



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *January 11, 2022*

DATE: Thursday, January 06, 2022

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager, Manager's Office
genfield@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
kathomas@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation, in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve subgrants of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to the Children's Cabinet in the amount of \$100,000 for the Signs of Suicide prevention program, with a retroactive period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022; and to The Great Reno Balloon Race in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2022 event. with a period from January 11, 2022, through December 31, 2022; approve Resolutions necessary for same, direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary net-zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Generally speaking, American Rescue Plan Act funds are federal funds that have been distributed to state and local entities around the country to address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)
FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

The American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, provides for assistance to nonprofit entities negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The Children's Cabinet subgrant will support Signs of Suicide a suicide prevention program, and the subgrant to The Great Reno Balloon Race will support the operating expenses related to the 2022 event and ensure the long-term survival of the event. The Washoe Board of County Commissioners must approve a grant of public funds by a resolution, per NRS 244.1505.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Support a Thriving Community, and Coordination Between Agencies & Communication of Programs.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On December 14, 2021, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund in a total amount of \$40,201,764.00, directed the

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and cross-functional budget appropriation transfers, as well as authorized Human Resources, per Job Evaluation Committee (JEC) evaluation as applicable, to create necessary positions to the 23 proposed projects.

On July 20, 2021, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners accepted Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of [\$91,587,038; no county match], authorized the County Manager to sign award documents and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

On July 20, 2021, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners authorized Washoe County Manager Eric Brown to enter all necessary professional services agreements and construction contracts in support of the Nevada Cares Campus, Safe Camp and Homeless Housing Sprung Facility Improvements in an amount not to exceed \$8,500,000, inclusive of \$3,500,000 in previous authority granted May 25, 2021, to be funded with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as allowable; directing the Manager to provide periodic updates to the Washoe County Board of Commissioners regarding project status, project costs and budget for the Cares Campus; directing that all such agreements and contracts shall conform and be let in compliance with Nevada law as applicable including Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 332 "Purchasing: Local Governments," NRS Chapter 338 "Public Works," Washoe County purchasing and procurement policies, and all associated Federal guidelines; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary cross-fund, cross-function budget appropriation transfers. Community Services.

On August 17, 2021, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved Amendment #1 to the Agreement between Washoe County and Well Care Services Reno to support the pilot program for supportive housing of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions that impede their ability to live with complete independence retroactive August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022 for [\$612,000] to be funded with Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as allowable; and if approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute Amendment #1; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary cross-fund, cross-function budget appropriation transfers.

BACKGROUND

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law, and established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Washoe County has been awarded a grant of \$91,587,038 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). On May 17, 2021, Washoe County received payment from the Department of Treasury in the amount of \$45,793,519, fifty percent of the award funds. The SLFRF provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Eligible Uses of the Funds:

1. Support Public Health Response & Address Negative Economic Impacts:
 - a. Support Public Health Response: Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff.

- b. Address Negative Economic Impacts: Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.
 - c. Disproportionately Impacted: Addressing disparities for populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
2. **Premium Pay for Essential Workers**: Provide premium pay to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who performed essential work.
3. **Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss**: Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.
4. **Water and Sewer Infrastructure & Broadband**:
 - a. Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and storm water infrastructure.
 - b. Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access.

Expenditure of public money - NRS 244.1505 provides that the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners may expend money for any purpose which will provide a substantial benefit to the inhabitants of the County and that the board may make a grant of money to a nonprofit organization created for religious, charitable, or educational purposes, or other governmental entity, to be expended for a selected purpose.

Children's Cabinet - Signs of Suicide Program

The mission of the Children's Cabinet is to keep children safe and families together. They provide programs and services at no charge to youth and their families in our community. The Children's Cabinet supports young children to young adults, so that they can thrive within their schools, their families, and their neighborhoods. Their motto is "There is no wrong door, and we will ensure those who need us are provided the proper resources regardless of their circumstances."

The Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program is a nationally recognized, evidence-based, program for middle and high school-age students. The Children's Cabinet has been implementing SOS in Washoe County schools in collaboration with WCSD staff for more than 7 years.

Impacts from the coronavirus pandemic are far-reaching with negative outcomes which continue to be felt deeply in many sectors of our community. In March 2020, when Children's Cabinet first started to realize how the pandemic would impact the families, the Children's Cabinet made the decision to develop a Client Emergency Needs Fund rather than raise funds for the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program. Developing this fund has allowed the Children's Cabinet to help families facing COVID-related financial crises by:

1. assisting with rental payments to keep families housed,
2. increasing onsite food pantry to meet families' basic needs,
3. developing a special program so families could access essentials such as diapers, formula, shampoo, toothpaste, etc., and
4. assisting with payments for utilities, transportation, and emergency car repairs so families could keep their heat/lights on and get to work.

Through the Client Emergency Needs Fund there has been a direct positive impact of helping families stay in their homes, helping parents getting to work and having some of their basic needs met; however, prior to the pandemic, the Spring 2020 plan was to focus fundraising efforts on raising funds for the SOS program. While being responsive to the immediate needs of families had to become the priority, this has left a deficit with the SOS program. The Children's Cabinet will use the ARPA funds to close the gap within the SOS program allowing for the program to be fully funded for the 2021-2022 school year.

SOS fulfills a critical need in our community as Cabinet staff work directly with middle school students in Washoe County, this includes students in the Washoe County School District as well as young people in our charter and private schools, to identify signs of depression and symptoms that are consistent with suicide risk. We are all aware of the stressors the pandemic has placed on nearly every segment of our population, and youth are no exception. Fortunately, SOS helps identify young people in need of additional supports, provides immediate resources and assistance to identified youth and their families, and also gives youth tools to ask for help when facing difficult life experiences.

The Children's Cabinet			
Project #24	Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program	\$100,000	Recommend Approval
Description:	The Signs of Suicide (SOS) prevention program is a nationally recognized, evidence-based, program for middle and high school-age students. The ARPA grant will be used for operating expenses to ensure the program is fully funded for the 2021-2022 school year.		
Category:	Address Negative Economic Impacts – Aid to Nonprofit Organizations		

Great Reno Balloon Race 2022

The mission of The Great Reno Balloon Race (GRBR) is to provide a premier, safe, family-oriented/tourist-attractive, visually dramatic event that celebrates the joy of flight while remaining free to the public.

The Great Reno Balloon Race is the world's largest free hot-air ballooning event. During four days in early September, you can look up into the Reno skies and see a rainbow of hot air balloons soaring about. From its humble beginnings in 1982 with just 20 balloons, The Great Reno Balloon Race has taken flight with up to 100 balloons each year. The idea was to create an event that would keep visitors in town the weekend between the State Fair and the Reno Air Races and 39 years later, it is known as a world-renowned, and locally as a beloved community tradition.

In 2020, The Great Reno Balloon Race special event was forced to cancel the entire event due to the coronavirus pandemic, and experienced significant negative financial impact. Without any event and any means to generate financial resources the organization was forced to rely on grants to ensure viability moving forward. Unfortunately, the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, the primary government lifeline to assist special events (Broadway shows, Museums, live performances, etc.) excluded airshows which the GRBR is.

This grant will support operational expenses for the Great Reno Balloon Race for 2022 and ensure the survival of the iconic event.

The Great Reno Balloon Race			
Project #25	Great Reno Balloon Race 2022	\$100,000	Recommend Approval
Description:	The ARPA grant will be used towards operational expenses for the Great Reno Balloon Race of 2022 and ensure future sustainability of the event.		
Category:	Address Negative Economic Impacts – Aid to Nonprofit Organizations		

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board approve these subawards of SLFRF-ARPA funds, the FY22 SLFRF COVID Recovery budget (Fund 270, Fund Center 270-8) will be adjusted with the following cross-functional net-zero appropriation transfers:

Children's Cabinet - Signs of Suicide Program

Fund/Function	Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
	Revenue:		
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	431100-Federal Grants	(\$100,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Health	IO-TBD Children's Cabinet ARPA-SLFRF	431100-Federal Grants	\$100,000
	Expenditures:		
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$100,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Health	IO-TBD Children's Cabinet ARPA-SLFRF	710119-Subrecipient Payments	\$100,000

Great Reno Balloon Race 2022

Fund/Function	Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
Revenue:			
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	431100-Federal Grants	(\$100,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Culture & Recreation	IO-TBD GRBR ARPA-SLFRF	431100-Federal Grants	\$100,000
Expenditures:			
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$100,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Culture & Recreation	IO-TBD GRBR ARPA-SLFRF	710119-Subrecipient Payments	\$100,000

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation, in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve subgrants of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to the Children’s Cabinet in the amount of \$100,000 for the Signs of Suicide prevention program, with a retroactive period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022; and to The Great Reno Balloon Race in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2022 event. with a period from January 11, 2022, through December 31, 2022; approve Resolutions necessary for same, direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary net-zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Generally speaking, American Rescue Plan Act funds are federal funds that have been distributed to state and local entities around the country to address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic since 2020.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “in accordance with NRS 244.1505 approve subgrants of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to the Children’s Cabinet in the amount of \$100,000 for the Signs of Suicide prevention program, with a retroactive period from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022; and to The Great Reno Balloon Race in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2022 event. with a period from January 11, 2022, through December 31, 2022; approve Resolutions necessary for same, direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary net-zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers.”