



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE: June 8, 2021**

**DATE:** May 13, 2021

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Amber Howell Director, Human Services Agency  
775.785.8600 [Ahowell@washoecounty.us](mailto:Ahowell@washoecounty.us)

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

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] per year to be funded by applicable court filing fees, and in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$75,000] to be funded by Ad valorem tax for a total annual amount not to exceed [\$140,000] for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, with the option to be extended for three (3) one (1) additional year renewals; and approve necessary resolution for same. (All Commission Districts).

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### **SUMMARY**

Recommendation to approve an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] per year to be funded by applicable court filing fees, and in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$75,000] to be funded by Ad valorem tax for a total annual amount not to exceed [\$140,000] for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, with the option to be extended for three (3) one (1) additional year renewals; and approve necessary resolution for same.

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

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On May 28, 2019, Item 16, approved an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] per year to be funded by applicable court filing fees, and in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$75,000] to be funded by Ad valorem tax for a total annual amount not to exceed [\$140,000] for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, with the option to be extended for one (1) additional year, and approve necessary resolution for same.

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

On November 13, 2018, Item 11.F.1, the Board approved an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] funded by applicable court filing fees, retroactive July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, with the option to be extended for one (1) additional year; authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the Agreement; and approve necessary resolution for same.

On September 25, 2018, Item 6.K.1, the Board authorized the signing of an agreement with Washoe Legal Services to provide low-cost and pro-bono Ward Representation Services for elderly wards with the possibility of a one year renewal, and approved a resolution for the same.

### **BACKGROUND**

The agenda item, if approved will grant applicable filing fees to Washoe Legal Services to continue providing low cost and pro-bono legal services to elderly wards in Washoe County. This agreement also supports additional funding obtained by Washoe Legal Services from the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division for Ward Representation Legal Services.

The preceding years of this project have been successful, with Washoe Legal Services meeting or exceeding the goals of the grant. The agreement includes County funding and oversight, to ensure that Washoe Legal Services continues to provide quality legal services to the seniors of Washoe County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for this agreement is included in the Human Services Agency FY22 adopted budget in the Senior Services Fund (F225), cost center 250411 – Legal Local, GL 710400 – Payments to Other Agencies.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation to approve an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] per year to be funded by applicable court filing fees, and in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$75,000] to be funded by Ad valorem tax for a total annual amount not to exceed [\$140,000] for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, with the option to be extended for three (3) one (1) additional year renewals; and approve necessary resolution for same.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board approve, a possible motion would be: “Move to approve an Agreement in Support of Pro-Bono and Low-Cost Legal Services for Elderly between Washoe County and Washoe Legal Services in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$65,000] per year to be funded by applicable court filing fees, and in the approximate annual amount not to exceed [\$75,000] to be funded by Ad valorem tax for a total annual amount not to exceed [\$140,000] for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, with the

option to be extended for three (3) one (1) additional year renewals; and approve necessary resolution for same.”