



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *September 14, 2021*

DATE: Thursday, September 09, 2021

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 FY22 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$951,057; \$237,765 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; authorize the creation of a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Human Services Worker III position with a fiscal impact of [\$127,627], and to reclassify existing position 70009676 from a Victim Witness Advocate (pay grade JJ) to a Human Services Case Worker III (pay grade NN) with a fiscal impact of [\$9,254], both positions contingent on Job Evaluation Committee (JEC) review and approval, funded 100% by the VOCA grant award, and as such, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the position will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments as evaluated by the JEC; authorize Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The receipt of grant awards requires acceptance by the Board of County Commissioners. The creation and reclassification of positions also requires approval by the Board. HSA is requesting the Board to accept FY22 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$951,057; \$237,765 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; authorize the creation of a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Human Services Worker III position with a fiscal impact of [\$127,627], and to reclassify existing position 70009676 from a Victim Witness Advocate (pay grade JJ) to a Human Services Case Worker III (pay grade NN) with a fiscal impact of [\$9,254], both positions contingent on Job Evaluation Committee (JEC) review and approval, funded 100% by the VOCA grant award, and as such, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the position will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing

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adjustments as evaluated by the JEC; authorize Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; 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.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On November 10, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #14 accepting 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.

On August 31, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #17 accepting FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Traditional sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$1,000,000; \$250,000 County match] and approve a one-year VOCA Victim's Services Coordinator Professional Services Agreement with Megan Lucey, Esq. in the amount of [\$75,000] retroactive to July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

On July 21, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #14 accepting FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative subgrant 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 #12 accepting a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative subgrant 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 July 14, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #7.1.2 accepting a FY21 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Innovative subgrant 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 from the period of July 1, 2020 to June 3, 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.

The Board has routinely accepted VOCA funds since October 2005.

BACKGROUND

A Federal Child and Family Services Review in 2004 found a lack of understanding of the impact of violence on children and families. In response to this critical area of need, the Department received permission from Finance in 2005 to apply for VOCA grant funds to provide direct services to children and their non-offending parents and siblings.

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. This grant award may provide services and assistance to any type of crime victim and is no longer limited to those victims of domestic violence as previous awards were.

A key initiative to the successful implementation of the grant goals is to enhance victim services available to child, adult and senior victims in Washoe County. Goals for this FY22 VOCA subgrant are as follows:

- Provide emergency assistance support for victims
- Support effective and immediate crisis intervention through the Crisis Stabilization & Intervention Team and the Placement Team
- Provide personalized, professional assistance to victims of crime through a Victim Advocate

- Provide targeted services to children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation
- Provide increased access to mental health services to children who have been victims of abuse or neglect

This award includes the reclassification of the grant funded position number 70009676 from Victim Witness Advocate to Human Services Case Worker III, as well as the creation of a new grant funded position, 1.0 FTE Human Services Case Worker III position, in fund 223.

A reclassification is requested due to the complexities of the cases; our staff need to provide case management in addition to advocacy and aligning them with victim services. The Advocate role is not sufficient and staff are not able to complete the needed functions within in Advocate scope.

The new Human Services Case Worker III position will also provide case management in addition to advocacy and aligning them with victim services. This position funded through the VOCA innovative grant will provide expanded support to the increasing number of homeless victims of crime and swing shift staffing to expand the hours when assistance may be offered.

The Department received the Notice of Award for this grant on July 2, 2021 with an effective date of July 1, 2021; 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: VOCA funding will enhance the Human Services Agency's ability to provide services and assistance to residents including children, adults and seniors who are victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, economic exploitation and other crimes by providing an array of support including shelter, nutrition, case management, crisis intervention, medical, legal, counseling and other supportive services.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: VOCA funding will be used to serve Washoe County residents across the continuum of care to include children, adults and seniors.

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

Award Amount: \$951,057 (\$905,073 Direct / \$45,984 Indirect)

Grant Period: July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Funding Source: Department of Justice, Victims of Crime Act

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: 16575-20-062

Match Amount and Type: \$237,765 (cash match)

Sub-Awards and Contracts: The Human Services Agency may contract with vendors in support of the grant-funded media campaign. Any contracts will follow the County's competitive bid process and federal grant procurement guidelines as defined in 2 CFR 200—Uniform Guidance.

FISCAL IMPACT

This award was anticipated, and \$665,119.32 was included in the FY22 Child Protective Services Fund (228) adopted budget in IO 11715. A budget adjustment has been processed to move authority to the new internal order 11868. Should the board accept this grant award, the FY22 Child Protective Services Fund (228) adopted budget will be increased by \$95,246.94 and the FY22 Homelessness Fund (223) will be increased by \$144,706.74 in both revenue and expenditures in the following accounts:

Fund/Program Name	Account Number	Description	Amount of Increase/ (Decrease)
Child Protective Services Fund (228)			
FY22 VOCA Innovative	IO-11867-431100	Federal Grants	95,246.94
		Total Revenues	95,246.94
FY22 VOCA Innovative	IO-11867-710100	Professional Svcs	39,070.24
FY22 VOCA Innovative	IO-11867-711210	Travel	16,150.00
FY22 VOCA Traditional	IO-11868-710500	Other Expense	38,026.70
FY22 VOCA Traditional	IO-11868-711210	Travel	2,000.00
		Total Expenditures	95,246.94
Homelessness Fund (223)			
FY22 VOCA Our Place	IO-11880-431100	Federal Grants	144,706.74
		Total Revenues	144,706.74
FY22 VOCA Our Place	IO-11880-701412	Salary Adjustment	87,090.05
FY22 VOCA Our Place	IO-11880-705360	Benefit Adjustment	54,866.00
FY22 VOCA Our Place	IO-11880-710519	Cell Phone	2,750.69
		Total Expenditures	144,706.74

Indirect costs in the amount of \$45,984 are included in the award. No amendment is necessary for the indirect revenue.

This award requires a cash match of \$237,765. The expenditure to meet the match requirement will be posted to IOs 60440 and 60694.

As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept FY22 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$951,057; \$237,765 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; authorize the creation of a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Human Services Worker III position with a fiscal impact of [\$127,627], and to reclassify existing position 70009676 from a Victim Witness Advocate (pay grade JJ) to a Human Services Case Worker III (pay grade NN) with a fiscal impact of [\$9,254], both positions contingent on Job Evaluation Committee (JEC) review and approval, funded 100% by the VOCA grant award, and as such, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the position will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments as evaluated by the JEC; authorize Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related 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 FY22 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) sub-grant award from the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services in the amount of [\$951,057; \$237,765 County match] retroactive for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022; authorize the creation of a full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Human Services Worker III position with a fiscal impact of [\$127,627], and to reclassify existing position 70009676 from a Victim Witness Advocate (pay grade JJ) to a Human Services Case Worker III (pay grade NN) with a fiscal impact of [\$9,254], both positions contingent on Job Evaluation Committee (JEC) review and approval, funded 100% by the VOCA grant award, and as such, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the position will be abolished accordingly unless additional funding is secured; direct the Human Resources Department to make the necessary staffing adjustments as evaluated by the JEC; authorize Director of Human Services Agency to execute the sub-grant and related documents; and direct the Comptroller's office to make the necessary budget amendments."