



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *December 14, 2021*

DATE: Thursday, December 09, 2021
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Dana Searcy, Housing & Homeless Services Manager
(775) 328-2720, dsearcy@washoecounty.gov
THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an amendment to subgrant of Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the United States Department of the Treasury to the Housing Authority of the City of Reno for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program; with an extended grant period from February 23, 2021 through September 30, 2022 (original term February 23, 2021 through December 31, 2021), and if approved, authorize the County Manager to execute the grant documents and authorize the County Manager to sign the amendment to the Sub Grant Agreement between Washoe County and the Housing Authority of the City of Reno. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

On February 18, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved a subgrant of Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the United States Department of the Treasury to the Housing Authority of the City of Reno in an amount not to exceed \$6,380,855 for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program, with a grant period from February 23, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

There will be remaining funds at the end of the grant period on December 31, 2021. It is recommended that the grant terms be extended to enable the Housing Authority of the City of Reno to continue to distribute Emergency Rental Assistance funds through September 30, 2022.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations, Stewardship of our Community

PREVIOUS ACTION

On February 18, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved a subgrant of Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the United States Department of the Treasury to the Housing Authority of the City of Reno in an amount not to exceed \$6,380,855 for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program, with a grant period from February 23, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On February 9, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners accepted an Emergency Rental Assistance allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of \$6,564,663.20.

BACKGROUND

In February 2021, Washoe County received Emergency Rental Assistance funds through The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 in the amount of \$6,564,663.20. The County subgranted an amount not to exceed \$6,380,855 to the Housing authority of the City of Reno for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program. The program assists qualifying households with emergency rental, both rental arrears and prospective rent, and utility payments to prevent evictions and increase housing stability for County residents who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

By the end of 2021, this program will have distributed over \$4 million in direct financial assistance to over 500 Washoe County households.

On March 26, 2021, the U.S. Department of the Treasury issued revised award terms for Emergency Rental Assistance Funds. The revised terms amended the end date of the term from December 31, 2021, to September 30, 2022. This change allows for the funds to be expended through September 30, 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact. This is an extension of term, and amendment to the sub-agreement, with no change in the subaward amount or budget for the award from Washoe County to the Housing Authority of the City of Reno.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve an amendment to subgrant of Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the United States Department of the Treasury to the Housing Authority of the City of Reno for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program; with an extended grant period from February 23, 2021 through September 30, 2022 (original term February 23, 2021 through December 31, 2021), and if approved, authorize the County Manager to execute the grant documents and authorize the County Manager to sign the amendment to the Sub Grant Agreement between Washoe County and the Housing Authority of the City of Reno.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to approve an amendment to subgrant of Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the United States Department of the Treasury to the Housing Authority of the City of Reno for the Washoe Housing Assistance for COVID Relief Program; with an extended grant period from February 23, 2021 through September 30, 2022 (original term February 23, 2021 through December 31, 2021), and if approved, authorize the County Manager to execute the grant documents and authorize the County Manager to sign the amendment to the Sub Grant Agreement between Washoe County and the Housing Authority of the City of Reno.”*