



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 10, 2020

DATE: October 16, 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 a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Special grant subaward from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$200,400; \$50,100 county match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to provide emergency assistance support for victims with a focus on victims impacted as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis; to provide enhanced technology for Human Services Agency caseworkers; and to increase access to safety and services; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the grant award; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

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

Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA) is requesting the Board accept a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Special grant subaward from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$200,400; \$50,100 county match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to provide emergency assistance support for victims with a focus on victims impacted as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis; to provide emergency shelter for homeless youth, aged 18-24, especially those in need of quarantine due to COVID-19; to provide enhanced technology for HSA caseworkers; and to increase access to safety and services; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the grant award; 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

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 31, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #17 accepting a grant award in the amount of [\$1,000,000; \$250,000 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The Board also approved a one-year VOCA Victim's Services Coordinator Professional Services Agreement with Megan Lucey, Esq. retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 in the amount of \$75,000.

On July 21, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #14 accepting a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support services for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the amount of [\$150,000; \$37,500 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

On July 14, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #7I2 accepting a 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.

On July 14, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #12 accepting a 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.

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, 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

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.

Washoe County, along with the rest of the world, has been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 public health crisis. Many of the programs and services offered by Washoe County Human Services Agency have had to be modified in order to protect the public health and adhere to COVID-19 social distancing and other restrictions. In addition, some of the basic needs of victims have changed and have increased in scope due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

This subaward will assist the county in responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis by:

- Providing support to victims who have been impacted by COVID-19;
- Providing emergency shelter for homeless youth, especially those in need of quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure;
- Providing for the technology needs of WCHSA caseworkers who may be working remotely due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions;
- Providing support for the continuation of the Centralized Hotline used for reporting abuse and neglect, an essential starting point for tracking cases and increasing safety within the community.

The Agency received the Notice of Award for this sub-grant on October 2, 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) Program

Scope of the Project: This subaward will assist the county in responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Funding is provided to support victims who have been impacted by COVID-19; to support emergency shelter for homeless youth affected by COVID-19; to provide technology for WCHSA caseworkers working remotely; and providing support for the continuation of the abuse and neglect reporting hotline.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: VOCA funding provides support services for victims of crime in Washoe County.

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

Award Amount: \$200,400 (\$200,400 direct/ \$0 indirect)

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

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime

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: 16575-19-126

Match Amount and Type: \$50,100 (cash match)

Sub-Awards and Contracts: Based on a competitive bid process, WCHSA will enter into a contract with Eddy House for \$50,000. Contractor will provide emergency shelter and wrap-around services for transition and episodic homeless youth victims, aged 18-24. Contractor will provide quarantine/respite housing for homeless youth who have been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY21 Human Services Agency adopted budget, Children's Services Fund 228 will be increased by \$200,400 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 11767	-431100	Federal Grants	\$ 200,400.00
		Total Revenue	\$ 200,400.00
IO 11767	-710100	Professional Services	\$ 110,000.00
	-710734	Residence Assistance	\$ 82,900.00
	-711508	Computers nonCapital	\$ 7,500.00
		Total Expenditures	\$ 200,400.00

This award requires a cash match of \$50,100. The expenditures to meet the match requirement will be posted to IO 60440 in which there is sufficient budget authority.

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept this FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Special grant subaward from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$200,400; \$50,100 county match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to provide emergency assistance support for victims with a focus on victims impacted as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis; to provide enhanced technology for Human Services Agency caseworkers; and to increase access to safety and services; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the grant award; 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 this FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Special grant subaward from DCFS in the amount of [\$200,400; \$50,100 county match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 to provide emergency assistance support for victims with a focus on victims impacted as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis; to provide enhanced technology for Human Services Agency caseworkers; and to increase access to safety and services; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the grant award; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments."