



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *February 9, 2021*

DATE: Monday, February 08, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
328-2008, kathomas@washoecounty.us

THROUGH: Eric P. Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to accept Emergency Rental Assistance allocation from the United States Department of the Treasury in the amount of [\$6,564,663.20; no county match], retroactive from January 21, 2021 through December 31, 2021. Authorize the County Manager to sign award documents, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and possible direction to staff regarding expenditure of award funds. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Department of Treasury, via the Emergency Rental Assistance program, has made available \$25 billion to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds have been provided directly to States, U.S. Territories, local governments, and Indian tribes. Grantees such as Washoe County will use the funds to provide assistance to eligible households through existing or newly created rental assistance programs as well as assisting qualifying households with energy and utility payments and homelessness prevention.

Washoe County received U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance funds, in the amount of \$6,564,663.20 and will provide support to the community via two programs:

1. Rental Assistance & Rental Arrears
2. Energy/Utility Assistance & Arrears

The Washoe Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards, and must approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. Commissioners may wish to provide direction to staff regarding expenditure of these funds.

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

AGENDA ITEM # _____

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

This award is submitted for retroactive approval because award documents were received on January 21, 2021. U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance funds, in the amount of \$6,564,663.20 and will provide support to the community via the following program components:

1. Rental Assistance & Rental arrears – via subgrant process to the Reno Housing Authority (RHA) (to come to a future Board of County Commission meeting for approval to ensure fair distribution across jurisdictions). Washoe County Human Services Agency will direct cases to RHA who will then determine eligibility and process payment, reporting, etc.
2. Energy/Utility Assistance & Arrears – via subgrant based on an established process (to come to a future Board of County Commission meeting for board approval)
3. Community Needs Assessment and Tracking – Utilize GIS mapping of existing income, unemployment and renter occupied housing data, along with CARES Rental Assistance data, to track and report on the provision of services throughout the region.
4. Community Outreach – Engaging residents throughout the region, and ensuring underserved, hard to reach residents have access to the emergency housing assistance. By utilizing data from our GIS tracking and analysis of assistance throughout Washoe County, outreach can be targeted to underserved renters and landlords.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Emergency Rental Assistance

Scope of the Project: Washoe County will work through the Reno Housing Authority to ensure families are able to remain housed.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Emergency Rental Assistance will enable residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to remain housed, keeping families together, and improving safety and security for the households receiving assistance. The financial assistance will also benefit the economy of our region by reducing delinquent rent and utility accounts, and reducing the impact of the lost revenue and debt caused by the pandemic.

On-Going Program Support: Award will be used to address housing and utility needs related to the COVID-19 emergency.

Award Amount: \$6,564,663.20

Grant Period: January 21, 2021 - December 31, 2021

Funding Source: U.S Department of the Treasury

Pass Through Entity: NA

CFDA Number: 21.023

Grant ID Number: NA

Match Amount and Type: NA

Sub-Awards and Contracts: It is anticipated that a sub-award will be brought forward at a future Board of County Commissioners meeting to allocate funds to the Reno Housing Authority. Procurement of contracts will comply with the Washoe County Purchasing Manual and federal procurement guidelines in 2 CFR Part 200

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this federal assistance allocation, the FY21 Office of the County Manager, adopted budget will be increased by \$6,564,663.20 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object & Description	G/L Account & Description	Amount
IO-11809 Emergency Rental Assistance	431100-Federal Grants	\$6,564,663.20
IO-11809 Emergency Rental Assistance	710119-Subrecipient Payments	\$6,380,855.00
IO-11809 Emergency Rental Assistance	710500-Other Expense	\$183,808.20

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance funds, in the amount of [\$6,564,663.20; no county match], retroactive from January 21, 2021 through December 31, 2021; authorize the County Manager to sign award documents, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments; and possible direction to staff regarding expenditure of award funds.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move accept U.S. Department of the Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance funds, in the amount of [\$6,564,663.20; no county match], retroactive from January 21, 2021 through December 31, 2021; authorize the County Manager to sign award documents, and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.”*