



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** *January 17, 2023*

**DATE:** December 28, 2022

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Candee Ramos, Community Outreach Coordinator, Office of the County Manager, (775) 276-3846, [cramos@washoecounty.gov](mailto:cramos@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Eric Brown, County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, in the amount of [\$72,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, to the following government entities and/or non-profit organizations created for religious, charitable, or educational purposes; District 5 Commissioner Jeanne Herman recommends the following:

- a [\$20,000.00] grant to Safe Embrace to support the organization's efforts to provide compassionate and trauma-informed services to individuals suffering from domestic abuse, sexual violence or human trafficking;
- a [\$10,000.00] grant to the Vya Conservation District for the purpose of supporting natural resource conservation and ensuring sustainable use of northwestern Nevada's natural resources;
- a [\$10,000.00] grant to the Washoe-Storey Conservation District for the purpose of fostering environmental stewardship and management of natural resources;
- a [\$10,000.00] grant to the Reno Air Racing Association to support the Reno Air Races event and for its Pilot Training Scholarships and STEM initiatives;
- a [\$5,000.00] grant to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada to support the organization's efforts to provide food for families in need throughout the region;
- a [\$2,500.00] grant to Our Story, Inc. for the purpose of benefiting the Northern Nevada African American Firefighter Museum to reflect the unity of the historic Black Springs community and its volunteer fire department;
- a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Adopt A Vet Dental Program to provide free critical and life-saving dental care to impoverished veterans in Nevada;
- a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Washoe County Human Services Agency for the purpose of supporting the Men's CrossRoads program, a supportive living community providing drug- and alcohol-free housing and programming for men transitioning out of homelessness;
- a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Veterans Upward Bound Program at Truckee Meadows Community College for the purpose of supporting educational and career success for U.S. military veterans;

**AGENDA ITEM #** \_\_\_\_\_

- a [\$2,500.00] grant to The Salvation Army to support its human trafficking survivor program;
- a [\$2,500.00] grant to the Veterans Guest House to support its mission of providing U.S. military service veterans and their families with caring support during times of medical need; and
- a [\$2,000.00] grant to the Center for Healthy Aging –for the purpose of supporting its intergenerational community garden site and indigenous food program.

Further, approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds and net zero cross fund and/or cross function budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (Commission District 5.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

### **SUMMARY**

This item requests the Board to approve resolution and disburse district funds in the total amount of [\$72,000.00] for Commission District 5.

### **Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item(s):**

1. Economic Impacts: Support a thriving community and meet the needs of our growing community.
2. Fiscal Sustainability: Efficient delivery of regional services
3. Vulnerable Populations: Coordination between agencies and communication of programs.
4. Innovative Services: Strengthen our culture of service.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On December 20, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners directed [\$1,000.00] to the Commissioner Support Team to support the Washoe County Academy Leadership Academy class project.

### **BACKGROUND**

Modification of guidelines and adoption of resolution for County Commission District Special Funding on February 10, 2015, created Commission District Special Funds for each Commission District. On May 17, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget with special district funds allocated per Commission District in the amount of \$100,000.00. The monies appropriated are to support needs for all Washoe County residents.

Funds appropriated through the Commission District Special Funds must provide substantial benefit to the inhabitants of the County. The recipient must be a non-profit organization, created for religious, charitable or educational purposes, or a government entity. Funds shall not provide any personal or private benefit for the Commissioners, directly or indirectly benefit any campaign efforts by a commissioner, violate Ethics in Government law, or be used to purchase tickets to special events.

Commissioner Herman has elected to support the following organizations in fiscal year 2022-2023:

- [\$20,000.00] grant to Safe Embrace -- a non-profit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support the organization's efforts to provide compassionate and trauma-informed services to individuals suffering from domestic abuse, sexual violence or human trafficking. Safe Embrace operates the largest and most inclusive safe house in the Reno-Sparks area, providing innovative prevention and intervention services.
- [\$10,000.00] grant to the Vya Conservation District -- a government entity -- for the purpose of supporting natural resource conservation and ensuring sustainable use of northwestern Nevada's natural resources. The Vya Conservation District fosters and supports this endeavor through leadership, education, technical and financial assistance.
- [\$10,000.00] grant to the Washoe-Storey Conservation District -- a government entity -- for the purpose of fostering environmental stewardship and management of natural resources. The Washoe-Storey Conservation District works with all agencies to collaborate, communicate, lead and synergize, reduce duplication of effort and conserve resources for the greater good of the region.
- [\$10,000.00] grant to the Reno Air Racing Association -- a non-profit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support the Reno Air Races event and for its Pilot Training Scholarships and STEM initiatives. The annual special event run by the Reno Air Racing Association, the National Championship Air Races, provides over \$100,000.00 in value of tickets and cash contributions annually to local charities to help their causes.
- [\$5,000.00] grant to the Food Bank of Northern Nevada -- a non-profit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support the organization's efforts to provide food for families in need throughout the region. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada distributes food through its network of more than 150 partner agencies, its Mobile Harvest program, and monthly commodity boxes for seniors.
- [\$2,500.00] grant to Our Story, Inc. -- a non-profit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- for the purpose of benefiting the Northern Nevada African American Firefighter Museum, which reflects the unity of the historic Black Springs community and its volunteer fire department. Our Story, Inc. helps to tell the story of a small, unsung fire department that was built to serve its community in its time of need.
- [\$2,500.00] grant to the Adopt A Vet Dental Program -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- to provide free critical and life-saving dental care to impoverished veterans in Nevada. The vision of the program is to get veterans out of pain, give them their smile back, and get them back into the community by working or volunteering their time.
- [\$2,500.00] grant to the Washoe County Human Services Agency -- a government entity - for the purpose of supporting the Men's CrossRoads program, a supportive living community providing drug- and alcohol-free housing and programming for men transitioning out of homelessness;
- [\$2,500.00] grant to the Veterans Upward Bound Program at Truckee Meadows Community College -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or

educational purposes -- for the purpose of supporting educational and career success for U.S. military veterans. The program helps veterans prepare for favorable outcomes in college and other post-secondary education and training.

- [\$2,500.00] grant to The Salvation Army -- a nonprofit organization created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes -- to support its human trafficking survivor program. Through its comprehensive case management services, the program coordinates emergency shelter, transportation, clothing, food, victim advocacy and much more, taking a holistic approach to clients' needs to help them move from victimization to self-sufficiency.
- [\$2,500.00] grant to the Veterans Guest House -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- to support its mission of providing U.S. military service veterans and their families with caring support during times of medical need. Without the Veterans Guest House, many veterans would sleep in their cars or would not receive the medical care they need.
- [\$2,000.00] grant to the Center for Healthy Aging -- a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable or educational purposes -- for the purpose of supporting its intergenerational community garden site and indigenous food program, Teach Me To Grow Healthy. The center's Teach Me To Grow Healthy program emphasizes the importance of self-sufficiency for seniors to improve exercise, nutritional support, mental health, and more.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Sufficient FY23 budget authority exists within the Cost Center District 5 Constituents (C100105) and account Payments to other Agencies (710400). This action requests approval and distribution of a total of [\$72,000.00] to the following organizations.

Expense Disbursements are required as follows:

- Safe Embrace: \$20,000.00
- Vya Conservation District: \$10,000.00
- Washoe-Storey Conservation District: \$10,000.00
- Reno Air Racing Association: \$10,000.00
- Food Bank of Northern Nevada: \$5,000.00
- Our Story, Inc.: \$2,500.00
- Adopt-A-Vet Dental: \$2,500.00
- Truckee Meadows Community College Veterans Upward Bound: \$2,500.00
- The Salvation Army: \$2,500.00
- Veterans Guest House: \$2,500.00
- Center for Healthy Aging: \$2,000.00

Cross-functional and cross fund budget appropriation transfers are required as follows:

Description	Cost Object- G/L Account	Amount Increase/<Decrease>
District 5 Special Funding - Payments to Other Agencies	100105 - 710400	<\$2,500.00>
District 5 Special Funding - Transfer to Humane Services Agency Men's CrossRoads	100105 - 812023	\$2,500.00

Human Services Agency of Washoe County Men's CrossRoads – Transfer from General	223300 - 621001	<\$2,500.00>
Human Services Agency of Washoe County – Men's CrossRoads	223300 - 710312	\$2,500.00

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, in the amount of [\$72,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, to the following government entities and/or non-profit organizations created for religious, charitable, or educational purposes; District 5 Commissioner Jeanne Herman recommends the following:

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Further, approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds and net zero cross fund and/or cross function budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (Commission District 5.)

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"Move to approve the recommendation to approve Commission District Special Fund disbursement, pursuant to NRS 244.1505, in the amount of [\$72,000.00] for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, to the following government entities and/or non-profit organizations created for religious, charitable, or educational purposes; District 5 Commissioner Jeanne Herman recommends the following:*

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*Further, approve Resolutions necessary for same; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary disbursement of funds and net zero cross fund and/or cross function budget appropriation transfers."*