



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE: February 14, 2023

DATE: Friday, January 20, 2023

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) subgrant to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes-- in the amount of \$1,500,000 to support expanding access to childcare in Washoe County; and approve Resolution 23-17.

And, if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers and authorize the County Manager to sign necessary award documents. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

In partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, Washoe County will expand access to childcare in our region and provide a dedicated number of childcare slots accessible for county employees and foster parents. The initiative will provide an additional 210 childcare spots in the community. Increasing access to childcare is essential for a healthy economy as it allows parents of children to engage fully in the labor force.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Economic Impact, Vulnerable Populations, Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

On December 20, 2022, The Board approved an award increase of \$3,150,000 Project #2 Washoe County Cares Campus Capital to increase the total amount of award to \$24,618,706. The additional funds will be used for a portion of the funding for Phase III of the Cares campus expansion. The Board also approved funds to be used to purchase the Real Property at 1240 E. 9th Street, Reno, NV in the amount of \$4,800,000 for the purpose of Washoe County use to provide behavioral health services.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On December 13, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the following projects: An amended allocation for Public Defender Staffing in a total amount of \$2,826,746, an award increase of \$1,585,892; an allocation to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) in the amount of \$2,060,000; an allocation to Washoe County Human Resources Organizational Effectiveness Division in the amount of \$500,000 to support a County-wide Civil Rights and Equity Engagement to support the County in compliance with federal, state, and local accessibility laws; and Subgrants to non-profit organizations of ARPA-SLFRF through the Washoe County Community Reinvestment Grant Program in the amount of \$3,360,078.00 for the following 11 subgrants, to the following organizations: Note-Able Music Therapy Services in the amount of \$255,506; Food Bank of Northern Nevada – Community Solutions to Hunger Relief and Food Insecurity in Northern Nevada in the amount of \$110,550; Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada – Workforce Development Program in the amount of \$483, Domestic Violence Resource Center in the amount of \$97,130; Nevada Legal Services – Holistic Law Project for Homeless and Low-income Residents of Washoe County; Communities In Schools of Nevada – Integrated Student Supports in Washoe County in the amount of \$740; High Sierra Area Health Education Center in the amount of \$323,750; The Life Change Center in the amount of \$568,042; ReDirect Youth Outreach; The Empowerment Center in recovery; Northern Nevada Literacy in the amount of \$345,485.

For Board of County Commissioner actions related to the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds prior to December 13, 2022, visit the [Washoe ARPA webpage](#).

BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law, and established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Washoe County has been awarded a grant of \$91,587,038 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The SLFRF provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Eligible Uses

As a recipient of an SLFRF award, Washoe County has substantial discretion to use the award funds in the ways that best suit the needs of county constituents – as long as such use fits into one of the following four statutory categories:

1. To respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts;
2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the recipient that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
3. For the provision of government services, to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such recipient due to the COVID–19 public health emergency, relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the recipient prior to the emergency; or
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Access to childcare is essential to a healthy economy as it allows parents of children to engage in the labor force. Without care, parents often must make the difficult decision to cut back hours or leave the labor force altogether. According to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation study, 58% of working parents reported leaving work because they were unable to find childcare solutions that met their needs, and 32% of women cited the need to be home to care for family members as a barrier to returning to work.

Parents and foster parents in Washoe County face this issue since the number of preschool children in the area outnumbers the licensed childcare centers by three to one. Washoe County currently has 90 childcare centers and 95 homes approved to serve approximately 10,000 preschool children. Meanwhile, the U.S. Census Bureau's 2021 statistics estimate about 28,000 children in our area are under the age of five and there approximately 100,000 minors in Washoe County. Since the demand for space in licensed child-care programs far outpaces Washoe County's capacity, the area is now considered a childcare desert. The Human Services Agency has seen firsthand how the lack of childcare facilities affects families, both for our employees and especially for our foster families – many of whom have been unable to continue serving as a foster home due to the lack of childcare resources. The waitlist at childcare centers in the community currently averaging 18 months to gain access, and the cost for childcare is, on average, greater than \$800 per month.

New ARPA-SLFRF Award:

Office of the County Manager – Boys and Girls Club			
Project #69	Childcare Expansion	\$1,500,000	Recommend Approval
Description:	Washoe County will award funding to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows (BGCTM) to provide an additional 210 childcare spots in the community as part of a larger public-private partnership to expand childcare. A portion of these slots (100) will be held in reserve for five years, for Washoe County employees and foster parents, which will provide a critical resource to attract, retain, and stabilize employment and foster services in the County. The award will allow for BGCTM to renovate and furnish the new space to provide childcare services.		
Positions:	None		
Category:	2.11: Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board approve projects as submitted, the FY23 SLFRF COVID Recovery Fund (Fund 270, Fund Center 270-8) budgets will be adjusted with the following cross-functional net-zero appropriation transfers:

Project #69: Childcare Expansion

Fund/Function	Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
	Revenue:		
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF - General Government	431100-Federal Grants	(\$1,500,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Welfare	IO12143 HSA-BGC-Childcare	431100-Federal Grants	\$1,500,000
	Expenditures:		
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF - General Government	710500-Other Expense	(\$1,500,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Welfare	IO12143 HSA-BGC-Childcare	710119-Subrecipient Payments	\$1,500,000

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) subgrant to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes-- in the amount of \$1,500,000 to support expanding access to childcare in Washoe County; and approve Resolution 23-17.

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POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to approve allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) subgrant to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes-- in the amount of \$1,500,000 to support expanding access to childcare in Washoe County; and approve Resolution 23-17.*

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