



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service  
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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *May 28, 2024*

**DATE:** April 29, 2024

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Jessica Adams-Lopes, Program Coordinator, Emergency Management  
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**THROUGH:** Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager  
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**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve a FFY 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant passed through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) from the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) awarding [\$44,000.00, no County match required], to conduct Annual Penetration Testing of Washoe County networks and systems. Grant term is retroactive from April 18, 2024, through November 30, 2025. If approved, authorize the County Manager or his designee to sign the grant award documents when received; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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### SUMMARY

This item recommends that the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (the board) approve a FFY 2022 DHS grant passed through the SLCGP from the NDEM for Annual Penetration Testing awarding [\$44,000.00, no County match required]; Grant term is retroactive to April 18, 2024, through November 30, 2025.

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) grant is used to fund cybersecurity efforts to improve resiliency across the nation. The State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management has received this grant for the first time, as this is the inaugural funding year.

This grant is retroactive due to the delay of the US Department of Homeland Security releasing the funds to the Nevada Division of Emergency Management.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Economic Impacts  
Support a thriving community.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program is new, and the board has not approved this grant before.

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

## **BACKGROUND**

This FFY 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) grant is a new initiative set forth by DHS. The potential consequences of cyber incidents threaten national security. Strengthening cybersecurity practices and resilience of state, local, and territorial (SLT) governments is an important homeland security mission and the primary focus of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The SLCGP enables DHS to make targeted cybersecurity investments in SLT government agencies, thus improving the security of critical infrastructure and improving the resilience of the services SLT governments provide their community.

The FFY 2022 SLCGP aligns with the 2020-2024 DHS Strategic Plan by helping DHS achieve Goal 3: Secure Cyberspace and Critical Infrastructure, Objective 3.3. Assess and Counter Evolving Cybersecurity Risks. The FFY 2022 SLCGP also supports the 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan which outlines a bold vision and three ambitious goals, including Goal 3: Promote and Sustain a Ready FEMA and Prepared Nation, Objective 3.2: Posture FEMA to meet current and emergent threats.

The Annual Penetration Testing project supports the Nevada Commission on Homeland Security priorities and goals. This project directly relates to Objective 2: Understand their current cybersecurity posture and areas for improvement based on continuous testing, evaluation, and structured assessments.

As a governmental organization, Washoe County must adhere and comply with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 603A.210. In this policy, it is stated that governmental organizations must “comply with the current version of the Center for Internet Security (CIS) Controls as published by the Center for Internet Security, Inc.” CIS Control 18 specifies establishing and performing annual penetration tests, as it is an imperative practice for an organization to ensure the resilience of various networks and systems, identify vulnerabilities and weaknesses, mitigate risks effectively, and to provide trust to employees and vendors. By conducting annual penetration testing, the county can simulate the actions of an attacker and learn to respond to various attack scenarios. Additionally, implementing this change would be advantageous for the county's rural communities, as conducting a penetration test would enhance the security of all network devices county-wide.

This grant requires no match.

## **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** *FFY 2022 SLCGP Annual Penetration Testing*

**Scope of the Project:** *The benefit of this funding is to source a vendor to conduct annual penetration testing that will simulate the actions of an attacker and Washoe County can learn to respond to various attack scenarios.*

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** *The benefit of this funding will be to improve resiliency to cyberattacks.*

**On-Going Program Support:** *If additional program support is needed past the enhancement phase, we will continue to seek grant funding.*

**Award Amount:** \$44,000.00

**Grant Period:** April 18, 2024, through November 30, 2025

**Funding Source:** Department of Homeland Security

**Pass Through Entity:** Nevada Division of Emergency Management

**Assistance Listing #/CFDA:** 97.137

**Grant ID Number:** N/A

**Match Amount and Type:** N/A

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** *Professional service contracts for the annual penetration testing will be procured using the County’s competitive bid process and federal grant procurement guidelines as required under 2 CFR 200.*

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY 24 Emergency Management adopted budget will be increased by \$44,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object</b>	<b>G/L Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Emergency Management – Federal Grant	12365 - 431100	\$44,000.00
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Emergency Management – Professional Services	12365 - 710100	\$44,000.00

Indirect costs are not allowable on this grant award as no salary, or wages are included in the grant budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve a FFY 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant passed through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) from the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) awarding [\$44,000.00, no County match required], to conduct annual penetration testing of Washoe County networks and systems. Grant term is retroactive from April 18, 2024, through November 30, 2025. If approved, authorize the

County Manager or his designee to sign the grant award documents when received; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:  
*“Move to approve the recommendation to approve a FFY 2022 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant passed through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) from the State of Nevada, Division of Emergency Management (NDEM) awarding [\$44,000.00, no County match required], to conduct annual penetration testing of Washoe County networks and systems. Grant term is retroactive from April 18, 2024, through September 30, 2025. If approved, authorize the County Manager or his designee to sign the grant award documents when received; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.”*