



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 24, 2025

DATE: May 28th, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: James Conway, Court Administrator, Reno Justice Court
325-6543, JConway@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Ryan Sullivan, Chief Judge, Reno Justice Court, 325-6550,
RSullivan@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Acknowledge allocation from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice Court for the following Reno Justice Court Specialty Court Programs: Court Assistance Program (“CAP”), DUI Program, and “Get-To” Court Program (“GT”) in the amount of [\$37,000.00 for FY25, no match required]. The programs focus on reducing recidivism in adults with drug, alcohol, and mental health issues by aiding participants with sober living, residential treatment, and transitional living services. The allocation is paid in a one-time surplus funding installment that is transferable among court programs; and direct Finance to make the appropriate budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)
FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

In February 2025, Reno Justice Court applied to the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada (JCSN) to receive funding to continue to operate the Reno Justice Court Specialty Court Programs. On April 30th, 2025, Reno Justice Court received notification that the sum of \$37,000.00 had been approved for FY25 with a one-time surplus funding distribution occurring in May 2025. The grant is being accepted retroactively, as funding was received shortly after notification of the award.

Washoe County’s Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 24, 2024, Reno Justice CAP Court received notification that the sum of \$122,355.00 had been approved for FY24 with the first two quarterly distribution of \$30,588.75.00 occurring in July 2024 and October 2024. The remaining installments were distributed in January 2025, and April 2025

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On June 24, 2024, Reno Justice GT Court received notification that the sum of \$96,764.00 had been approved for FY25 with the first two quarterly distributions of \$24,191.00 occurring in July 2024 and October 2024. The remaining installments were distributed in January 2025, and April 2025.

On June 24, 2024, Reno Justice DUI Court received notification that the sum of \$20,250.00 had been approved for FY25 with the first two quarterly distributions of \$5,062.50 occurring in July 2024 and October 2024. The remaining installments were distributed in January 2025, and April 2025.

BACKGROUND

- **Issue:** Reno Justice Court (RJC) requests retroactive approval to accept a \$37,000 grant awarded by the Administrative Office of the Courts to support its Specialty Court programs through the provision of sober living, residential treatment, and transitional living services.
- **History & Context:**
 - RJC operates Specialty Courts serving individuals with significant behavioral health needs.
 - A persistent gap in services has been the lack of immediate, safe, and sober housing for participants awaiting placement in residential treatment. Many participants are either in custody or unhoused during this wait period, increasing their risk for decompensation and disengagement from recovery efforts.
 - In response, RJC applied for and was awarded surplus grant funds to contract with sober living providers in Reno, to reserve 1–2 beds per month for program participants.
- **Current Status:**
 - The grant enables RJC to fund structured sober living services, including transportation, hygiene essentials, curfews, accountability checks, and regular reporting between sober living staff and RJC case managers.
 - These services are critical in stabilizing participants during a high-risk transitional period and supporting their successful entry into formal treatment.
- **Public Impact:**
 - Reduces unnecessary incarceration and homelessness by providing immediate access to sober housing.
 - Promotes safety, recovery, and stability for justice-involved individuals, many of whom have co-occurring disorders and complex trauma histories.
 - Strengthens public health and safety outcomes through improved engagement in treatment and reduced recidivism.
- **Impact on County Organization & Staff:**
 - Offsets costs associated with extended jail stays and emergency responses to untreated behavioral health crises.
 - Enhances coordination among court staff, case managers, probation officers, and community providers without requiring new full-time county positions.
 - Supports data tracking and performance monitoring via existing systems (DCCM), ensuring measurable outcomes.
- **Reason for Retroactive Action:**

- Reno Justice Court received notification of the grant award on April 30th, 2025 and funds were dispersed to the Court shortly thereafter before a BCC staff report could be prepared.
- Retroactive approval is requested to ensure compliance with County financial procedures and formally recognize the grant award.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY- Reno Justice Court Specialty Court Programs

Project/Program Name: Reno Justice Court Specialty Court Programs

Scope of the Project: The scope of the Reno Justice Court (“RJC”) Specialty Court Programs is to help high risk participants overcome their chemical dependencies, gain, and maintain sobriety, and live clean, healthy lives in order to reduce recidivism in the community.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: RJC Specialty Courts will provide community members access to treatment services and strict community based supervision which will rehabilitate defendants, thereby reducing criminal recidivism in Washoe County.

On-Going Program Support: On-going support of this program will be partially funded through program fees paid by participants. Reno Justice Court will continue to apply for additional grant funds from the JSCN on an annual basis.

Award Amount: \$37,000.000
Grant Period: April 30, 2025 – December 31st, 2026
Funding Source: Judicial Council of the State of Nevada,
Administrative Office of the Courts
Pass through From: N/A
CFDA Number: N/A
Grant ID Number: N/A
Match Amount and Type: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

The AOC surplus for funding grant allocation, to help support the Reno Justice Court specialty court programs was disbursed into IO 12045 DUI Court and IO 12046 Court Assistance Program. The FY25 budget for IO 12045 already has \$43,894.33, IO 12046 has \$124,355.00. Should the board acknowledge this grant award and approve this surplus, the adopted FY25 budget will be increased by \$37,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Revenue:		
IO 12045	432100 – State Grants	\$ 18,500.00
Expenditures:		
IO 12045	710100 – Professional Services	\$ 18,500.00

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Revenue:		
IO 12046	432100 – State Grants	\$ 18,500.00
Expenditures:		
IO 12046	710100 – Professional Services	\$ 18,500.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge RJC Specialty Court Program Allocation from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice Court in the amount of [\$37,000.00 for FY25, no match required]. The program focuses on reducing recidivism in adults with drug, alcohol, and mental health issues by aiding participants with sober living, residential treatment, and transitional living services. The allocation is paid in a one-time surplus funding installment; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.)

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to Acknowledge Specialty Court General Fund Allocations from the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to the Reno Justice Court for the Reno Justice Court Specialty Court Programs in the amount of [\$37,000.00 for FY25, no match required]. The program focuses on reducing recidivism in adults with drug, alcohol, and mental health issues by aiding participants with sober living, residential treatment, and transitional living services. The allocation is paid in a one-time surplus funding installment; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments.”