



WASHOE COUNTY

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Grant Mgt.

STAFF REPORT BOARD MEETING DATE: February 14, 2017

DATE: January 24, 2017
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Dexter Thomas, Court Administrator, Reno Justice Court
325-6543, dthomas@washoecounty.us
THROUGH: Pierre Hascheff, Chief Judge, Reno Justice Court, 325-6550,
phascheff@washoecounty.us
SUBJECT: Recommendation to acknowledge a Trial Court Improvement (TCI) grant award from the Administrative Office of the Courts, to improve access and security, [\$3,700.00/ no match required], retroactive from January 24, 2017 through June 30, 2017; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

In July 2016, Reno Justice Court applied to the Administrative Office for a Trial Court Improvement Grant. The grant was requested to produce a new video to display "What to Expect in Court Today" in English, Spanish and American Sign Language. In addition to the video production, the grant award also enhances language access by providing specialized telephones for telephonic language interpretation and improves security by providing hand-held metal detectors. In December, 2016, Reno Justice Court received notification that the sum of \$3,700.00 had been approved for one distribution occurring on January 24, 2017. The grant is being accepted retroactively, as funding has been received. There is no match required to receive the grant funding.

Washoe County's Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

In 2016, Reno Justice Court received a TCI grant award in the amount of \$25,200.00 to upgrade its courtroom audio-visual equipment. This project was successfully completed in June 2016.

AGENDA ITEM # S.E

BACKGROUND

Reno Justice Court's 2017 TCI grant request focuses on improving access to justice and security. Access to justice is improved by producing a new video that welcomes and introduces parties to the court and informs them of their rights. Additionally, a specialized telephone will be purchased to better support non-English speakers at our counters. Court security will be improved with the purchase of hand-held metal detectors.

All defendants for criminal and citation matters are shown a video that informs defendants of their rights prior to their hearing. The existing "Rights" video was created almost 20 years ago and is only in English. An updated version will provide more up-to-date information and will be accessible to Spanish speakers and the hearing impaired.

Reno Justice Court offers a phone interpretation service as part of its language access plan. However, it can still be challenging to accommodate communications between the customer, clerk, and translator using a standard phone for interactions at our customer service counters. The TCI grant award provides funding to purchase a specialized phone with dual handsets so that all parties can converse privately.

Finally, overall security and business continuity will be enhanced with the procurement of several hand held metal detectors. The hand-held metal detectors can be incorporated into daily security procedures. A weekly specialty court session is conducted off-site and the hand-held metal detectors will improve security at off-site locations. The portable metal detectors are also part of our business continuity plan. If it is necessary to conduct court from an alternative location, the hand-held metal detectors will increase the effectiveness of security screening at an alternate location.

In July 2016, Reno Justice Court applied to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to receive funding for several procurements to improve access to justice, language access, and security. In December, 2016, Reno Justice Court was approved for funding of \$3,700.00. Retroactive acknowledgement is requested as funding was received on January 24, 2017. No match is required to receive funding.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: TCI Access and Security Grant

Scope of the Project: Produce a new video to present prior to court hearings, purchase specialized phones for language interpretation, and purchase hand-held metal detectors.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Projects enhance access to justice, language access, and security.

On-Going Program Support: This is a one-time use grant. There will be no direct annual costs associated with the ongoing support and maintenance of equipment. Current general fund budget levels for repair and maintenance of equipment is sufficient.

Award Amount: \$3,700.00

Grant Period: January 24, 2017 – June 30, 2017

Funding Source: NV Administrative Office of the Courts, Trial Court Improvement Grant

Pass through From: N/A

CFDA Number: N/A

Grant ID Number: N/A

Match Amount and Type: No match required

Sub-Awards and Contracts: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the adopted budget will be increased by \$3,700.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Revenue:		
IO # 11368	432100 – State Grant	\$3,700.00
Expenditures:		
IO # 11368	710100 – Professional Services	\$2,900.00
IO # 11368	711504 – Equipment noncapital	\$800.00

No match is required to accept this grant award.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge a Trial Court Improvement (TCI) grant award from the Administrative Office of the Courts, to improve access and security, [\$3,700 / no match required], retroactive from January 24, 2017 to June 30, 2017; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget adjustments.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move to acknowledge a Trial Court Improvement (TCI) grant award from the Administrative Office of the Courts, to improve access and security, [\$3,700 / no match required], retroactive from January 24, 2017 to June 30, 2017; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget adjustments."