



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 13, 2021

**DATE:** March 17, 2021

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Amber Howell, Director, Human Services Agency  
775-785-8600, ahowell@washoecounty.us

**THROUGH:** Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept a sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$72,963; no county match] in Federal Adoption Incentive funds retroactive from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, to support foster care and adoption recruitment and training efforts; Authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute retroactively the sub-grant award and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

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### **SUMMARY**

The Human Services Agency is requesting the Board accept a sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of \$72,963; no county match in Federal Adoption Incentive funds, retroactive from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, to support foster care and adoption recruitment and training efforts; and authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute retroactively the sub-grant award and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Safe, Secure & Health Communities

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On April 28, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved agenda item #10, the Department's request to accept \$171,055 in Federal Adoption Incentive funds from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

On January 8, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved agenda item #8.E.3, the Department's request to accept \$148,561 in Federal Adoption Incentive funds from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services for the period of October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

On February 27, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners approved agenda item # 9.J.5, the Department's request to accept \$118,948 in Federal Adoption Incentive funds from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services for the period of October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

The Board has routinely accepted Federal Adoption Incentive Funds since 2004.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Federal Adoption Incentive program recognizes improved performance in helping children and youth in foster care find permanent homes through adoption and legal guardianship. Under this program (Section 473A of the Social Security Act), states earn federal incentive payments when they increase adoptions of children who are in need of new permanent families. Federal Adoption Incentive funds are subsequently passed through the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services to support child welfare efforts in the areas of foster care, adoption recruitment and training.

These funds may be utilized for services to families awaiting adoption, post adoption services, and specialized recruitment and training for the adoption program. Washoe County Human Services Agency has routinely used these funds to assist with travel and transition costs for adoptive placement, post placement supervision in other states, foster and adoptive recruitment and finalization activities, staff professional development, assistance with non-Medicaid covered medical expenses, and Adoption Day celebrations.

In November 2003, the Human Services Agency held the first local Adoption Day celebration in conjunction with National Adoption Day. In November 2004, the Department expanded the celebration to include a reception for adoptive families. The success of Adoption Day has grown with each event becoming more popular than the previous celebration. Washoe County Human Services Agency successfully launched a media campaign to highlight adoption and the need for adoptive homes in our community. In fiscal year 2020, the Human Services Agency finalized 156 adoptions, ensuring children in Washoe County now have forever homes.

The Department received the Notice of Sub-Award for this grant on March 4, 2021 with an effective date of October 1, 2020; therefore, the request to accept this award is retroactive.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Washoe County Human Services Agency  
Adoption Incentive Program

**Scope of the Project:** Federal Adoption Incentive funds are awarded in support of child welfare efforts in the areas of foster care, adoption recruitment and training. The Human Services Agency uses these funds to assist with travel and transition costs, post placement supervision in other states, foster and adoptive recruitment and finalization activities to include refreshments, staff professional development, post adoption services, assistance with non-Medicaid covered medical expenses, Adoption Day celebrations, and

media campaign efforts to highlight adoption and the need for adoptive homes in our community.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** The Adoption Incentive program allows children to find permanent adoptive homes, reducing the number of children in foster care in Washoe County.

**On-Going Program Support:** N/A

**Award Amount:** \$72,963 (\$72,963 direct / \$0 indirect)

**Grant Period:** October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021

**Funding Source:** Department of Health & Human Services  
Administration for Children & Families

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

**CFDA Number:** 93.603

**Grant ID Number:** 93603-19-003

**Match Amount and Type:** No match required

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** Contracts for services to support foster care and adoption recruitment activities will be procured in compliance with the Washoe County Procurement Policy, the Washoe County Grants Manual and 2 CFR 200.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the Human Services Agency's FY21 Child Protective Services Fund (F228) adopted budget will be increased by \$72,963 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 11828 -431100	Federal Revenue	\$ 72,963.00
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 72,963.00</b>
IO 11828 -710100	Professional Services	\$ 37,500.00
-710212	Software Subscriptions	\$ 1,400.00
-710300	Operating Supplies	\$ 23,563.00
-710509	Seminars and Meetings	\$ 5,500.00
-710546	Advertising	\$ 5,000.00
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 72,963.00</b>

The grant award does not require match and no indirect costs are included.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$72,963; no county match] in Federal Adoption Incentive funds, retroactive from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, to support foster care and adoption recruitment and training efforts; Authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute retroactively the sub-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 a sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in the amount of [\$72,963; no county match] in Federal Adoption Incentive Funds, retroactive from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021, to support foster care and adoption recruitment and training efforts; Authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute retroactively the sub-grant award and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments."