



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *September 17, 2024*

DATE: Monday, March 10, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager
Office of the County Manager
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
kathomas@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation, in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in the total amount of [\$2,255,000], approve associated resolutions, and authorize the County Manager to sign necessary award documents, for the following seven projects awarded to government entities or nonprofit organizations created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes:

1. Nation's Finest - Veterans Services to support the enhancement of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) residential program by integrating Veteran Service Officer (VSO) positions; provide essential services to homeless veterans, focusing on securing veterans' benefits and addressing substance use and behavioral health issues in the amount of \$150,000 and approve Resolution R24-92
2. Sun Valley General Improvement District to support projects consist of sealing and striping of the parking lot, walking paths, and basketball court at Highland Ranch Park. This will also support purchase and installation of security cameras at Gepford Park, and picnic benches, in the amount of \$60,000 and approve Resolution R24-93
3. Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe – Gerlach Fire Services to support cost coverage of the hourly cost of firefighting employees of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe through provision of two firefighters (EMT-A or Paramedic) 24 hours per day, 365 days per year located in Gerlach to perform initial fire and emergency medical services, in the amount of \$200,000 and approve Resolution R24-94
4. Public Defenders Paralegal Program to support Washoe County Public Defender and the Alternate Public Defender's offices to hire temporary paralegals, in the amount of \$80,000.
5. Community Spay & Neuter Project, to support the operation of a public high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter program at the Nevada

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Humane Society (NHS). This funding will support a program aiming to perform 5,000 surgeries within the first 12 months of operation and grow to 7,000 surgeries the following year. This volume of low-cost surgeries will effectively reduce the number of unwanted animal births annually in our community in the amount of \$750,000 and approve Resolution R24-95

6. Rancho San Rafael Community Events Space Phase I, engineering, design, and site prep only for an open-air multi-purpose stage and community events space for performances, and educational programs, in the amount of \$1,000,000
7. Recruitment Incentive, to amend the existing award by \$15,000 for a total amount of \$165,000. The Washoe County Recruitment & Retention Incentive Program is used to assist with the recruitment and retention of employees in difficult to fill positions in the County that are impacted by a shortage of qualified labor in the region. This additional funding is to cover the additional employee incentives that were not initially included in this program.

And, if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

Washoe County has worked to identify community-based initiatives and regional programs to support community members in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The 8 projects named in this report represent a \$2,255,000 investment in public health, children, housing security, and economic development in the community. Projects were selected in accordance with Washoe County strategic goals and objectives, Board ARPA-SLFRF Guiding Principles, and ARPA-SLFRF eligibility. The Board of County Commissioners have authority to approve new ARPA projects over \$500,000 and approve sub-granting of funds to nonprofit organizations and governmental entities in accordance with NRS 244.1505.

This report represents the allocation of the majority of the remaining ARPA-SLFRF funds received by Washoe County. County has reserved a modest contingency of the remaining SLFRF funds for potentially necessary amendments until the Treasury's obligation deadline of December 31, 2024.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability, Economic Impacts, Vulnerable Populations, and Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

On August 20, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved \$3,197,900 in additional funding allocations to six new projects and six project amendments.

On June 25, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved a modification to an existing project titled Second Judicial District Court – Family Peace Center changing the Family Peace Center Coordinator position which was funded part-time to a full-time position. This resulted in a net-zero impact.

On May 28, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved the subaward with resolution for a newly funded ARPA project for the Emergency Eviction Prevention Program of Nevada (EEPPN) for \$200,000 to assist 300-320 households at risk of homelessness through housing stabilization advisory and resource navigation, preservation of rental history and preservation of relationships between landlords and tenants.

April 23, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved additional allocations in the amount of \$326,696 for a total amended award of \$451,696 to the following existing projects amendments: Behavioral Health Crisis Response plan; to support a coalition of community partners and facilitation of strategic planning and implementation of a sequential intercept model (SIM) in Washoe County and implementation and transition for the behavioral health crisis response system project management to Washoe County.

On March 19, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved additional allocations in the amount of \$303,197; to the following new projects, Human Services Agency GenArete Pilot Program (\$49,500), which will utilize a dynamic tool to create high quality, individualized learning plans for children with developmental disabilities; Permanent Supportive Housing – Supportive Services Needs Assessment (\$28,000), which will provide funds to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment for supportive services in Northern Nevada; and approved an increased allocation to the previously approved project: for the District Attorney's Office – Court Case Backlog Personnel Workstations by \$225,697 for a total of \$616,429 to cover fire and seismic requirements as well as increased construction costs.

For all Board of County Commissioner actions related to the American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds between July 20, 2021 through July 2024 visit the [Washoe County ARPA webpage](#).

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 was awarded a grant of \$91,587,038 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

NEW ARPA-FUNDED PROJECTS

Nation's Finest – Veteran's Services			
	Nation's Finest - Veterans Services	\$150,000	Approval Recommended
Description:	This program will support assisting indigent veterans, their dependents and beneficiaries to secure rights and benefits. This project aims to enhance the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) residential program by integrating Veteran Service Officer (VSO) positions. The grant will provide essential services to homeless veterans, focusing on securing veterans' benefits and addressing substance use and behavioral health issues. This project targets 50 veterans who will receive comprehensive support in applying for and appealing all applicable veterans' benefits including for compensation, education on available survivor benefits, attainment of healthcare benefits with the VA, and other applicable veteran benefits along with improved behavioral health.		
Resolution	R24-92		
Category	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery		

Sun Valley GGID			
	Sun Valley GGID	\$60,000	Approval Recommended
Description:	This program will support Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID) with supporting projects consist of sealing and striping of the parking lot, walking paths, and basketball court at Highland Ranch Park. This will also support the purchase and installation of security cameras at Gepford Park, and picnic benches in SVGID.		
Resolution	R24-93		
Category	2.22 Strong Health Communities		

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe – Gerlach Fire Services			
	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe – Gerlach Fire Services	\$200,000	Approval Recommended
Description:	<p>This program will cover the hourly cost of firefighting employees of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide two firefighters (EMT-A or Paramedic) 24 hours per day, 365 days per year located in Gerlach to perform initial fire and emergency medical services response to incidents in accordance with Pyramid Lake Fire Rescue standard operating guidelines. • Provide ground ambulance transport or coordinate Care Flight transport as appropriate. • Coordinate with the Gerlach Volunteer Fire Department for assistance with recruitment and training of new volunteers. • Retain all revenue from 3rd party billing agency Andres Medical & Fire Recovery USA, ambulance saver subscriptions, and Community Paramedicine services. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit for grant opportunities as appropriate for necessary equipment, supplies, apparatus, fire prevention, and training.
Resolution	R24-94
Category	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Public Defender's Paralegal Program			
	Public Defender's Paralegal Program	\$80,000	Approved (under \$500,000)
Description:	Together the Washoe County Public Defender and the Alternate Public Defender's offices will utilize these funds to hire temporary paralegals. These paralegal positions will attempt to fill critical shortfalls in their capacity to take cases to trial by offloading tasks that other support staff cannot handle. Such tasks include discovery prep and tagging, research and review of legal cases, drafting motions, and certain communications with clients. With these paralegals, Attorneys will be able to dedicate more time to trial preparation, legal defense, and tackling the increasing trial workload and increasingly complex cases for a short time.		
Category	3.4: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery		

Community Spay and Neuter Project			
	Community Spay and Neuter Project	\$750,000	Approval Recommended
Description:	This program will support the operation of a public high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter program at the Nevada Humane Society (NHS). This program aims to perform 5,000 surgeries within the first 12 months of operation and grow to 7,000 surgeries the following year. This volume of low-cost surgeries will effectively reduce the number of unwanted animal births annually in our community. This initiative aims to address Northern Nevada's ongoing pet overpopulation by enhancing access to low-cost spay/neuter services through mobile clinics, MASH (Mobile Animal Surgical Hospital) clinics, and the Reno Campus clinic. In partnership with Washoe County Regional Animal Services, NHS will implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce shelter overcrowding and alleviate the strain on local resources, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. By reinstating and expanding these essential services, NHS will help lower the intake of homeless animals, decrease the number of unwanted litters, and support a healthy pet population, ultimately improving life for all pets in Northern Nevada.		
Resolution	R24-95		
Category	2.34: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)		

Rancho San Rafael Community Events Space			
	Rancho San Rafael Community Events Space	\$1,000,000	Approval Recommended
Description:	This project will support the engineering, design, and site work of an open-air multi-purpose stage and community events space for performances, and educational programs. The open-air multi-purpose stage and community events space should comply with the 2024 Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan and support lawn seating of 2,000 people attendees with a stage approximately 30'x40'. The site work shall provide electrical utilities, enough for performance sound and lighting.		
Category	2.22: Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety		

AMENDMENTS

Human Resources Department			
	Recruitment Incentive Program	\$150,000 (original)	Approved 05-24-2022
Description:	The Washoe County Recruitment & Retention Incentive Program is used to assist with the recruitment and retention of employees in difficult to fill positions in the County that are impacted by a shortage of qualified labor in the region and/or to assist with the recruitment of positions into the County where the private sector has a competitive advantage with salary and retention incentive opportunities through 3 programs: Recruitment Incentive; Employee Referral Incentive; Retention Incentive.		
Amendment:	Increase program amount by \$15,000 to process the new employee incentive for three additional employee incentives that were not previously included in the program.	\$15,000	Approved (under \$500,000)
Description:	This additional funding is to cover the additional employee incentives that were not initially included in this program. Some employees were entitled to the incentive and three employees fell under a recruitment that advertised the incentive but were not in the initial budget. This request is to cover the recruitment entitlements.		
	Total Project Costs	\$165,000	

FISCAL IMPACT

The total fiscal impact of this allocation is \$2,255,000. Should the board approve these projects as submitted, the FY25 ARPA SLFRF COVID-19 Recovery Fund (Fund 270, Fund Center 270-8) and CIP SLFRF Capital Projects Fund (Fund 402, Fund Center 402-10) budgets will be adjusted with the following cross-fund and/or cross-functional net-zero appropriation transfers:

Nation's Finest – Veteran's Services

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	(\$150,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Welfare	IO12419 OCM – SLFRF-HSA Nations Finest	431100-Federal Grants	\$150,000
Expenditures			
Other Restricted Fund (270)/ General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$150,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Welfare	IO12419 OCM – SLFRF-HSA Nations Finest	710119 - Subrecipient Payments	\$150,000

Sun Valley GGID

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	(\$60,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Culture and Recreation	IO12422 OCM – SLFRF- Sun Valley GID	431100-Federal Grants	\$60,000
Expenditures			
Other Restricted Fund (270)/ General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$60,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)//Culture and Recreation	IO12422 OCM – SLFRF- Sun Valley GID	710119 - Subrecipient Payments	\$60,000

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe – Gerlach Fire Services

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	(\$200,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Public Safety	IO12421 OCM – SLFRF-Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	431100-Federal Grants	\$200,000
Expenditures			
Other Restricted Fund (270)/ General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$200,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Public Safety	IO12421 OCM – SLFRF- Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	710119 - Subrecipient Payments	\$200,000

Public Defender’s Temporary Paralegal 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	(\$80,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Judicial	IO12420 OCM – SLFRF-PD Paralegal Program	431100-Federal Grants	\$80,000
Expenditures			
Other Restricted Fund (270)/ General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$80,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Judicial	IO12420 OCM – SLFRF-PD Paralegal Program	710110 – Contracted/Temp Services	\$80,000

Community Spay and Neuter Project

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	(\$750,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Public Safety	IO12398 OCM-SLFRF-Community Spay&Neuter Program	431100-Federal Grants	\$750,000
Expenditures			
Other Restricted Fund (270)/ General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$750,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Public Safety	IO12398 OCM-SLFRF-Community Spay&Neuter Program	710110 – Contracted/Temp Services	\$750,000

Rancho San Rafael Community Events Phase I

Fund/Function	Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Increase/Decrease
	Revenue:		
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	431100-Federal Grants	(\$1,000,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Culture and Recreation	IO12396 – OCM-SLFRF- RSR Community Events Space	431100-Federal Grants	\$1,000,000
	Expenditures/Transfers:		
Other Restricted Fund (270)/General Government	CC 270800 – SLFRF COVID Recovery	710500-Other Expense	(\$1,000,000)
Other Restricted Fund (270)/Culture and Recreation	IO12396 – OCM-SLFRF- RSR Community Events Space	814092 Transfer to Public Works Construction	\$1,000,000
Capital Improvements Fund (402)/Culture and Recreation	PW920879 – RSR Community Events Space Phase I SLFRF-12396	781080-Construction Contracts	\$1,000,000
Capital Improvements Fund	PW920879 – RSR Community Events	622270-Transfer from Other Restricted	\$1,000,000

(402)/Culture and Recreation	Space Phase I SLFRF-12396		
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The following project budget has been amended and does not require board action at this time:

IO11966 – OCM-SLFRF HR Recruitment Initiative - \$15,000 increase (total budget \$165,000)

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation, in accordance with NRS 244.1505, to approve allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in the total amount of [\$2,255,000], approve associated resolutions, and authorize the County Manager to sign necessary award documents, for the following seven projects awarded to government entities or nonprofit organizations created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes:

1. Nation's Finest - Veterans Services to support the enhancement of the Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) residential program by integrating Veteran Service Officer (VSO) positions and expanding the Clinical Coordinator's behavioral health support; provide essential services to homeless veterans, focusing on securing veterans' benefits and addressing substance use and behavioral health issues in the amount of \$150,000 and approve Resolution R24-92
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7. Recruitment Incentive, to amend the existing award by \$15,000 for a total amount of \$165,000. The Washoe County Recruitment & Retention Incentive Program is used to assist with the recruitment and retention of employees in difficult to fill positions in

the County that are impacted by a shortage of qualified labor in the region. This additional funding is to cover the additional employee incentives that were not initially included in this program.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *"move to approve to approve allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in the total amount of [\$2,255,000], approve associated resolutions, and authorize the County Manager to sign necessary award documents, for the following 8 projects awarded to government entities or nonprofit organizations created for charitable, religious, or educational purposes:*

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- 2. Sun Valley General Improvement District to support projects consist of sealing and striping of the parking lot, walking paths, and basketball court at Highland Ranch Park. This will also support purchase and installation of security cameras at Gepford Park, and picnic benches, in the amount of \$60,000 and approve Resolution R24-93*
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And, if approved, direct the Comptroller's Office to make necessary net zero cross-fund and/or cross-functional budget appropriation transfers.