



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 19, 2025

DATE: Thursday, August 14, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Chesa Flickinger, Sergeant, Department of Alternative Sentencing
(775) 484-6569; cflickinger@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Acting County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept the Fund for a Resilient Nevada Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office for the amount not to exceed [\$310,536.00; no County match required] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 to be used to fund treatment and recovery support services for participants of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include transitional and permanent supportive living recovery housing, medical services gaps, and bus passes for participant transportation, approve Resolution necessary for same; and if approved authorize Connie Lucido, County Grants Administrator to execute grant award documents on behalf of DAS; and direct Fiscal to make the necessary budget amendments. Alternative Sentencing. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Washoe County Board of County Commissioners are requested to approve funding received from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office in continued support of the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) program. The award will be used to fund treatment and recovery support services for probationers and pre-trial releasees under the supervision of DAS enrolled in the STAR program through contracted partnerships for a third and fourth year.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 20, 2024 the Board accepted Item #10.B.1., the Fund for a Resilient Nevada Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office for the amount not to exceed [\$188,300.00; no County match required] retroactive to June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 to be used to fund treatment and recovery support services

AGENDA ITEM # _____

for participants of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include leasing a recovery house including a live-in house manager, covering the cost of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, and bus passes for participant transportation; authorize a subgrant agreement for housing services between Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing and Life Changes, Inc. in an amount not to exceed [\$90,078.00], approve Resolution necessary for same.

On August 15, 2023, the Board accepted Item #5B1, the Fund for a Resilient Nevada Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office for the amount not to exceed [\$182,560.00; no County match required] retroactive to June 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 to be used to fund treatment and recovery support services for participants of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include leasing a recovery house including a live-in house manager, covering the cost of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, and bus passes for participant transportation; authorize a subgrant agreement for housing services between Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing and Life Changes, Inc. in an amount not to exceed [\$90,078.00], approve Resolution necessary for same.

BACKGROUND

The Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery program initiative was implemented in October 2022 in an effort to provide probationers and pretrial releasees supervised by the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) with the wrap-around support necessary to successfully address foundational causes of opioid use disorder, as well as underlying criminogenic behaviors.

Since inception, the STAR program team has made 97 referrals to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, conducted 545 counseling sessions, 291 journaling sessions, 587 home visits, 764 general office/field visits, over 1,000 case management contacts, and over 3,700 peer recovery support specialist contacts. DAS received 447 referrals to the STAR program since its launch in October 2022 and has carried a full caseload of 25-30 participants since March 2023. The STAR team made 350 other referrals to STAR participants for treatment, recovery, education, employment, transportation, and medical services. While the STAR team aims to assist its participants in overcoming barriers to successful recovery, public safety remains a core tenant of the programmatic model as an extension of the overall mission of DAS. Since STAR's inception, 28 violation arrests were completed among a total of 121 people enrolled. Data for drug testing results since the launch of STAR shows an average of 88% in overall participant compliance with required testing, and an average of 22% in positive drug test results for individuals engaged in the STAR program. 278 journals were distributed to participants since STAR began. Preliminary pre-test/post-test data for interactive journaling with STAR participants shows a 29% increase in understanding journal content.

DAS is committed to expanding the number of services available to its STAR participants. DAS has secured additional funding through the DHHS Director's Office, Fund for a Resilient Nevada, which are State opioid funds being collected as a result of litigation, to address barriers to recovery success including transportation, safe and sober housing, and assistance with the cost of primary medical coverage during gaps between Medicaid and private insurance.

Through a service agreement with Life Changes, Inc., DAS will continue to lease a transitional recovery house for the exclusive use of STAR participants for another two years. The service agreement also includes provision for a live-in house manager who will be assigned to the STAR team. This safe, sober living house will be occupied by STAR participants who are in between leaving structured residential programming and finding permanent housing.

Through a sole-source agreement with Marvel Way Apartments, DAS will provide furnished apartments and one year of rent in supportive permanent housing to up to four (4) STAR participants.

Reason for retroactive submittal: Item was submitted to the first available BCC meeting once paperwork was received and processed.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: FRN STAR Program Expansion FY26 & FY27

Scope of the Project: Treatment and recovery support services for STAR participants who struggle with opioid use disorder and criminogenic behaviors within the population served by DAS.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: The STAR program continues to take an active role in addressing root-causes related to opioid use disorder and underlying criminal behaviors as they relate to individuals residing in Washoe County. The implementation of the STAR program has become a significant component in mending the damage done by the opioid epidemic as it relates to the residents of Washoe County.

On-Going Program Support: 2 year grant period. We will continue to apply for funding and donations, as available, to continue these expansion services for STAR participants.

Award Amount: Total \$310,536.00

Grant Period: 07/1/2025-06/30/2027

Funding Source: Fund for a Resilient Nevada

Pass through From: Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office

CFDA Number: N/A

Grant ID Number: DO 1577

Match Amount and Type: None

Sub-Awards and Contracts:

Life Changes, Inc.: Service Agreement with Life Changes, Inc. for the amount not to exceed \$90,078.00 annually. Life Changes will be providing the lease to the recovery house at the cost of \$4,000 per month for a total cost of \$48,000 over each one-year grant period. This amount includes the cost of 5 beds at \$800 per month which includes all utilities and internet. Additionally, Life Changes will be recruiting, hiring, and training a live-in house manager with duties exclusive to STAR program participants, at the total cost of \$42,078.00 over each one-year grant period, which represents \$17/hour plus fringe (payroll taxes, etc.).

Marvel Way Apartments: Marvel Way is the only provider of supportive permanent housing in Washoe County for people with substance use disorder. Marvel Way will be providing supportive permanent sober housing to up to four (4) STAR program participants to increase participant recovery capital. In FY25 a Service Contract was executed with The Empowerment Center who owns the Marvel Way Sober Living apartment complex. The service contract includes 4 one year renewals that must include negotiated rates for the current fiscal year. The renewals are also only available upon adequate grant funding.

STAR Video Update: DAS will be contracting with the original production company to update the STAR video. The anticipated cost of this contract is \$7,000.00 for the video refresh services.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing adopted budget will be increased by \$310,536.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO 12571 – State Grants	432100 – FRN STAR FY26&FY27 - State Grants	\$ 310,536.00
IO 12571 – FRN STAR FY26&FY27	710100 - Professional Services	\$ 305,400.00
IO 12571 – FRN STAR FY26&FY27	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$ 3,480.00
IO 12571 – FRN STAR FY26&FY27	710312 – Special Dept Expense (<i>bus passes</i>)	\$ 1,656.00

- No match required
- Indirect costs are not included in the grant budget to allow for all grant funds to be used for programming.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept the Fund for a Resilient Nevada Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office for the amount not to exceed [\$310,536.00; no County match required] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 to be used to fund treatment and recovery support services for participants of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include transitional and permanent supportive living recovery housing, medical services gaps, and bus passes for participant transportation, approve Resolution necessary for same; and if approved authorize Connie Lucido, County Grants Administrator to execute grant award documents on behalf of DAS; and direct Fiscal to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to accept the Fund for a Resilient Nevada Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Director's Office for the amount not to exceed [\$310,536.00; no County match required] retroactive to July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 to be used to fund treatment and recovery support services for participants of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, to include transitional and permanent supportive living recovery housing, medical services gaps, and bus passes for participant transportation, approve Resolution necessary for same; and if approved authorize Connie Lucido, County Grants Administrator to execute grant award documents on behalf of DAS; and direct Fiscal to make the necessary budget amendments."