



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 24, 2021

**DATE:** Monday, August 23, 2021

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Dana Searcy, Special Projects Manager  
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**THROUGH:** Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve an Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and the Volunteers of America, Greater Sacramento and Northern Nevada to provide contracted staffing to operate the Cares Campus through June 30th, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$6,783,767.64; if approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement upon approval of the Interlocal Agreement on Homelessness by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks, which is anticipated to transfer the lead role from the City of Reno to Washoe County. Item supports the development the Cares Campus at 1775 East Fourth Street to expand capacity for those experiencing homelessness. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

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### SUMMARY

Amid growing community concerns over the safety, public health and environmental concerns for the region, at a concurrent meeting dated November 18, 2020, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City of Reno and Sparks City Councils voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent unemployment spurring housing insecurity and concerns of people living in encampments.

One of the purchased parcels was developed by the City of Reno into an emergency shelter. Site infrastructure, utilities and a Sprung structure were constructed on the site in what has become and opened on May 17, 2021.

Understanding the regional desires and direction to efficiently and thoughtfully deliver these services, and to align with the intent of Washoe County to transfer management and oversight of the Cares Campus Emergency Shelter contracted operator from City of Reno

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

to Washoe County, staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement upon approval of the Interlocal Agreement on Homelessness by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners directing such transfer of oversight of the Cares Campus Emergency Shelter contracted operator.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On May 19, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Fiscal Year 2021 Final Washoe County Budget.

On April 13, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved accepting a grant award of \$200,000 from Truckee Meadows Water Authority, the use of General Fund Contingency in the amount of \$250,000.00 and the creation of 1.0 FTE Homeless Services Program Specialist position in support of the safe camping location.

On January 13th, 2021, in a special meeting the Board of County Commissioners confirmed Homelessness as an issue of priority for the Washoe County Strategic Plan.

On Nov 18, 2020, at a joint meeting with the City of Reno Council and the City of Sparks Council, the Board of County Commissioners voted 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**

At a joint special meeting on November 18, 2020, amid growing community concerns over the public safety, public health and environmental concerns stemming from people living in encampments along the Truckee River, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, City of Reno Council and the City of Sparks Council voted to acquire and cost share three parcels on East 4<sup>th</sup> Street for the purpose of expanding shelter capacity in the region to assist people experiencing homelessness. The number of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent unemployment spurring housing insecurity, further compounding previous community concerns over the public safety, public health and environmental effects of people living in encampments.

During the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 special meeting Homelessness was identified as an issue of priority for the Washoe County Strategic Plan and expressed an interest in one entity being the lead of homelessness within the region.

A joint special meeting with the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, City of Reno Council and the City of Sparks Council is scheduled for August 30, 2021 to discuss the transition of Homeless Services from the City of Reno to Washoe County effective September 1, 2021.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funding for this agreement, which is included in the total operating costs identified in the Regional Homeless Services Interlocal Agreement, is available through (1) the FY22 Homelessness Fund (F223) adopted budget (cost centers 223-230, 223-410, 223-420, 223-500, and 223-600), (2) Contributions from the City of Reno and City of Sparks (3) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLSRF) funding as eligible and (4) general fund contingency as necessary.

City of Reno and City of Sparks contributions will require augmentation once agreement is executed.

SLSRF funds will require review for eligibility.

General Fund Contingency will require Board action via separate staff report.

This contract will be cost shared with the City of Reno and City of Sparks as outlined in the Interlocal Agreement which is scheduled to be discussed during a joint special meeting with the Washoe County Board of Commissioners, City of Reno Council and the City of Sparks Council on August 30, 2021.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended to approve an Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and the Volunteers of America, Greater Sacramento and Northern Nevada to provide contracted staffing to operate the Cares Campus through June 30th, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$6,783,767.64; if approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement upon approval of the Interlocal Agreement on Homelessness by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks, which is anticipated to transfer the lead role from the City of Reno to Washoe County. Item supports the development the Cares Campus at 1775 East Fourth Street to expand capacity for those experiencing homelessness. Manager's Office.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *approve an Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and the Volunteers of America, Greater Sacramento and Northern Nevada to provide contracted staffing to operate the Cares Campus through June 30th, 2022, for an amount not to exceed \$6,783,767.64; if approved, authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to execute the agreement upon approval of the Interlocal Agreement on Homelessness by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks, which is anticipated to transfer the lead role from the City of Reno to Washoe County. Item supports the development the Cares Campus at 1775 East Fourth Street to expand capacity for those experiencing homelessness. Manager's Office.*