



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *September 16, 2025*

DATE: Thursday, September 11, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Ryan Gustafson, Director, Human Services Agency
(775) 785-8600, rgustafson@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept an FY26 Differential Response subaward from the State of Nevada Division of Child & Family Services in the amount of [\$172,545.00; no county match] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to support Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the sub-grant agreement and related documents; and direct Finance to make necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Recommendation to accept an FY26 Differential Response subaward from the State of Nevada Division of Child & Family Services in the amount of [\$172,545.00; no county match] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to support Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the sub-grant agreement and related documents; and direct Finance to make necessary budget amendments.

The Differential Response program allows families with children who are in danger of abuse and neglect to be linked to community-based services for early intervention and prevention services.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

On October 8, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #6.D.1, to accept a FY25 Differential Response subaward in the amount of \$172,545; no County match from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services retroactive to July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 to support Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system.

On October 10, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #7.C.5, to accept a FY24 Differential Response subaward from the State of Nevada, Division of Child & Family Services in the amount of \$172,545.00 retroactive to July 1, 2023

AGENDA ITEM # _____

through June 30, 2024 to support the Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system

On August 23, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #8.F.7, to accept a FY23 Differential Response subaward from the State of Nevada, Division of Child & Family Services in the amount of \$142,545.00 retroactive to July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 to support the Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system.

On September 28, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #7.F.4, to accept a FY22 Differential Response subaward from the State of Nevada Division of Child & Family Services in the amount of \$145,545 retroactive to July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 to support Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system.

On July 21, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #9.E.2 to accept a FY21 Differential Response subaward from the State of Nevada Division of Child & Family Services in the amount of \$142,545 retroactive to July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 to support Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system.

BACKGROUND

Differential Response is an approach to ensuring child safety by expanding the ability of child welfare agencies to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect. Its focus includes a broader set of responses for working with families at the first signs of trouble, including innovative partnerships with community-based organizations that can help support families that are in need. Differential Response allows families with children who are in danger of abuse and neglect to be linked to community-based services for early intervention and prevention services. Differential Response offers families referred to child protective services a chance to be connected to a community service provider, increasing the chances that children can remain safely at home without the need for formal Child Protective Services (CPS) intervention to include legal action.

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) provides for Differential Response when a public child welfare agency determines that an investigation is not warranted. The agency may forward a report and/or case record information of a particular child and family to a community-based service provider that has entered into a written agreement with the agency for the purpose of conducting assessments and providing appropriate services that will support, preserve, and improve the child's safety and the family's well-being and functioning.

The Differential Response Statewide Steering Committee continues to support this practice initiative and mission of serving families through partnerships and building on the strengths of families, providing early intervention to connect families with appropriate services that will support, preserve, and improve the child's safety and the family's well-being and functioning.

The Agency received the Notice of Subaward for this subgrant on July 30, 2025 with an effective date of July 1, 2025; therefore, the request to accept this award is retroactive.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: FY26 Differential Response

Scope of the Project: Differential Response is an approach to ensuring child safety by expanding the ability of child welfare agencies to respond to reports of child abuse and neglect.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: The Differential Response program allows families with children who are in danger of abuse and neglect to be linked to community-based services for early intervention and prevention services.

On-Going Program Support: The Differential Response Program is currently managed by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division and this sub-grant is intended to shift implementation of the program to the local government level. If the grant award is discontinued or not renewed, the program would be shifted back to the State.

Award Amount: \$172,545.00 (\$163,276.00 direct/\$9,269.00 indirect)

Grant Period: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

Funding Source: Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child and Family Services

Pass Through Entity: n/a

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: n/a

Grant ID Number: 314567-26-005

Match Amount and Type: There is no required match.

Sub-Awards and Contracts: The Human Services Agency complies with the Washoe County Procurement Policy, Grants Manual, competitive bid process, and federal grant procurement guidelines as defined by 2 CFR 200 – Uniform Guidance.

FISCAL IMPACT

This award was anticipated and \$139,463.00 was included in the FY26 Child Protective Services Fund (228) adopted budget in IO 12263. Additional authority in the amount of \$23,813.00 is needed. A budget adjustment will be processed to move authority to the new internal order 12573. Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 Child Protective Services Fund (228), adopted budget will be increased by \$23,813.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 12573	-432100	State Grants	\$ 23,813.00
		Total Revenue	\$ 23,813.00
IO 12573	-710734	Residential Services	\$ 22,813.00
	-710577	Uniforms & Special C	\$ 500.00
	-710712	Family Preservation	\$ 500.00
		Total Expenditures	\$ 23,813.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to accept an FY26 Differential Response subaward from the State of Nevada Division of Child & Family Services in the amount of [\$172,545.00; no county match] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to support Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the sub-grant agreement and related documents; and direct Finance to make necessary budget amendments

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"move to accept an FY26 Differential Response subaward from the State of Nevada Division of Child & Family Services in the amount of [\$172,545.00; no county match] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to support Differential Response services to at-risk families in the child welfare system; authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the sub-grant agreement and related documents; and direct Finance to make necessary budget amendments."*