



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 27, 2015

DATE: October 9, 2015
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Amber Howell, Director of Social Services
(775) 785-8600 ahowell@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager
SUBJECT: Approve a one-time payment and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to generate a Purchase Order in the amount of \$214,409 to Access to Healthcare Network (AHN) to provide cash support which will be used by AHN as the matching portion of a grant which has been awarded to AHN from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for a transportation services program and a transportation "help line" targeting low income senior citizens and persons with disabilities, to be funded 100% by indigent funds.
(All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The lack of transportation services available to vulnerable populations in the community, particularly to the areas outside the McCarren loop where there are gaps in RTC bus routes, has been a concern for local human service agencies for a number of years. About 18 months ago, there was discussion generated by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) on how community partners could better serve these areas and those vulnerable populations with critical transportation needs. There were three main populations of concern including seniors, disabled individuals and those who are indigent.

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

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous actions.

BACKGROUND

Through community meetings of human service entities, including non-profit agencies and other interested organizations, a decision was made to move forward with one application from one entity, Access to Health Care Network (AHN) to the RTC to fund a transportation program for targeted individuals.

AGENDA ITEM # 10

This program would include funding from RTC in support of AHN coordinating these transportation services outside the McCarren loop, but would require the contribution of \$214,409 in operating cash to AHN from Washoe County Department of Social Services in support of the program.

In previous years, the RTC awarded grants to fund a number of smaller projects throughout the community. During this year's planning process, previous award recipients recommended to the RTC that they fund AHN for an overall transportation program and the remaining group chose not to apply for funding for smaller projects.

This program will include a call center to coordinate the transportation services of individuals, tailored to their specific needs, including route planning, pick up and drop off arrangements. The call center will receive direct calls for service, but will also receive referrals for the same services from various other separate community entities supporting vulnerable individuals. Start-up costs will include the purchase of vehicles and equipment in support of the program.

These transportation services will target the above identified populations with an emphasis on meeting the transportation needs of senior citizens, allowing for individual stops to meet the person's specific needs for medical appointments, pick up medications, or even groceries.

The services would be unique as they would not be typical transportation from point A to B. The new concept is to ensure that the individual has what they need when they arrive at home, and will involve some level of case management along with transportation. For instance, if a senior was being transported from a doctor's appointment to his home, the driver would stop and ensure they filled any prescriptions and would even allow them to pick up other supplies, or groceries, as needed. The driver will be a trained Care Coordinator for AHN and would assess the needs of the client during the transportation trip.

AHN projects they will handle 500 requests per month and will provide 4,707 one way trips and 392 round trips during the program year.

AHN will provide a six month update in writing and a final presentation to the Washoe Board of County Commissioners at the end of the grant year on the grant's performance measures.

AHN plans to work with the local hospitals to secure funding for the long term sustainability of this transportation program beyond the initial project year. It is not anticipated that Washoe County will provide funding beyond this one time cash payment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cash funding in the amount of \$214,409 is estimated to be allocated \$189,959 for operations and \$24,450 for equipment. There is sufficient adopted budget authority and cash in the indigent funds budgeted in Cost Center 179300 in support of this expenditure request.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve a one-time payment and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to generate a Purchase Order in the amount of \$214,409 to Access to Healthcare Network (AHN) to provide cash support which will be used by AHN as the matching portion of a grant which has been awarded to AHN from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for a transportation services program and a transportation “help line” targeting low income senior citizens and persons with disabilities, to be funded 100% by indigent funds.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Move to approve a one-time payment and authorize the Purchasing and Contracts Manager to generate a Purchase Order in the amount of \$214,409 to Access to Healthcare Network (AHN) to provide cash support which will be used by AHN as the matching portion of a grant which has been awarded to AHN from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for a transportation services program and a transportation “help line” targeting low income senior citizens and persons with disabilities, to be funded 100% by indigent funds.