



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 13, 2026

DATE: Thursday, November 20, 2025
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Sonia Butler, Sergeant, Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team
775-328-3350, sbutler@washoecounty.gov
THROUGH: Darin Balaam, Sheriff
SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept a fiscal year 2026 Nell J. Redfield Foundation grant award [amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, \$10,000.00 County match required] as administered from the Nell J. Redfield Foundation, for costs associated with the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team's Clean Path Initiative Program for the retroactive grant period of September 4, 2025 through September 3, 2028; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. Sheriff. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

This item is presented seeking approval to accept the grant award from the Nell J. Redfield Foundation.

Per County policy, the Washoe Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards and must approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.

This grant has been awarded to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and seeks to implement the HOPE Clean Path Initiative Program. This program will provide food and water as incentives to secure accelerated housing for the homeless population, improve safety and cleanliness for local residents, and reduce rural waste. The HOPE Team provides a unique approach to supporting the unhoused population by focusing on supportive services and resources while trying to divert individuals away from crime and arrests, therefore reducing burden on the criminal justice system.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations: Support vulnerable populations with a regional approach

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action has been taken as this is the first time the Nell J. Redfield Foundation has awarded a grant to the Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

BACKGROUND

This grant will pay for equipment and supply costs incurred for the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team's Clean Path Initiative.

The HOPE Clean Path Initiative engages homeless individuals in rural Washoe County encampments and incentivizes cooperation with case managers to secure housing. The program provides participants with food and water in exchange for maintaining clean sites and completing tasks toward reaching secure housing, thereby reducing illegal activities such as dumping, camping, and trespassing. Water and food meet survival needs, so these incentives encourage engagement among the unsheltered population and reduce survival-driven crimes.

Anticipated outcomes of the HOPE Clean Path Initiative include improved safety and cleanliness for local residents, reduced rural waste, and accelerated housing for the homeless population. The program also aims to foster a culture of accountability among the unhoused population, tying resources to clean sites, housing progress, and location updates.

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

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: *FY26 Redfield Foundation HOPE Clean Path Initiative*
Scope of the Project: *Provide participants of the HOPE Clean Path Initiative Program with food and water in exchange for maintaining clean sites and completing tasks toward reaching secure housing.*

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: *Improved safety and cleanliness for local residents, reduced rural waste, and accelerated housing for the homeless population.*

On-Going Program Support: *N/A*

Award Amount: *\$25,000.00*

Grant Period: *09/04/2025 – 09/03/2028*

Funding Source: *Nell J. Redfield Foundation*

Pass Through Entity: *N/A*

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: *N/A*

Grant ID Number: *N/A*

Match Amount and Type: *\$10,000.00 cash*

Sub-Awards and Contracts: *None*

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 Washoe County Sheriff's Office adopted budget will be increased by \$25,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO 29082 – FY26 Redfield Foundation HOPE	484195 – Non-Govt'l Grants	\$25,000.00
IO 29082 – FY26 Redfield Foundation HOPE	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$13,139.05
IO 29082 – FY26 Redfield Foundation HOPE	710504 – Equipment NonCap	\$4,822.95
IO 29082 – FY26 Redfield Foundation HOPE	711507 – Vehicles NonCap	\$7,038.00

- \$10,000.00 cash match required, per the grantor's request this will be fulfilled over the next year with a new donation from an additional partner
- Indirect costs are not allowable on this grant award

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept a fiscal year 2026 Nell J. Redfield Foundation grant award [amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, \$10,000.00 County match required] as administered from the Nell J. Redfield Foundation, for costs associated with the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team's Clean Path Initiative Program for the retroactive grant period of September 4, 2025 through September 3, 2028; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "move to accept a fiscal year 2026 Nell J. Redfield Foundation grant award [amount not to exceed \$25,000.00, \$10,000.00 County match required] as administered from the Nell J. Redfield Foundation, for costs associated with the Homeless Outreach Proactive Engagement (HOPE) Team's Clean Path Initiative Program for the retroactive grant period of September 4, 2025 through September 3, 2028; authorize the Sheriff to retroactively execute the award document; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments."