



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service  
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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 23, 2017

CM/ACM	_____
Finance	<u>VG</u>
DA	<u>LA</u>
Risk Mgt	<u>DE</u>
HR	<u>~</u>
Other	<u>GE</u>

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Amber Howell, Director, Department of Social Services  
[ahowell@washoecounty.us](mailto:ahowell@washoecounty.us) 775-785-8600

**THROUGH:** Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the Director of Social Services to accept the Seventh Amendment of the Child Welfare Initiative Agreement with Casey Family Programs in the amount of [\$45,000; no County match required]; retroactively for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017; direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

### SUMMARY

The Department received the Seventh Amendment of the Child Welfare Initiative Agreement with Casey Family Programs in the amount of \$45,000; no County match required. Funding will be utilized to facilitate family reunification and permanency for children and reduce foster care reentries.

The Department is requesting the Board of County Commissioners retroactively accept the grant award due to timing of the receipt of documents from Casey Family Programs and approval of 2017 Work Plan.

County Priority/Goal supported by this item: Safe, Secure and Healthy Communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On January 12, 2016, the Board accepted item 8.F.1, the Casey Family Programs grant in the amount of \$45,000 for January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

On June 23, 2015, the Board Accepted item 5.G, the Casey Family Programs grant in the amount of \$45,000 for January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

On April 8, 2014, the Board accepted item 11.F, the Casey Family Programs grant in the amount of \$45,000 for January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

The Board has accepted funding from Casey Family programs annually since 2009.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Department has been collaborating with the Casey Family Programs for a number of years in an effort to improve outcomes for children in foster care. The Department has initiated a variety of efforts to reduce the number of children entering into our foster care system and to work aggressively toward reunification with parents. The Department is requesting the Board of County Commissioners retroactively accept the grant award due to timing of the receipt of documents from Casey Family Programs and approval of 2017 Work Plan.

The Department embraces the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) which is an approach to strengthening foster care, including kinship care, using branding and marketing principles. It is a process designed to help develop new strategies and practices to ensure that the foster or relative family caring for the child provides the loving, committed, skilled care that the child needs, while working effectively with the system to reach the child's long term goals. Other agencies that have implemented QPI report measurable improvement in outcomes such as reduced unplanned placement changes, reduced use of group care, reduced numbers of sibling separation, and more successful improvements in reunification. Internal and external stakeholders are included in the "branding process" through a series of meetings to identify mutually agreed upon expectations for caregivers. In addition to the recruitment and retention strategies offered by QPI is the development of web-based training to foster and relative caregivers. Florida has a model QPI program and has developed a site that provides live web-based training to foster parents.

## **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Casey Family Programs Child Welfare Initiative

**Scope of the Project:** Promote permanency planning for children in care including older children and children that have been in care for a long period of time. The emphasis is expedited planning by supporting concurrent permanency options and targeted exit programs. Promote practices associated with shared decision making collaborations to produce a sustainable family-centered permanency plan for children.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** Children in Washoe County entering the foster care system will find permanency quicker than in the past through changes identified, thus reducing costs of long term foster care.

**On-Going Program Support:** The grant does not support the costs of ongoing programs.

**Award Amount:** \$45,000.00

**Grant Period:** January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

**Funding Source:** Casey Family Programs

**Pass Through Entity:** N/A

**CFDA Number:** N/A

**Grant ID Number:** CFP#FY12-0146.07

**Match Amount and Type:** Match not required

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** None.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the Departments' FY17 adopted budget will be increased by \$45,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object</b>	<b>G/L Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>IO#20442</b>	<b>484195</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>
<b>IO#20442</b>	<b>701130</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>IO#20442</b>	<b>710712</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

Grant funds are allocated quarterly and are released after each quarterly progress report is received by the grantor. Indirect costs are not included in the grant budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners authorize the Director of Social Services to accept the Seventh Amendment of the Child Welfare Initiative Agreement with Casey Family Programs in the amount of [\$45,000; no County match required]; retroactively for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to authorize the Director of Social Services to accept the Seventh Amendment of the Child Welfare Initiative Agreement with Casey Family Programs in the amount of [\$45,000; no County match required]; retroactively for the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments."