

Washoe County CARES Campus

TRANSFORMING
its results by
TRANSFERRING
its operation to a
non-profit coalition of local churches.

A proposal by Education Crusade, LLC
April, 2026



**EXPOSING THE TRUTH
PROVIDING PROVEN SOLUTIONS
DEMANDING COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP**

About Education Crusade, LLC

educationcrusade.org

Education Crusade is a local organization with 3 main goals.

- **EXPOSE the Truth:** About Washoe County's and Nevada's dysfunctional, morally broken, socially dangerous, and fiscally irresponsible schools and government.
 - **PROVIDE Solutions**
 - **DEMAND Courageous and Competent Leadership**
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About the Author -

Since 1973, Education Crusade founder Paul D. White, has successfully transformed homeless/vagrant individuals, parolees, and programs in Detroit, Los Angeles County's Skid Row and San Fernando Valley, Ventura County, and Reno. The foundation of White's programs is: non-negotiable clean/sober living, employment, socially acceptable behavior, community service, personal accountability, and Bible-based moral/spiritual instruction.

*"If you always **do** what you've always **done**,
You'll always **get** what you've always **got**."
(F.X. Trujillo)*

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I. Overview

The Washoe County CARES and pre-CARES Campus homeless facilities have been severely troubled since their inception.

Lack of honesty and transparency on the County's part have misled the public for years, with statements like the following from the CARES Campus website.

The Nevada Cares Campus, operated by the Washoe County Human Services Agency (HSA), provides a welcoming and supportive environment for individuals experiencing homelessness.

https://washoecounty.gov/homeless/shelter_and_services/cares_campus/index.php

Reality Check:

For years, documented media reports have exposed that claim as a complete lie.

The reported facts consistently describe a drastically different picture of the CARES program that includes:

- Violent, dangerous dysfunction
 - Out of control drug/alcohol abuse and theft
 - Complete lack of meaningful client results
 - Tens of millions of dollars of wasted taxpayer funding.
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II. CARES CAMPUS: On the Record

Following are quotations from local media sources.

2019: "For the record, (the pre-CARES homeless shelter) is not safe; it's dangerous. *We need to do something drastic - not today but yesterday.*"

The Director of pre-CARES Homeless Shelter, speaking to County Homeless Advisory Board - CHAB)

<https://www.rgj.com/story/news/2019/04/01/reno-shelter-director-by-no-means-would-ever-call-place-safe/3335417002/>

2021: "*The CARES Campus is unsafe... and the provider is unable to do much more than deescalate conflicts and keep track of who is using the facility.*"

National homeless consultant John Carmine speaking to CHAB about the newly-opened CARES Campus.

<https://thisisreno.com/2021/11/report-cares-campus-unsafe-understaffed-and-has-no-housing-plan/>

2024 - 2026: "*CARES Campus employees are being faced with fights, attacks, theft, dangerous drugs, bodily waste and fentanyl residue.*"

(Multiple CARES Campus employees)

<https://thisisreno.com/2024/08/county-employees-say-their-safety-is-threatened-at-cares-campus-homeless-shelter/>

2024 - 2026: "*The Washoe County CARES Campus is a top-to-bottom fraud and failure. Every year: CARES Campus spends more money to reduce homelessness, produces less results, and continues to hide these facts from the community.*"

(The Nevada Globe)

<https://thenevadaglobe.com/articles/opinion-the-washoe-county-cares-campus-is-a-top-to-bottom-fraud-and-failure> 08/24

III. Has the CARES Program Reduced Washoe's Homeless/Vagrant Population?

NO.

The statistics tell the story.

- In 2017, the county's homeless population was 80.
- From 2017 to 2024, while Washoe's **general** population increased by only 14%, the **homeless** population increased by over 2,000% (from 80 to 1,800).
- **If this trajectory continues, Washoe County's projected homeless population in 2031 will be 36,000.**

KEY POINT

There are NO accurate figures for Washoe's 2025 homeless population growth - which was huge.

To hide this out-of-control increase from the public, the county chose not to collect homeless data using the federally prescribed Point-in-Time method. Instead, they created a "new counting method" that they said would be more accurate. It was not.

IV. The Truth About CARES ' Homeless/Vagrant Clients: It's *Not* What You've Been Told

Originally, the CARES program was created to help those in need help themselves. Its goal was to provide only *local* community members with short-term support.

Today, CARES attracts hundreds of homeless/vagrant clients from across the nation, most of whom are not from Reno. Over 85% of them are NOT willing to change the self-destructive lifestyles that created their present situations.

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- ◆ Initially, CARES was designed for clients to remain there for a maximum **of 30-to-60 days.**
 - ◆ They would receive help in creating personal progress plans, and then move on to independent living.
 - ◆ Some current clients have lived at CARES **for 4-to-5 years.**
 - ◆ A growing number of these individuals are looking to find ways to live in the CARES programs for the rest of their lives, because of the following.
 - ◆ Unlimited free clothing, housing, food, and maid service.
 - ◆ No requirement to have a job or attend self-help classes.
 - ◆ No limits on drug/alcohol use and no behavioral accountability.
 - ◆ The CARES staff's high tolerance for daily theft and violence.
 - ◆ Law enforcement is kept off the campus as much as possible, and local courts prosecute homeless crime with unethical weakness.

V. Many Years, Thousands of Clients, and Millions of Dollars Later: ZERO "Success" Stories

"Success" being defined as even ONE previous client who is:

- *Working a full-time unsubsidized job*
 - *Living in unsubsidized housing*
 - *Completely clean-and-sober.*
- CARES has increased Washoe's homeless/vagrant population.
 - CARES has increased Washoe County crime.
 - CARES has turned downtown Reno into a dangerous slum.
 - CARES costs taxpayers over \$15 million each year.

CARES has created a permanent and growing sub-population of taxpayer-subsidized, parasitic grifters.

While less than 1% of our population, this group is responsible for a disproportionate amount of all Washoe crime, utilizes almost a majority of emergency and social services, and makes little effort to utilize the abundance of available resources to improve their lives.

CARES primary accomplishment has been creating steady employment for numerous bureaucrats and private contractors.

VI. Washoe County's Government Has Essentially Given Up

The CARES program is such a failure, that Washoe County's government has essentially given up on getting the epidemic growth of homeless vagrants under control.

The county government has settled into the following pattern for dealing with the CARES Campus dilemma.

- ◆ Staff and Commissioners **claim** ignorance of CARES' years-long dysfunction.
- ◆ They **deny** the public any meaningful or unannounced access to the CARES site.
- ◆ They repeatedly **mislead** the public with false information, manipulated statistics, and hidden financial records.

The time has come for Washoe County Commissioners to courageously confront the seriousness of the CARES program situation and make the following proposed changes.

VII. The Solution

The questions and answers below outline the needed new direction for the CARES campus.

1) Is Washoe County REQUIRED to operate any kind of homeless program?

NO.

Nevada law does not require *any* city or county to operate homeless facilities. To discontinue the CARES program would save the county tens of millions of dollars annually.

2) Why has the CARES program failed?

Because its clients are NOT required to follow ANY of the 8 requirements that every successful homeless program enforces.

8 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESS

1. No alcohol, drugs, or medication that's not doctor-required.
2. Steady, paid employment.
3. 24/7 supervision: no wandering on-and-off the program site.
4. NO tolerance for disrespectful or violent behavior.
5. Daily participation in a Bible-based activity that teaches moral values, spiritual growth, and the development of personal plans for self-sufficient living.
6. All clients work to clean and maintain the facility
7. Clients contribute any income to pay for their shelter and food.
8. A strictly enforced maximum stay limit.

VII. The Solution

3) *Why DOESN'T the CARES program require any of the 8 components that could have made it successful?*

- ◆ Because CARES' "low barrier" federal funding prohibits enforcing *any* of these requirements on its clients.
- ◆ Because the people and organizations running CARES do not fully believe in these requirements, and have proven unwilling or unable to enforce them.

4) *Is the CARES Program Fix-able?*

FIX-ABLE? NO, for the reasons listed throughout this report.

REPLACEABLE? Yes, by implementing the proposal below.

5) *What is Education Crusade's Solution?*

EDUCATION CRUSADE'S SOLUTION

1. Have the County cease ALL operation of the present CARES Program.
2. Discontinue ALL contracts and employment of individuals and organizations connected with CARES' operation.
3. Sever all connections with funding sources that would not allow the recipient program to implement the program components previously described.
4. Have **Washoe County Government completely remove itself from the CARES Program operation**, and deed-over the CARES Campus to a non-profit coalition of local churches.
5. The Board of this non-profit organization would become responsible for funding and operating a new, completely private homeless program, that operated on the 8 principles previously listed.

VII. The Solution

6) How would this privately-operated homeless program be funded?

Through private grants, donations, fundraising, client fees, and establishing in-house businesses that provide clients paid work experience while helping fund the program.

7) What would be the first noticeable change if CARES was transformed into an accountable homeless program, run by local churches in the way previously described?

*Beginning immediately, CARES' homeless population would decrease by **60-to-70%** within the first few weeks, and continue to drop.*

CARES' programs stay full ONLY because clients are allowed and supported in continuing the same unproductive lifestyles that created their homelessness.

IF CARES clients were required to follow the 8 requirements or leave the facility and

IF local law enforcement actually enforced the law against illegal street camping, most of Washoe County's homeless/vagrant population would quickly self-deport.

They would simply move to other communities who also refuse to MAKE them do the right thing . . . similar to what Washoe County has been doing for too many years.

For further questions or more details regarding this proposal, or to request a presentation:

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