WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT
BOARD MEETING DATE: *March 11, 2025*

DATE: February 18, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Valerie Moser, Chief Fiscal Officer, District Court
(775)328-3569, valerie.moser@washoecourts.us

THROUGH: Alicia Lerud, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court

SUBJECT: Request that the Board of County Commissioners retroactively acknowledge the grant award from the State of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts to the Second Judicial District Court, in the amount of $15,000.00 (no match required), to support the Timely Permanency and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) backlog effective December 11, 2024 through August 30, 2025, and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. District Court. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Second Judicial District Court has been awarded $15,000 in grant funding to support the backlog of cases regarding Termination of Parental Rights. Funding will be utilized to provide legal counsel to the prospective adoptive parents early in the legal proceedings, speeding the timeline to permanency.

County Priority supported by this item: Efficient Delivery of Regional Services.

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous Board action.

BACKGROUND

Nevada continues to experience a backlog of cases involving termination of parental rights (TPR) resulting in the statewide Court Improvement Program offering funding to the rural and urban judicial districts through Timely Permanency and TPR grants.

Second Judicial District Court requested $15,000 in grant funding, in coordination with Human Services Agency, to provide legal counsel to the prospective adoptive parents early in the legal process so they have representation to assist them with the mediation and settlement conference, draft a postadoption contact agreement, assist with modifying

post-adoption sibling visitation plans, attend the adoption and/or sibling visitation hearings, and speed up timeliness to permanency.

Award was taken to the next available BCC meeting upon notification.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: *District Court Timely Permanency and Termination of Parental Rights Backlog*

Scope of the Project:

Provide legal counsel to the prospective adoptive parents early in the legal process so prospective adoptive parents can attend the mediation and settlement conference, assist in drafting a postadoption contact agreement, assist with modifying post-adoption sibling visitation plans, and speed up timeliness to permanency.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: *Enhancing timeliness and permanency of adoption proceedings.*

On-Going Program Support: *This is one-time funding provided by the statewide Court Improvement Program and ongoing support from County sources is not anticipated.*

Award Amount:	*$15,000*
Grant Period:	*December 11, 2024 – August 30, 2025*
Funding Source:	*Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)*
Pass Through Entity:	*Department of Health and Human Services Administrations for Children and Families*
CFDA Number:	*93.586*
Grant ID Number:	*2401NVSCIP*
Match Amount and Type:	*No Match*

Sub-Awards and Contracts: *Multiple bids for legal services were obtained and submitted to the AOC for review as part of the Grant request. Independent Contractor agreements will be issued to selected contractor(s).*

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY25 District Court adopted budget will be increased by $15,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO-12480 – SJDC AOC CIP TPR	431100 – Federal Grants	$15,000
IO-12480 – SJDC AOC CIP TPR	710100 – Professional Services	$15,000

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners retroactively acknowledge the grant award from the State of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts to the Second Judicial District Court, in the amount of $15,000.00 (no match required), to support the Timely Permanency and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) backlog effective December 11, 2024 through August 30, 2025, 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 retroactively acknowledge the grant award from the State of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts to the Second Judicial District Court, in the amount of $15,000.00 (no match required), to support the Timely Permanency and Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) backlog effective December 11, 2024 through August 30, 2025, and direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.