



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *July 19, 2022*

**DATE:** Thursday, July 14, 2022

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager  
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**THROUGH:** Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager  
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**SUBJECT:** Recommendation, in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve the subgrant of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to Soulful Seeds--a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes-- in the amount of \$50,000 for the operational support of the Our Place community garden, with a retroactive period from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022; approve Resolution 22-82, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net-zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

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### SUMMARY

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF), provides for subaward relationships among local government units for the purpose of recovering from the public health emergency and negative economic impacts resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Soulful Seeds has been a partner with Washoe County to develop a piece of land at the Our Place Campus on the corner of Galletti Way and Glendale Avenue in Sparks, Nevada. The subgrant will allow Soulful Seeds to provide direct service programs at the garden while making necessary supplies purchases such as gardening tools and 100 fruit trees.

**Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item:** Address Homelessness with a Regional Approach

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 28, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved \$747,800 for the Incline Village Justice Court Renovation project, and two amendments including:

1. WellCare Living Supports and Services Pilot Project in a total amount of \$1,255,200 (an increase of \$593,700 over the \$661,500 allocated and approved by the Board on December 14, 2021).

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

2. Kids Kottage Emergency Beds project in a total amount of \$1,043,000 (an increase of \$243,000 over the \$800,000 allocated and approved by the Board on December 14, 2021).

On May 24, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved the subgrant of funds to the City of Sparks to support the Interlocal Agreement to fund a COVID-19 Wastewater Study and Monitoring project conducted by the University of Nevada, Reno for \$504,258.66. The BCC also approved funding for an additional five ARPA projects including \$2,000,000 for the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Touch Screens, \$200,000 for the May Museum Operations, \$150,000 for Washoe County Human Resources Employee Incentive and Retention Program, and \$51,252.42 for the Employee Wellness Center.

On May 10, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved amended allocations of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) for the following projects:

1. Safe Camp Capital project in a total amount of \$4,693,132 (an increase of \$193,132 over the \$4,500,000 allocated and approved by the Board on July 20, 2021)
2. Our Place Enhancements project in a total amount of \$926,477 (an increase of \$476,477 over the \$450,000 allocated and approved by the Board on December 14, 2021), and
3. Our Place Community Garden Fencing project in a total amount of \$164,377 (an increase of \$34,377 over the \$130,000 allocated and approved by the Board on December 14, 2021), and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers.

On January 11, 2022, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved 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 and to The Great Reno Balloon Race in the amount of \$100,000.

On January 11, 2022, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved an amended allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in a total amount of \$7,971,644 for the Cares Campus – Facilities Operations FY22 project to fund additional staff positions to support homeless shelter operations.

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, to support 23 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 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.

## **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. On June 6, 2022, the County received the remaining \$45,793,519 of funding.

### **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.

### **Soulful Seeds**

Soulful Seeds is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to growing and providing fresh food to those in need in the Reno/Sparks area. They are dedicated to providing those in need with healthy food and an opportunity to learn and support others.

Families experiencing housing insecurity were disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of COVID-19 due to the compounding impact of poverty and the social determinants of health that influence wellbeing. People belonging to minority groups experienced higher rates of COVID related illness and are the most severely impacted by hunger, poor food access, diet-related illness, and other problems related to the U.S. food system. This project works to address food insecurity in the region by empowering some of the most vulnerable populations to learn to grow their own food. Nevada Tomorrow estimates 15% of Washoe County residents are food insecure. Food insecurity and high rates of diet-related disease correlate with poverty, which disproportionately impacts people of color and households with children. According to Feeding America, a national foodbank network, the rate of food insecurity for African-American households is more than double that of white households, while one in five Latinos are food insecure- compared with one in ten whites. Furthermore, 7.1% of seniors experienced hunger in 2019, and of those accessing food banks, 63% said they had to choose between food and medical care.

The Our Place Soulful Seeds Garden is located at the intersection of Census Tract 21.07 (Qualified Census Tract) and 31.11 (not a qualified census tract). It serves homeless women and children living on the Our Place Campus. An overview of 2021 campus resident demographics are as follows: 59% have a physical or cognitive disability, 91% have a behavioral health disorder, 29% belong to a minority racial or ethnic population, and 28% are chronically homeless. When Soulful Food has a surplus food, they distribute to St. Francis of Assisi (Census Tract 9) and Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Sparks (Census Tract 19.02). Both are located in and serve qualified census tracts.

The goal of the program is to alleviate the economic impact of COVID on households experiencing housing insecurity and residing on the Our Place Campus by providing residents with access to naturally grown produce and programming on-site.

This subgrant includes retroactive expenses to assist the organizations with costs incurred since January 2022 that have been necessary to carry out the development of the garden.

**GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

<b>Soulful Seeds - Our Place Garden</b>			
<b>Project #32</b>	Soulful Seeds Our place Garden Operations	\$50,000	Approved by Manager Brown
Description:	Soulful Seeds provides healthy, sustainable, fresh food to the most vulnerable populations in the Washoe County community. The project includes operation expenses such as staff time, garden supplies, and purchase of 100 fruit trees for the campus.		
Category:	Address Negative Economic Impacts – Services to Unhoused Persons		

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board approve the Interlocal Agreement and this subaward of ARPA-SLFRF funds, the FY23 SLFRF COVID Recovery budget (Fund 270, Fund Center 270-8) will be adjusted with the following cross-functional net-zero appropriation transfers:

<b>Fund/Function</b>	<b>Cost Object &amp; Description</b>	<b>G/L Account &amp; Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
	Revenue:		
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF -General Government	431100-Federal Grants	(\$50,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Culture & Recreation	IO-12021 OCM SLFRF Soulful Seeds Operations	431100-Federal Grants	\$50,000
	Expenditures:		
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF -General Government	710500-Other Expense	(\$50,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Culture & Recreation	IO-12021 OCM SLFRF Soulful Seeds Operations	710119-Subrecipient Payments	\$50,000

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve the subgrant of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to Soulful Seeds--a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes-- in the amount of \$50,000 for the operational support of the Our Place community garden, with a retroactive period from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022; approve Resolution 22-82, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make necessary net-zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve the subgrant of American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, to Soulful Seeds--a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized for charitable, religious, or educational purposes-- in the amount of \$50,000 for the operational support of the Our Place community garden, with a retroactive period from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022; approve Resolution 22-82, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net-zero cross-functional budget appropriation transfers.”*