Board approved item #8, to award Request for Proposal (RFP) #3023-17 for Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim's Services Coordinator to Megan Lucey, Esq., the sole bidder, and approval of the Professional Services Agreement to provide Victim of Crime and Family Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Services Coordinator services in the amount of \$95,000 for FY18.

The Board has routinely accepted VOCA funds since October 2005.

BACKGROUND

A Federal Child and Family Services Review in 2004 found a lack of understanding of the impact of violence on children and families. In response to this critical area of need, the Department received permission from Finance in 2005 to apply for VOCA grant funds to provide direct services to children, adolescents and their non-offending parents and siblings.

The primary purpose of VOCA is to support the provision of services to victims of crime throughout the nation. According to the VOCA program guidelines, services are defined as those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after victimization; (3) help victims understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide

victims of crime with a measure of safety and security. For the purpose of the VOCA crime assistance grant program, a crime victim is a person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial or emotional harm as a result of a crime. Since the last award period this grant award has provide services and assistance to any type of crime victim and is no longer limited to those victims of domestic violence as previous awards were.

A key initiative to the successful implementation of the grant goals is to enhance victim services available to child, adult and senior victims in Washoe County through:

- Providing assessments of victim services program needs, monitor program and implement program enhancements.
- Analyze and assist with newly enacted legislation and barriers to adoption.
- Implement a pilot program within the specialty courts to review and expand the Temporary Assistance for Displaced Seniors (TADS) program focusing on senior victimization and resource needs for senior victims.
- Utilize knowledge of guidelines, regulations and law surrounding vulnerable populations which include children, adults and seniors as well as specific knowledge of VOCA, to coordinate and communicate VOCA victim's services program activities with internal and external County staff and partners; including research and maintenance of applicable information and guidance, both state and federal, regarding VOCA allowable activities as well as special projects around related areas.
- Serve as primary resource for information regarding victims' services for WCDSS, including policies, procedures, objectives and operational functions of assigned area(s).
- Interpret related regulations, policies and procedures; make decisions requiring specialized knowledge of technical practices and precedents regarding victim's service program grant compliance oversight; provide monthly status reports; and, oversee the VOCA budget and program expenditures as necessary and related to victims' services.

The Department received the Notice of Award for this grant on June 15, 2020 with an effective date of July 1, 2020; therefore, the request to accept this award is retroactive.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative Program – Mental Health Services

Scope of the Project: VOCA Innovative funding will be used to establish a contract with a mental health clinician who will provide mental health services to children residing at Kids Kottage who have been victims of abuse and neglect.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: VOCA funding will be used to provide mental health services to one of Washoe County's most vulnerable populations – children who have been victims of abuse and neglect.

On-Going Program Support: VOCA funds are awarded each year. This funding serves as an enhancement to ongoing efforts.

Award Amount: \$70,000 (\$70,000 Direct / \$0 Indirect)

Grant Period: July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Funding Source: Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act

Pass Through Entity: State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services

CFDA Number: 16.575

Grant ID Number: 16575-19-039

Match Amount and Type: \$17,500 (cash match)

Sub-Awards and Contracts: The Department will seek to contract with a qualified mental health service provider in compliance with the Procurement Policy, Grants Manual, and 2 CFR 200 for professional services for child victims of abuse and neglect in a total amount of \$70,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY21 HSA adopted budget will be increased by \$70,000 in both revenues and expenditures and amended as follows:

| <u>Account Number</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| IO 11719 -431100 | Federal Grants | \$ 70,000.00 |
| | Total Revenue | \$ 70,000.00 |
| IO 11719 -710110 | Professional Services | \$ 70,000.00 |
| | Total Expenditures | \$ 70,000.00 |

Indirect costs are not allowable on this grant award as no personnel costs are included in the grant budget.

The award requires a cash match of \$17,500. Match will be posted to IO 60440 which has sufficient budget authority.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept the FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$70,000; \$17,500 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; authorize Director of Human Services

Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; 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 the FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$70,000; \$17,500 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; authorize Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments."