



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 12, 2021

DATE: December 18, 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 a FY21 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$180,000; no county match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022 to support WCHSA's continued participation in the Statewide Reproductive Health Network; to support the creation of a county-wide CARA stakeholder group; to support a partnership with UNR Early Head Start that will serve infants and parents/caregivers affected by prenatal substance use; and to provide training related to prenatal substance use for WCHSA staff and community partners; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant award documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Agency is requesting that the Board accept a FY21 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$180,000; no county match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022 to support WCHSA's continued participation in the Statewide Reproductive Health Network; to support the creation of a Washoe county-wide CARA stakeholder group; to support a partnership with UNR Early Head Start that will serve infants and parents/caregivers affected by prenatal substance use; and to provide training related to prenatal substance use for WCHSA staff and community partners.

UNR Early Head Start is a comprehensive program that provides weekly home visits to families. Home visits include information on development-centered parenting, parent-child activities, assessments related to child development, nutrition, mental health, and many additional components designed to support the family.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

On July 22, 2016, the federal Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) was enacted. CARA was in response to the national opioid epidemic which includes an increase of the incidence of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (withdrawal) from 1.20 per 1000 hospital births in 2000 to 5.80 per 1000 hospital births in 2012.

The CARA legislation modified the Child Abuse and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requiring each state to address the needs of infants born with and identified as being affected by all substance abuse of withdrawal symptoms or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder through a “Plan of Safe Care”. The Plan of Safe Care addresses the ongoing health, development and well-being needs of the infant, as well as those of the parent and to ensure that affected infants and their family or caregivers’ receive appropriate services even when there is no child abuse or neglect. The goal of CARA is not to remove children or punish mothers for drug use, but to ensure child safety and address the health and substance use disorder treatment needs of both the affected infant and family or caregiver.

In response to CARA, Nevada Revised Statute 432B.220 was revised during the 2017 legislative session through Senate Bill 480 to add fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and remove “illegal” from prenatal substance abuse to address the federal requirements. Health care providers must notify the Child Protective Services no later than 24 hours after the person knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the newborn infant has been affected by prenatal substance use.

In collaboration with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, hospitals, medical professionals and local child welfare agencies, the Division of Child and Family Services developed the CARA Plan of Care, which are regulations for requiring hospital to complete the CARA Plan of Care and established a Statewide Advisory Reproductive Health Network and strategic plan.

Implementation efforts continue at the state level through workgroups of the Statewide Reproductive Health Network which supports Nevada’s Perinatal Health Action Plan.

The Agency received the Notice of Award for this sub-grant on December 7, 2020 with an effective date of July 1, 2020; therefore, the request to accept this award is retroactive.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act (CARA) program

Scope of the Project: To support WCHSA's continued participation in the Statewide Reproductive Health Network; to support the creation of a county-wide CARA stakeholder group; to support a partnership with UNR Early Head Start that will serve infants and parents/caregivers affected by prenatal substance use; and to provide training related to prenatal substance use for WCHSA staff and community partners

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Enhanced safety and well-being of Washoe county residents, in particular, infants and parents/caregivers who have been affected by prenatal substance use

On-Going Program Support: WCHSA will seek ongoing support through this funding source. If funding is reduced or eliminated, WCHSA would seek alternate funding sources or reduce or eliminate this program.

Award Amount: \$180,000 (**\$180,000 direct/\$0 indirect**)

Grant Period: July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022

Funding Source: Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

Pass Through Entity: Nevada Department of Health & Human Services
Department of Child and Family Services

CFDA Number: 93.669

Grant ID Number: 93669-18-004

Match Amount and Type: N/A

Sub-Awards and Contracts: The Human Services Agency will follow the County and federal grant procurement guidelines for any subawards and contracts.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY21 Human Services Agency, Children's Services Fund (F228) adopted budget will be increased by \$180,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Account Number	Description	Amount of Increase/(Decrease)
IO-11800 - 431100	Federal Grants	\$ 180,000.00
	Total Revenue	\$ 180,000.00
IO-11800 - 710100	Professional Services	\$ 150,700.00
- 710509	Seminars and Meetings	\$ 29,300.00
	Total Expenditures	\$ 180,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a FY21 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$180,000; no county match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022 to support WCHSA's continued participation in the Statewide Reproductive Health Network; to support the creation of a county-wide CARA stakeholder group; to support a partnership with UNR Early Head Start that will serve infants and parents/caregivers affected by prenatal substance use; and to provide training related to prenatal substance use for WCHSA staff and community partners; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant award 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 a FY21 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$180,000; no county match] retroactive from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022 to support WCHSA's continued participation in the Statewide Reproductive Health Network; to support the creation of a county-wide CARA stakeholder group; to support a partnership with UNR Early Head Start that will serve infants and parents/caregivers affected by prenatal substance use; and to provide training related to prenatal substance use for WCHSA staff and community partners; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute the grant award documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments."