



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 8, 2025

DATE: Tuesday, June 6, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Ryan Gustafson, Director, Human Services Agency
(775) 785-8600, RGustafson@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept five (5) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in an amount not to exceed [\$1,417,200; no county match] with an initial term of twenty years, subject to funding availability, and upon approval of inspection, to support veterans seeking housing support with rental assistance with Veteran's Affairs case management and supportive services at the Nevada Cares Campus, Permanent Supportive Housing building; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute grant award documents; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.) **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

SUMMARY

Human Services Agency requests acceptance of five (5) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in an amount not to exceed [\$1,417,200; no county match] with an initial term of twenty years, subject to funding availability, and upon approval of inspection, to support veterans seeking housing support with rental assistance with Veteran's Affairs case management and supportive services at the Nevada Cares Campus, Permanent Supportive Housing building; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute grant award documents; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 22, 2023, the Board approved item 17 the Department's request to accept the Home Means Nevada Initiative Funds grant from the State of Nevada Department of Business & Industry Housing Division to be used for the construction of a 50-unit project providing Supportive Housing on the Nevada Cares Campus; in the amount of [\$21,900,000.00, no county match] with funds required to be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

On January 13, 2021, direction was provided by the Board to include pursuing an expanded role in addressing the regional issue of homelessness in the Strategic Plan.

On November 18, 2020, the parties entered into an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Shelter Operation and Other Homeless Services Among the City of Reno, Washoe County and the City of Sparks which established duties, roles and responsibilities of the parties in regard to the provision of services to the homeless in the Cities and County, including Washoe County Commission Meeting of August 22, 2023 agreeing to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4th Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness.

BACKGROUND

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the US Department of the Treasury allocated \$350 Billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) directly to States, U.S. Territories, local governments, and Indian tribes to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The State of Nevada received \$2,738,837,228.70 and committed \$500,000,000.00 of this allocation to addressing affordable housing needs through the Home Means Nevada Initiative administered by the Nevada Housing Division.

As part of its ongoing commitment to expand and improve homeless services in the region, including at the Nevada Cares Campus, Washoe County was awarded a Home Means Nevada Initiative grant to build an affordable 50-unit supportive housing building in the community. Supportive housing combines affordable housing with services for homeless households who face complex medical, mental health and/or substance use issues that are co-occurring. Supportive housing is an innovative and cost-effective approach to addressing chronic homelessness. The 50-unit project was completed in April of 2025.

Upon receipt of a certificate of completion, Washoe County requested 5 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – Veterans Assistance Supportive Housing (VASH) project-based vouchers to help homeless Veterans and their families obtain permanent housing and access the health care, mental health treatment, and other supports necessary to help them improve their quality of life and maintain housing over time. Reno Housing Authority awarded the requested vouchers on May 14, 2025. These vouchers provide rental assistance up to Fair Market Value for the units and will assist veterans with affordable housing. This in turn secures stable rent for those units which assists to meet the project's overall operational needs.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)

Scope of the Project: Funding to assist with providing rental assistance with Veteran's Affairs case management and supportive services for veterans seeking housing support.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: This project helps to address the severe lack of supportive housing available to extremely low-income and chronically homeless households in Washoe County.

On-Going Program Support: WCHSA will continue to work with the Reno Housing Authority to identify potential ongoing funding as well as seek ongoing support through other funding sources. If funding is reduced or eliminated, WCHSA would seek alternate funding sources or reduce or eliminate this program.

Award Amount: Up to \$1,417,200

Grant Period: Starting July 1, 2025

Funding Source: Reno Housing Authority

Pass Through Entity: None

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: None

Grant ID Number: N/A

Match Amount and Type: None

Sub-Awards and Contracts: None

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award, Human Services Agency's Homelessness Fund (223) FY26 adopted budget will be increased by \$70,860.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<u>Account Number</u>		<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
IO 29073	-485100	Reimbursements	\$70,860.00
		Total Revenue	\$70,860.00
IO 29073	-710734	Residence Assistance	\$70,860.00
		Total Expenditures	\$70,860.00

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to accept five (5) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in an amount not to exceed [\$1,417,200; no county match] with an initial term of twenty years, subject to funding availability, and upon approval of inspection, to support veterans seeking housing support with rental assistance with Veteran's Affairs case management and supportive services at the Nevada Cares Campus, Permanent Supportive Housing

building; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute grant award documents; 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 five (5) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in an amount not to exceed [\$1,417,200; no county match] with an initial term of twenty years, subject to funding availability, and upon approval of inspection, to support veterans seeking housing support with rental assistance with Veteran's Affairs case management and supportive services at the Nevada Cares Campus, Permanent Supportive Housing building; authorize the Director of the Human Services Agency to execute grant award documents; and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments."*