



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 31, 2020

DATE: July 31, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Amber Howell, Director, Human Services Agency
785-8600, ahowell@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept a grant award from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation in the amount of [\$10,000; no county match] to purchase laptops for foster youth in Washoe County's custody to assist with digital learning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic retroactive from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Agency recommends the Board accept a grant award from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation in the amount of [\$10,000; no county match] to purchase laptops for foster youth in Washoe County's custody to assist with digital learning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 26, 2018 the Board approved item #10, the acceptance of a grant award from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation in the amount of \$220,000 to adapt and expand an educational program for transition aged youth statewide.

On June 9, 2015 the Board approved item #23, the acceptance of a grant award from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation in the amount of \$300,000 to reform the Department's policies and practices related for foster youth education outcomes.

BACKGROUND

The Laptops for Foster Youth award will provide a bridge to essential education and communication with teachers, therapists and case managers in response to the COVID-19 restrictions imposed on our community and state. Currently there are approximately 400 school-aged foster youth in Washoe County, Nevada. Many foster homes already have

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the capacity to accommodate the educational and therapeutic needs of their foster youth as these supports have shifted online. However, there are several homes who care for multiple youth and need additional support during this time.

In addition to addressing students' basic educational and therapeutic requirements, Boosted Diplomas, the vendor utilized for the Achievements Unlocked (AU) program, has stepped up to provide virtual tutoring to approximately 30 students of all ages outside of AU programming. Therefore, technology will play an even larger role in supporting the educational needs of our foster youth. These funds will help to fill a substantial need among Washoe County's foster youth during this unprecedented time. As our community moves through the next phases of this public health crisis, WCHSA will continue to seek opportunities to identify additional resources to fill in the gaps for our foster youth and ensure they have access to the technology needed to meet their educational and therapeutic needs.

The Agency received the Notice of Award for this grant on June 3, 2020 with an effective date of April 1, 2020; therefore, the request to accept this award is retroactive.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Laptops for Foster Youth.

Scope of the Project: The supplemental award was to assist WCHSA in providing laptops to youth in foster care to assist with digital learning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: This project will seek to improve educational outcomes for youth in foster care and give these students the opportunity to be better citizens and positive members of our community.

On-Going Program Support: No ongoing support will be provided, this is one time funding.

Award Amount: \$10,000

Grant Period: April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

Funding Source: Walter S. Johnson Foundation

Pass Through Entity: N/A

CFDA Number: N/A

Grant ID Number: 20-26D

Match Amount and Type: N/A

Sub-Awards and Contracts: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award, the Child Protective Services Fund (228) FY21 adopted budget will be increased by \$10,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
IO 29008	484195 - Non Govt'l Grants	\$10,000
IO 29008	711508 - Computers nonCapital	\$10,000

This grant does not allow indirect costs and no county match is required.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a grant award from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation in the amount of [\$10,000; no county match] to purchase laptops for foster youth in Washoe County's custody to assist with digital learning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic retroactive from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; 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 a grant award from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation in the amount of [\$10,000; no county match] to purchase laptops for foster youth in Washoe County's custody to assist with digital learning as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic retroactive from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments."