



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *January 20, 2026*

DATE: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

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 the 2025-2026 LifeSet Implementing Partner Incentive Program from Youth Villages, Inc., a private foundation, as an Award Amendment in the amount of [\$24,500.00; no county match] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through November 30, 2027 to reinvest the funds into the LifeSet program by maintaining quality staff services and supports for participating youth; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the funding agreement; and direct the Finance office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.) **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

SUMMARY

Recommendation to accept the 2025-2026 LifeSet Implementing Partner Incentive Program funding from Youth Villages, Inc., a private foundation, as an Award Amendment in the amount of [\$24,500.00; no county match] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through November 30, 2027 to reinvest the funds into the LifeSet program by maintaining quality staff services and supports for participating youth; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the funding agreement; and direct the Finance office to make the necessary budget amendments.

Youth Villages, Inc. approved the Agency's LifeSet program to participate in the 2025-2026 Implementing Partner Incentive Program to help the Agency's LifeSet program achieve milestones. The timeframe allotted for earning the incentive funding began July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The Human Services Agency's LifeSet program is eligible to earn up to \$24,000.00 through June 30, 2026 by achieving 110% of the Average Daily Census expectations of the LifeSet program monthly. The Agency's LifeSet program additionally can participate in Staff Support Incentives when an existing staff member is replaced, retained, and applicable criteria are met to earn \$500. The Incentive Program funding is intended to assist with staff recruitment and retention activities and maintain quality services for participating youth. Earned funding is to be reinvested in program activities as funding is earned and received.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 22, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners approved item #14, the Department's request to authorize the implementation of the LifeSet Program by Human Services Agency's Independent Living Program and acceptance of a grant award from Youth Villages, Inc. in the amount of [\$1,288,783.00; \$2,836,528.00 county match] for a four (4) year award period retroactive from June 1, 2023 through November 30, 2027.

On September 9, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners approved item # 8.A.1., the Department's request to approve an Award Amendment in the amount of [\$9,000.00; no county match] for the 2024-2025 Implementing Partner Incentive Program for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Youth Villages' mission is to help children, young adults, and their families find long-term success and have been in operation for 35 years serving youth and families. LifeSet is an established Youth Villages program designed to help young people in and aging out of child welfare, juvenile justice, or children's mental health systems accomplish successful independent adulthood and achieve positive outcomes. The evidence-based model program outcomes include the domains of permanent relationships, employment and earnings, housing stability, mental and emotional health, economic well-being, reduced legal involvement, and education. The youth drive services through their input into their service plans and goal development. The LifeSet core areas of service include establishing positive relationships and connections, education, employment housing, independent living skills, physical and mental health, expectant and/or parenting if applicable, safety planning and crisis intervention, trauma-informed care, and continuous assessment and planning.

The Agency began enrolling eligible youth in the LifeSet Program November 2023 through the Independent Living Program that provides youth aging or aged out of foster care with individualized services as they transition to adulthood successfully. November 2023 had 12 youth participating and by June 2025 there were 33 youth participating.

The Agency's LifeSet program would like to use the 2025-2026 Implementing Partner Incentive Program funding for staff training and provide direct assistance for wraparound services for participating youth. Staff retention and training are crucial as the program engages intensive case management services and staff provide positive relations for the youth. Wraparound services for youth support expenses such as transportation assistance, basic needs, mental health vouchers, identification cards, educational activities, etc.

The Agency received the Notice of Subaward for this subgrant on October 24, 2025 with an effective date of July 1, 2025; therefore, the request to accept this award is retroactive.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Youth Villages LifeSet Program

Scope of the Project: Reinvest, as funding is earned, in the LifeSet program that helps youth aging out of foster care accomplish a successful transition to adulthood and achieve positive outcomes in education, a living wage, healthy relationships, and housing.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: This program provides a structured and evidence-based program that supports services for youth in the foster care system to successfully transition to adulthood and independence and receive the adequate support from staff necessary to succeed.

On-Going Program Support: The program will be integrated into the Independent Living Program.

Award Amount: \$24,500.00; no indirect

Grant Period: July 1, 2025 to November 30, 2027

Funding Source: Youth Villages, Inc. Private Foundation

Pass Through Entity: N/A

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: N/A

Grant ID Number: N/A

Match Amount and Type: No match required

Sub-Awards and Contracts: The Agency will follow the 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 Children Services Fund (228) budget will be increased by \$24,500.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts.

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Description</u>		<u>Amount of Increase/(Decrease)</u>
IO 29044	-484195	Non-Gov't Grants	\$	24,500.00
		Total Revenue	\$	24,500.00
IO 29044	-710312	Special Dept Expense	\$	3,000.00
	-710503	Licenses & Permits	\$	500.00
	-710712	Family Preservation	\$	1,000.00
	-710729	Mental Health Assess	\$	4,000.00
	-710734	Residence Assistance	\$	8,000.00
	-711210	Travel	\$	8,000.00
		Total Expenditures	\$	24,500.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to accept the 2025-2026 LifeSet Implementing Partner Incentive Program from Youth Villages, Inc., a private foundation, as an Award Amendment in the amount of [\$24,500.00; no county match] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through November 30, 2027 to reinvest the funds into the LifeSet program by maintaining quality staff services and supports for participating youth; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the funding agreement; and direct the Finance office to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board accept staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

"Recommendation to accept the 2025-2026 LifeSet Implementing Partner Incentive Program from Youth Villages, Inc., a private foundation, as an Award Amendment in the amount of [\$24,500.00; no county match] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through November 30, 2027 to reinvest the funds into the LifeSet program by maintaining quality staff services and supports for participating youth; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to retroactively execute the funding agreement; and direct the Finance office to make the necessary budget amendments."