



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
ahowell@washoecounty.us; 775-785-8600

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 Homeless Services in the amount of [\$130,000; \$32,500 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 program 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 services for homeless victims of crime.

The receipt of grant awards requires acceptance by the Board of County Commissioners. HSA is requesting that the Board accept a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative sub-grant award from DCFS to support Homeless Services in the amount of [\$130,000; \$32,500 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments.

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 provided services and assistance to any type of crime victim and is no longer limited to 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 WCHSA, 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 10, 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 – Homeless Services

Scope of the Project: VOCA Innovative funding will enhance the Human Services Agency's ability to provide services and assistance to residents experiencing homelessness who are also victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, economic exploitation and other crimes by providing an array of support including shelter, nutrition, case management, crisis intervention, medical, legal, counseling and other supportive services.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: VOCA funding will be used to serve Washoe County residents experiencing homelessness with the goal of providing the services and support needed to find and maintain permanent housing.

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

Award Amount: \$130,000 (\$130,000 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: 16575-19-038

Match Amount and Type: \$32,500 (cash match)

Sub-Awards and Contracts: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award, the FY21 adopted budget will be increased in both revenues and expenses by \$130,000 and amended as follows:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 11714 -431100	Federal Grants	\$ 130,000.00
	Total Revenue	\$ 130,000.00
IO 11714 -710300	Operating	\$ 123,720.00
-711504	Equipment nonCapital	\$ 6,280.00
	Total Expenditures	\$ 130,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support Homeless Services in the amount of [\$130,000; \$32,500 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 FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support Homeless Services in the amount of [\$130,000; \$32,500 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."