



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 14, 2023

**DATE:** January 24, 2023

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** James Conway, Court Administrator, Reno Justice Court  
325-6543, [JConway@washoecounty.gov](mailto:JConway@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Scott Pearson, Chief Judge, Reno Justice Court, 325-6550

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to acknowledge and accept Alcohol Problem Assessment and Treatment Project from the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety in the amount of [ \$125,307.00 for FY23, \$31,327 in-kind match required]. The pilot project will use evidence-based DUI curricula to establish efficacy in lowering recidivism rates among first time offenders. Eligible expenditures to be reimbursed in installments upon claims submitted retroactively Federal Grant Term October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments. Reno Justice Court. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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### SUMMARY

The Reno Justice Court has been awarded \$125,307.00 to conduct a pilot project to use evidence-based DUI curricula on a test group of participants to establish efficacy in lowering recidivism rates among first time offenders. It will be implemented through two Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors whose DUI Schools are approved through the DMV. Participants will be separated into two groups. The first half of DUI offenders will be the control group, who pursue their educational requirements as currently prescribed by Nevada Statute. Each group will receive three surveys at 0, 6 and 12 months and the results of those surveys will be compared, and conclusions drawn. The Court will contract with an independent research institution to develop the methodology, collect the data and produce the report on outcomes.

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

### PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

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

## **BACKGROUND**

Nationally in 2020, there were over one million drivers arrested for driving under the influence and over 11 ,000 people lost their lives to impaired drivers. The first offense is a predictor of existing risk. One third of all first-time offenders will be arrested for a subsequent DUI. Repeat offenders pose a danger to law enforcement officers as well as to the public sharing the roadways. Early intervention can help them understand their motivations and take the first steps towards changing their attitudes around driving while under the influence of an intoxicating substance.

In Nevada, most educational programs to which first-time offenders are sentenced do not contain evidence-based components that could change behaviors related to drinking and driving. By the time an offender recidivates to the level of a felony DUI, much damage has been done to their lives and to the community at large. Reno Justice Court believes a first-time offender deserves equal access to treatment as an early intervention.

The lowest level of treatment in the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria is level 0.5 early intervention which is also the most neglected across our state, critical to the first-offender DUI population. Pursuant to NAC 483.72, first time offenders over the age of 21 with a BAC under a 0.18 are not required to obtain a substance use disorder evaluation, an 8-hour educational court approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles will suffice. Nevada DMV does not require evidence-based curricula be conducted with live interaction. The purpose of the project is to conduct a pilot to assess outcomes from presenting evidence-based material to DUI Court Participants. An addition to the curricula standards established through NAC 483.782. The project targets first time DUI offenders who through the current standard are not provided with material that leads to self-realization and behavioral change. The program will provide, free of charge, evidence-based curricula to a voluntary "test group" of participants and seek to document and establish efficacy in lowering rates among first time offenders.

Live evidence-based curricula costs significantly more than DMV approved courses. Therefore, this grant is necessary to incentivize participants to come a longer program. The Court will offer first DUI offenders the option to enter the test group free of charge in exchange for their full cooperation.

## **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Alcohol Problem Assessment and Treatment Project.

**Scope of the Project:** The pilot project will use evidence-based DUI curricula to establish efficacy in lowering recidivism rates among first time offenders.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** The Alcohol Problem Assessment and Treatment Project will provide changes in individual's behaviors and lifestyles result in reduced recidivism and help keep communities roadways safe.

**On-Going Program Support:** Reno Justice Court will continue to apply for additional grant funds on an annual basis.

**Award Amount:** \$125,307.00

**Grant Period:** October 01, 2022 – September 30, 2023

**Funding Source:** Office of Traffic Safety

**Pass Through Entity:** State of Nevada Department of Public Safety

**CFDA Number:** 20.61 6(d)

**Grant ID Number:** 69A3752130000405DNVM, 69A3752230000405dNVM,  
69A375223OSUP4O5DNVM

**Match Amount and Type:** \$31,327.00 in-kind match derived from the regular salary of the grant manager.

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** N/A

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board acknowledge this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY23 adopted budget will be increased by \$125,307.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object</b>	<b>G/L Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Revenue:		
IO 12145	431100 – Federal Grants	\$ 125,307.00
Expenditures:		
IO 12145	710100 – Professional Services	\$110,00.00
IO 12145	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$10,000.00
IO 12145	710500 – Other Expenses	\$5,307.00

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge and accept the Alcohol Problem Assessment and Treatment Project from the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety in the amount of [ \$125,307.00 for FY23, \$31,327.00 in-kind match required]. Eligible expenditures to be reimbursed in installments upon claims submitted within Federal Grant Term October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to acknowledge and accept the Alcohol Problem Assessment and Treatment Project from the State of Nevada Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety in the amount of [ \$125,307.00 for FY23, \$31,327.00 in-kind match required]. Eligible expenditures to be reimbursed in installments upon claims submitted within Federal Grant Term October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023; and direct the Comptroller to make the appropriate budget amendments.”