



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *December 16, 2025*

DATE: Thursday, December 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 a private grant from United Healthcare Health Plan of Nevada Medicaid Community Investment, in the amount of [\$48,800.00; no County match; including up to \$5,000.00 for participant gift cards] effective from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027 to support senior needs. Authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the grant and related documents; and direct the Finance Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.) **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

SUMMARY

Recommendation to accept a private grant from United Healthcare Health Plan of Nevada Medicaid Community Investment, in the amount of [\$48,800.00; no County match; including up to \$5,000.00 for participant gift cards] effective from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027 to support senior needs. Authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the grant and related documents; and direct the Finance Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

UnitedHealthcare Health Plan of Nevada Medicaid (UHC HPN) provides support through the Community Investment program to improve health outcomes in the local community and to help people live healthier lives. Priorities in Nevada aim to impact key outcomes and equity along the continuum of care in areas such as housing, access to care, health equity, and social drivers of health.

Washoe County Human Services Agency's Division of Senior Services will provide assistance to low-income or at-risk seniors through four major initiatives: support through

AGENDA ITEM # _____

pest remediation, relocation assistance to prevent displacement and homelessness, transportation to PEARLS programming and aftercare support, and social engagement activities.

Through pest remediation, needs extend beyond fumigation, and these needs can result in an unexpected burden for seniors living on a fixed income. This funding will provide support for ancillary needs that supplement fumigation services to ensure the health, safety, and housing stability of low-income seniors.

Often, seniors can be displaced from their homes or be required to move for various reasons, and even more frequently they may not have the resources or physical abilities to move their household. Funding from UHC HPN will allow Senior Services to provide assistance that supports low-income, disabled, or otherwise vulnerable seniors to safely relocate to stable housing, allowing these individuals to continue living independently and with dignity in the community setting.

The Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives (PEARLS) is an evidence-based intervention aimed at reducing depression and social isolation among older adults. The inclusive program is client-driven and empowers older adults to take action and make the necessary changes so that they can attain active and rewarding lives. PEARLS participants achieve an improved quality of life and a reduction in symptoms of depression. This grant will support transportation services with the intention of removing barriers to attendance and participation in the program.

Seniors have always been at risk of isolation which can have a negative impact on physical and mental health, and the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a shift towards increased isolation. Funding will support the expansion of educational, physical, and engagement-based activities that reduce isolation, promote mental well-being among older adults, and help seniors create new bonds, foster connections with others, and reduce depression and feelings of loneliness while increasing longevity and independence, prolonging overall wellness, and reducing the risk of chronic illness.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: UHC HPN Senior Support

Scope of the Project: This project will fund various needs for seniors, including support with pest remediation recovery, relocation assistance, transportation to Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives (PEARLS) programming and aftercare, and social engagement activities.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: This grant funding delivers support for housing safety and stability, behavioral health, health equity, and social drivers of health to seniors in Washoe County by providing services that address disparities in access to safe living environments, enhance social connections and emotional wellbeing, and help to maintain independence.

On-Going Program Support: N/A

Award Amount: \$48,800.00 (\$48,800.00 direct/\$0 indirect)

Grant Period: January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027

Funding Source: United Healthcare Health Plan of Nevada Medicaid
Community Investment

Pass Through Entity: N/A

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: N/A

Grant ID Number: N/A

Match Amount and Type: N/A

Sub-Awards and Contracts: The Agency follows County and federal grant procurement guidelines for subawards and contracts.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 Senior Services Fund 225, adopted budget will be increased by \$48,800.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 29081	- 484195	Non-Governmental Grants	\$ 48,800.00
		Total Revenue	\$ 48,800.00
IO 29081	- 710312	Special Dept Expense	\$ 4,800.00
	- 710313	Gift Cards	\$ 5,000.00
	- 710734	Residential Assistance	\$ 39,000.00
		Total Expenditures	\$ 48,800.00

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a private grant from United Healthcare Health Plan of Nevada Medicaid Community Investment, in the amount of [\$48,800.00; no County match; including up to \$5,000.00 for participant gift cards] effective from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027 to support senior needs. Authorize the Director of Human Services Agency to execute the grant and related documents; and direct the Finance Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"move to accept a private grant from United Healthcare Health Plan of Nevada Medicaid*

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