



# CITY OF FERNLEY

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 15, 2021

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Mayor and City Council
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	Daphne Hooper, City Manager
<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>	Brandi Jensen, City Attorney
<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>	Denise Lewis, City Treasurer

<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT:</b> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>CURRENTLY BUDGETED:</b> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>FUND/ACCOUNT:</b> 220-480-800 Project #: 2020.002.2
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**ACTION REQUESTED:**  Consent  Ordinance  Resolution  Motion  Receive/File

**AGENDA ITEM: Staff Report (For Possible Action): For Possible Approval of a subrecipient agreement between the City of Fernley and Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children in the amount of \$6,859.91.**

**Agenda Item Brief: Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children is requesting CARES funding to cover eligible cost in response to COVID-19. Since the pandemic the number of CASA volunteers has decreased; however, the foster care cases have increased, resulting in increased hours for CASA employees. Funds will reimburse CASA for volunteer recruiting material and employee payroll to cover the costs resulting from the pandemic.**

**Recommended Motion:**  
"I move to approve the subrecipient agreement between the City of Fernley and Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children to use coronavirus relief fund monies from the CARES Act for volunteer recruiting materials and employee payroll in the amount not-to-exceed \$6,859.91."

**Business Impact (per NRS Chapter 237):**

A Business Impact Statement is Attached.

A Business Impact Statement is not required because this is not a rule (term excludes vehicles by which legislative powers are exercised under NRS Chapters 271, 278, 278A, or 278B).

See attached report for background, analysis, alternatives.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

- The Council can decline the request or approve a different award amount.
- The Council can request additional information.

**SUMMARY:**

City of Fernley has received CARES funding from the State of Nevada as a passthrough from the federal government to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, CASA has seen an increase in the number of children coming into foster care, and the cases are more severe in nature. Last year, the program served 87 children with 10 volunteers who spent over 1,600 hours advocating for these abused and neglected children. As of July 2021, CASA has served 86 children with only 8 active volunteers. Children are entering into the system at a rate never before seen in Lyon County, and our organization does not have enough volunteers for each child to have their own advocate. Due to the COVID-19 statewide stay at home and social distancing directives, most of the community outreach events and meetings were cancelled or moved virtually. This negatively impacted the organization's ability to recruit volunteers and spread awareness about Lyon County CASA. Volunteer inquiries have decreased during this time, and the organization was not able to obtain the number of desired new volunteers needed to provide an advocate for every child served by the organization.

With the decrease in volunteer numbers and increase in caseload, the organization has put into place a case monitoring and management system for children who are not immediately assigned a volunteer. The Executive Director and Case Coordinator monitor these cases to ensure each child without a volunteer has a set of eyes on the case to continue to identify the needs of the children and aid with resources. As described above, volunteer numbers decreased during the pandemic which led to the Executive Director and Case Coordinator monitoring more cases. In addition, the Executive Director spent extra time supporting active volunteers through the tougher cases, assisting volunteers with new virtual platforms and technological support, ensuring volunteers and staff were following statewide COVID-19 directives, and providing added training on navigating/working cases during the pandemic.

CASA is requesting reimbursement of expenses related to volunteer recruiting materials and payroll resulting from the pandemic.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The reimbursement of funds meets the federal guidelines for response to COVID-19.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

If approved by Council, the CARES Act Funds will be utilized to fund this request.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Subrecipient agreement  
CASA CARES Act Proposal Letter