



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 28, 2025

DATE: October 15, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Justin Norton, Operations Manager, Regional Medical Examiner's Office
(775) 785-6114, jnorton@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve and accept grant funding from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$142,863.00 [no County match] personnel and toxicology expenses related to investigating drug-related deaths, to perform advanced toxicology testing on decedents, and to input data into the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) system for a retroactive term of September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026; and if approved, authorize the Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office to sign the grant award documents necessary to receive the grant; and direct Finance to make the necessary amendments to the Regional Medical Examiner's Office's Fiscal Year 2026 budget to reflect the receipt and use of the grant funds. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Regional Medical Examiner's Office is requesting that the Board of County Commissioners approve and accept grant funds from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$142,863.00 for a retroactive term of September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026. The grant funds will be utilized for compensating employees for staff time (including fringe and benefits), to perform advanced toxicology testing on decedents, to investigate drug-related deaths, and to input data into the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) system. The award includes \$67,896 for toxicology expenses and \$74,967 for personnel expenses for a total award of \$142,863.00. This is the ninth year the Regional Medical Examiner's Office has received this grant.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

October 24, 2017 – Board action to create full time Medicolegal Data Specialist position
December 12, 2017 – Board action to approve SUDORS grant funding of \$79,914 for FY18 and FY19

August 28, 2018 – Board action to approve SUDORS grant funding of \$79,914 for FY19 and FY20

AGENDA ITEM # _____

October 8, 2019 – Board acceptance of OD2A grant funding of \$90,000 for FY20 and FY21
November 10, 2020 – Board acceptance of OD2A grant funding of \$81,315 for FY21 and FY22
September 14, 2021 – Board acceptance of OD2A grant funding of \$97,603 for FY22 and FY23
May 24, 2022 – Board acceptance of OD2A grant amendment increasing the award amount
October 18, 2022 – Board acceptance of OD2A grant funding of \$100,611 for FY23 and FY24
September 12, 2023 – Board acceptance (retroactive) of additional OD2A grant funding of \$12,000 for additional toxicology testing for FY23 and FY24
October 17, 2023 – Board acceptance of OD2A grant funding of \$104,758 for FY23 and FY24
June 18, 2024 – Board acceptance of additional OD2A grant funding of \$36,302 for FY23 and FY24
October 8, 2024 – Board acceptance of OD2A grant funding of \$140,863 for FY25 and FY26

BACKGROUND

This Federal grant is awarded to Washoe County via the State of Nevada. The purpose of the grant is to pay for personnel costs to analyze and abstract data from drug-related deaths investigated by the Regional Medical Examiner's Office. The data is entered into a Centers for Disease Control and Prevent (CDC) database for study. Additionally, the grant provides funding for the Regional Medical Examiner's Office to perform advanced toxicology testing on decedents. The grant is retroactive from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026 due to delays from the State of Nevada in officially awarding the grant.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Overdose to Action (OD2A)

Scope of the Project: Provides for personnel and expanded toxicology testing to investigate drug-related deaths in the region

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: This program creates a detailed data repository for drug-related deaths with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This data can be used by law enforcement, health agencies, etc. to better understand the root causes of such deaths which will lead to better prevention and treatment programs.

On-Going Program Support: This is the ninth year of the program created by the federal government and will continue as long as grant funding is available.

Award Amount: \$142,863.00

Grant Period: September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026

Funding Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Pass Through Entity: State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Assistance Listing #/CFDA Number: 93.136

Grant ID Number: 5 NU17CE010224-03-00

Match Amount and Type: No match

Sub-Awards and Contracts: No sub-awards or contracts

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board accept this grant award, the Fiscal Year 2026 adopted budget for the Regional Medical Examiner's Office will be increased by \$81,893.15 in both revenue and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
IO 12603 – OD2A FY26 & FY27	431100 – Federal Grants	\$81,393.15
IO 12603 – OD2A FY26 & FY27	701412 – Salary Adjustment	\$8,233.00
IO 12603 – OD2A FY26 & FY27	705360 – Benefit Adjustment	\$5,264.15
IO 12603 – OD2A FY26 & FY27	710104 – Toxicology	\$67,896.00

*\$61,469.85 has been budgeted in FY26 for personnel expenditures already, this adjustment of \$81,393.15 brings the full award budget into alignment.

- No match required
- Indirect costs are not requested on this grant award.
- 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 approve and accept grant funding from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$142,863.00 [no County match] personnel and toxicology expenses related to investigating drug-related deaths, to perform advanced toxicology testing on decedents, and to input data into the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) system for a retroactive term of September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026; and if approved, authorize the Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office to sign the grant award documents necessary to receive the grant; and direct Finance to make the necessary amendments to the Regional Medical Examiner's Office's Fiscal Year 2026 budget to reflect the receipt and use of the grant funds.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to approve and accept grant funding from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$142,863.00 [no County match] personnel and toxicology expenses related to investigating drug-related deaths, to perform advanced toxicology testing on decedents, and to input data into the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) system for a retroactive term of September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026; and if approved, authorize the Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office to sign the grant award documents necessary to receive the grant; and direct Finance to make the necessary amendments to the Regional Medical Examiner's Office's Fiscal Year 2026 budget to reflect the receipt and use of the grant funds.