



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 14, 2023

DATE: Wednesday, November 08, 2023
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Andrew Sherbondy, Sergeant, Department of Alternative Sentencing (775) 399-0265; asherbondy@washoecounty.gov
THROUGH: Justin Roper, Chief Alternative Sentencing Officer
SUBJECT: Recommendation to retroactively accept a direct grant award [\$826,852.00, no County match required] from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), FY 2023, Project number 15PBJA-23-GG-02433-SCAX, to the Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing to expand treatment and recovery services for the Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program for the grant period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2027, and if approved, authorize Chief Roper to accept and manage any future adjustments of this award, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners must accept grants and approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

This funding is received from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance to support recovery services in the second year of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) program for the grant period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2027.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On September 12, 2023, the Board accepted Item #6.B.1., an extension and additional funding related to the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health in the amount of [\$174,084.00; \$4,420.00 indirect; no County match required] to be used to pay for the remainder of FFY23 grant period extended to September 30, 2023, for the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program for the retroactive grant period of April 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On July 19, 2022, the Board accepted Item #8, a sub-award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the amount not to exceed \$439,487.00 to be used to pay for the establishment of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program for the retroactive grant period of April 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023.

BACKGROUND

The Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) program was implemented in October 2022 in an effort to provide probationers and pretrial releases supervised by the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) with the wrap-around support necessary to successfully address foundational causes of opioid use disorder, as well as underlying criminogenic behaviors.

Through the course of the STAR program, participants engage in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), proctored in partnership through the Northern Nevada HOPES clinic as well as other community-based treatment providers. Participants receive one-on-one counseling services, case management, peer support, and on-site programming by way of the *Courage to Change* interactive journaling series while engaged in the program. *Courage to Change*, an evidence-based curriculum, centers on cognitive-behavioral therapeutic principles concerning thoughts, feelings, and behaviors which influence addiction and criminogenic thinking.

In its first year, the STAR program team has made 71 referrals to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, conducted 234 counseling sessions, 134 journaling sessions, 309 home visits, 453 general office/field visits, and 2,418 peer contacts. DAS received 157 referrals to the STAR program since its launch in October 2022 and has carried a full caseload of 25-30 participants since March 2023. Seven male STAR participants engaged in programming through partnership with CrossRoads, and eight female STAR participants engaged in programming through partnership with The Empowerment Center. The STAR team made 204 other referrals to STAR participants for treatment, recovery, education, employment, transportation, and medical services. While the STAR team aims to assist its participants in overcoming barriers to successful recovery, public safety remains a core tenant of the programmatic model as an extension of the overall mission of DAS. Over the course of STAR's initial year of existence, 17 violation arrests were completed among a total of 62 people enrolled. Data for drug testing results in the first nine months of programming shows an average increase of 28% in overall participant compliance with required testing, and a 59% decrease in positive drug test results for individuals engaged in the STAR program. 165 journals were distributed in the first year of the program. Preliminary pre-test/post-test data for interactive journaling with STAR participants shows a 32% increase in understanding journal content.

DAS is committed to the STAR program and its participants. Aside from the core STAR program, DAS has secured over \$1 million in grant and private funding in its first year to expand access to additional recovery services for its participants. Additional services include neuromodulation treatment, transportation assistance, Medication Assisted Treatment cost coverage, an 8-bed recovery house with a house manager, upgrades to the

house, additional beds in residential programming, and funds to cover an evaluation partner to evaluate the overall STAR program. This item is a four-year grant that was awarded to cover the costs recovery services for STAR program participants.

Reason for retroactive submittal: Item was submitted to the first available BCC meeting once paperwork was received and processed.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: STAR Expansion

Scope of the Project: Wrap-around programming and treatment services for opioid use disorder and criminogenic behaviors within the population served by DAS.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Takes an active role in addressing root-causes related to opioid use disorder and underlying criminal behaviors as they relate to individuals residing in Washoe County. The STAR program not only addresses recidivism in a meaningful way but becomes a significant component in mending the damage done by the opioid epidemic as it relates to the residents of Washoe County.

On-Going Program Support: 4-year grant period

Award Amount: \$826,852.00

Grant Period: 10/1/23 – 9/30/27

Funding Source: Bureau of Justice Assistance

Pass Through Entity: N/A

CFDA Number: 16.812

Grant ID Number: 15PBJA-23-GG-02433-SCAX

Match Amount and Type: No Match.

Sub-Awards and Contracts:

Residential Programming Beds: CrossRoads women's campus is a Washoe County entity that works closely with DAS as a sober living and transitional housing entity. The close working relationship already in place between DAS and CrossRoads allows for the successful implementation of housing and treatment resources for STAR program participants. As a contracted entity for the STAR Program, CrossRoads women's campus will provide priority access to up to five (5) beds at a time for each year of the grant period.

Evaluator: The Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT) located at the University of Nevada, Reno School of Public Health (SPH) will develop an academic evaluation of the STAR program at DAS for each year of the grant period.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY24 Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing adopted budget will be increased by \$826,852.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO 12291 – BJA STAR FY24	431100 – Federal Grants	\$826,852.00
IO 12291 – BJA STAR FY24	711210 – Travel	\$18,940.00
IO 12291 – BJA STAR FY24	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$2,600.00
IO 12291 – BJA STAR FY24	710100 – Professional Services	\$805,312.00

- No match required
- Funds will be drawn as a reimbursement
- No indirect costs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners retroactively accept a direct grant award [\$826,852.00, no County match required] from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), FY 2023, Project number 15PBJA-23-GG-02433-SCAX, to the Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing to expand treatment and recovery services for the Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program for the grant period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2027, and if approved, authorize Chief Roper to accept and manage any future adjustments of this 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 retroactively accept a direct grant award [\$826,852.00, no County match required] from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), FY 2023, Project number 15PBJA-23-GG-02433-SCAX, to the Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing to expand treatment and recovery services for the Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program for the grant period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2027, and if approved, authorize Chief Roper to accept and manage any future adjustments of this award, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.”