



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: April 27, 2021

DATE: Wednesday, April 21, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dana Searcy, Special Projects Manager
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to authorize Human Resources to create 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Coordinator position, 1.0 FTE Housing and Grants Specialist position, 2.0 FTE Management Analyst positions, and 1.0 FTE Program Assistant position as evaluated and approved by the Washoe County job evaluation process and to begin the recruitment process; positions are not to be hired prior to receiving final budget authority as will be presented and detailed to the Commission in the FY22 County Manager's final recommended budget on May 18, 2021; these positions are being proposed in support of addressing regional homelessness and the transition of homeless services to Washoe County. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

This item includes the creation of the homeless services staff positions to support addressing the regional homelessness and the transition of homeless services to Washoe County.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations, Stewardship of our Community

PREVIOUS ACTION

On April 13, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved accepting a grant award of \$200,000 from Truckee Meadows Water Authority, the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of \$250,000.00 and the creation of 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Program Specialist position in support of the safe camping location.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On January 13, 2021, direction was provided by the BCC to include pursuing an expanded role in addressing the regional issue of homelessness in the Strategic Plan.

On Nov 18, 2020, at a joint meeting with the City of Reno Council and the City of Sparks Council, the BCC voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4th Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness.

BACKGROUND

In a concurrent meeting dated November 18, 2020, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Reno and Sparks City Councils voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4th Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent unemployment spurring housing insecurity, further compounding previous community concerns over the public safety, public health and environmental effects of people living in encampments.

At the January 13, 2021 strategic planning workshop, the Board of County Commissioners provided direction for Washoe County to have an expanded role in addressing the regional issue of homelessness.

Amid continuing conversations on transitioning regional oversight of homeless to Washoe county; including oversight and management of the Cares Campus to include both the emergency shelter and the Safe Camp, and the lead agency role for the Continuum of Care, approval is requested for the additional positions that will be needed support this expanded role.

If approved, the intent is to start the recruitments in anticipation for service transitions beginning on or around July 1. Staffing positions would be posted in alignment with the timing of the development of the homeless services program.

FISCAL IMPACT

Homeless Services Staff Positions:

The funding for these 5.0 FTE's will be included as part of the FY22 final recommended budget going before the Board of County Commissioners for final approval on 5/18/2021.

It may be necessary to bring on a few of these positions prior to July 1, 2021; dependent upon the recruitment schedule. If this occurs, the funding for salary in FY21 will come from the established FY21 Manager's Office budget, Special Projects Division, fund center 101-14.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to authorize Human Resources to create 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Coordinator position, 1.0 FTE Housing and Grants Specialist position, 2.0 FTE Management Analyst positions, and 1.0 FTE Program Assistant position as evaluated and approved by the Washoe County job evaluation process and to begin the recruitment process; positions are not to be hired prior to receiving final budget authority as will be presented and detailed to the Commission in the FY22 County Manager's final recommended budget on May 18, 2021; these positions are being proposed in support of addressing regional homelessness and the transition of homeless services to Washoe County. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *move to authorize Human Resources to create 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Coordinator position, 1.0 FTE Housing and Grants Specialist position, 2.0 FTE Management Analyst positions, and 1.0 FTE Program Assistant position as evaluated and approved by the Washoe County job evaluation process and to begin the recruitment process; positions are not to be hired prior to receiving final budget authority as will be presented and detailed to the Commission in the FY22 County Manager's final recommended budget on May 18, 2021; these positions are being proposed in support of addressing regional homelessness and the transition of homeless services to Washoe County. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)*