



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service
www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *January 23, 2024*

DATE: Thursday, January 18, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager
Office of the County Manager
genfield@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
kathomas@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the submission of the following grants to the State of Nevada Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for funding consideration: Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project, in the amount of \$594,300; and Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project, in the amount of \$740,000; priority ranking for the applications recommended as follows: Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project priority one, and Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project priority two; and if approved, authorize the Board of County Commissioners Chair to execute the documents concerning same. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

SUMMARY

The Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project and the Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project are eligible grant proposals seeking Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to provide a benefit to the residents of Washoe County and rural Nevada. A summary of the grant projects are provided below. Prior to submission to the State, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners must approve submission of the Washoe County proposals.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: *Economic Impacts*

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 18, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #12, submission of the following grants to the State of Nevada Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for COVID-19 funding consideration: Food Bank of Northern Nevada COVID Response, in the amount of \$174,300; and Washoe County

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Human Services Agency (WCHSA) - Rural COVID-19 Response for Seniors in the amount of \$11,747; priority ranking for the applications recommended as follows: FBNN priority one, and WCHSA priority two.

On December 13, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #9, submission of the following grants to the State of Nevada CDBG program for funding consideration: Gerlach Economic Development Plan, in the amount of \$120,000; and Nevada Small Business Development Center- Counseling and Training for Rural LMI Entrepreneurs and Small Business, in the amount of \$95,786; priority ranking for the applications recommended as follows: Gerlach Economic Development Plan priority one, and Nevada Small Business Development Center- Counseling and Training for Rural LMI Entrepreneurs and Small Business priority two.

On September 27, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #5D, submission of a grant for the Non-emergency Medical Transportation in Unincorporated Washoe County from Access to Health Care Network in the amount of [\$74,604] to the State of Nevada CDBG program for funding consideration in Round 2 of the FY17 funding cycle.

On December 8, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #6M, submission of the following grants to the State of Nevada CDBG program for funding consideration: Non-emergency Medical Transportation in Unincorporated Washoe County, in the amount of [\$267,298]; and Sun Valley Pool Repair and Play Features, in the amount of [\$493,500]; priority ranking for the applications recommended as follows: Non-emergency Medical Transportation in Unincorporated Washoe County priority one, and Sun Valley Pool Repair and Play Features priority two.

Washoe County has submitted grants for the State of Nevada CDBG program since 1982.

BACKGROUND

Washoe County is eligible to receive CDBG funds through the State of Nevada. The goal of the national CDBG Program is to develop viable communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities for persons of low to moderate income.

Since 2011, when the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) was created, the goal of the State of Nevada CDBG Program has been to closely align the CDBG program with the economic development goals of GOED. Additionally, with reductions in allocations from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) since 2010, HUD also urged states to focus on fewer eligible activities for greater impact. So, even though there are 16 eligible CDBG activities, states are able to focus on activities that are prioritized by state CDBG programs, and that also support the goals for the state. The state of Nevada has identified Economic Development as the State program priority. Projects not providing a determined economic benefit are not eligible to be submitted to the Nevada State CDBG program.

The State of Nevada CDBG Program utilizes an annual competitive process for the allocation of limited CDBG funds. Both the Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety

Improvements Project and the Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project have been determined eligible for the State of Nevada CDBG competition.

In order to solicit public participation and input from the community regarding Washoe County's grant submissions, staff held a CDBG Citizen Participation meeting on July 27, 2023, and a meeting to present potential projects on October 12, 2023. These public meetings were noticed at multiple County facilities, as well as via emails to County and community leaders. The public was invited to participate by providing ideas, comments and suggestions concerning potential projects; other items discussed included the grant application and selection process, past grant performance and status of existing CDBG grants, and potential projects for the 2024-2025 funding year. Notice of the meeting and application process was also provided to County departments and the General Improvement Districts in unincorporated Washoe County. A presentation was also provided to the Sun Valley General Improvement District board on August 10, 2023 and to the Gerlach Community Advisory Board on September 9, 2023.

The State of Nevada CDBG Program allows each eligible city and county to submit two standard applications from the jurisdiction, additionally, each eligible city and county may submit two sponsored applications for local non-profit or other governmental entities.

The selection process to determine the County's applications began with notice of the CDBG Citizen Participation meeting, and technical assistance to all interested parties, provided by the County's CDBG representative. Three applications were submitted to the CDBG program for eligibility review through the State of Nevada ZoomGrants electronic system. The Sun Valley Pool Rehabilitation Project was later rescinded by the applicant.

County Applications:

- Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project – submitted by the Community Services Department

County Sponsored Application:

- Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project – submitted by the Gerlach General Improvement District
- Sun Valley Pool Rehabilitation Project – submitted by the Sun Valley General Improvement District (rescinded by applicant)

All three applications received eligibility approval by the State CDBG program. It is recommended to the Board of County Commissioners that the two remaining projects, the Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project and the Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project applications be submitted to the State CDBG program for funding consideration.

The State CDBG Program also requires that the applications be ranked by priority. The priority ranking for the applications recommended is as follows: Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project priority one; and Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project priority two.

Washoe County – Community Services Department		
Priority #1	Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Improvements Safety Project	Approximately \$594,300
Description:	The goal of this project is to create safer and more accessible pedestrian access for students attending Esther Bennett Elementary School in Sun Valley. This project will improve pedestrian safety by connecting to existing sidewalk infrastructure. Other impacts include upgraded accessibility with ADA improvements including construction of new pedestrian ramps, signage and striping associated with crosswalks; improved drainage conveyance through concrete curb and gutter improvements, and improved pavement surface through construction of a slurry seal/wearing surface on the adjacent street.	

Gerlach General Improvement District (GGID)		
Priority #2	Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project	Approximately \$740,000
Description:	The goal of this project is to increase Gerlach’s wastewater capacity, which will allow for community growth in the form of new homes and businesses. Project components include repairs to the GGID wastewater treatment plant, purchase and installation of aerators and evaporation controls, and potential additional upgrades and enhancements based on recommendations from a separately-funded Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).	

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve the submission of the following grants to the State of Nevada Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for funding consideration: Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project, in the amount of \$594,300; and Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project, in the amount of \$740,000; priority ranking for the applications recommended as follows: Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project priority one, and Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project priority two; and if approved, authorize the Board of County Commissioners Chair to execute the documents concerning same.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board accept staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to approve the submission of the following grants to the State of Nevada Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for funding consideration: Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project, in the amount of \$594,300; and Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project, in the amount of \$740,000; priority ranking for the applications recommended as follows: Sidehill Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project priority one, and Gerlach Infrastructure Updates Project priority two; and if*

approved, authorize the Board of County Commissioners Chair to execute the documents concerning same.”