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State of Nevada issues first Community Recovery Grants, makes strategic investments for Nevadans

CARSON CITY, NV – Today, the Interim Finance Committee approved a significant number of work programs and projects put forward by Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak and state agencies aimed at revitalizing the State's economy and helping Nevada continue its economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am grateful to members of the Interim Finance Committee for approving all the programs brought forward today and to my team and State agencies for working hard to ensure we invest these federal dollars back into the community as quickly as possible through programs that will have an immediate effect on the lives of Nevadans," **said Gov. Sisolak**. "I want to thank all our community providers for their partnership in ensuring every Nevadan recovers."

There are many wonderful organizations supporting Nevadans as we recover from the pandemic and putting financial resources directly in their hands is critically important. These Community Recovery Grants will cut wait times for mental health services, provide greater food security and nutritional assistance for seniors and children, and support new parents striving to give their newborns a healthy and equitable start to life," **said Senate Leader Nicole Cannizzaro**. "I am grateful to my colleagues and the

Governor for their support of these programs and look forward to continuing to get our federal resources into our communities as quickly as possible.

"While Nevada is bouncing back from the devastating impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, many of our neighbors are still hurting and need support. The Governor's Office and the legislature continue to prioritize getting dollars to the people who need them the most, whether it be closing staffing gaps in our healthcare sector, making mental health treatment more accessible, combating food insecurity, providing grants for children with disabilities in our foster care system, or better supporting survivors of crime," **said Assemblyman Steve Yeager**. "As we've seen time and time again throughout the pandemic, Nevadans are resilient. The investments approved by the Interim Finance Committee today will make our communities even stronger."

Community Recovery Grants

Committee members approved the first four Community Recovery Grants. Announced in early December, the State set aside \$30 million in federal funds to utilize existing non-profits in the State to help provide direct and immediate community services.

The first non-profits to receive funds include:

- [The Family Support Center](#), located in Winnemucca. The \$153,764 grant will help the center reduce wait times and serve additional clients. The organization provides community-based, outpatient mental health and wellness services.
- The [Food Bank of Northern Nevada](#), located in Sparks. The \$629,026 grant will go toward the equitable outreach program. The Food Bank currently serves more than 107,000 individuals every month, almost half of whom are children and seniors.

- [Baby's Bounty](#), located in Las Vegas. The \$201,801 grant will support the diaper bank and baby bundle programs. The organization supports and empowers at-risk families by helping provide education and other tools to ensure a good start for every baby.
- [Goodwill of Southern Nevada](#), with locations throughout the Las Vegas Valley. The \$993,512 grant will allow Goodwill to build upon a program that provides evidence-based workforce development for certified nursing assistants and medical assistants. Working with employers, Goodwill provides training sprints to help Nevadans get training and certification in high-wage, high-growth, health care jobs.

Transforming Opportunities for Toddlers and Students grants:

- Additional money was allocated by the Committee to build upon the Transforming Opportunities for Toddlers and Students (TOTS) grant program, which launched in October 2021.
- The first-in-the-nation program, administered by the Office of the Treasurer, allows children with disabilities to receive grants of \$5,000 to use for everyday expenses such as education, transportation, housing, healthcare, assistive technology, and other disability-related expenses.
- Today's additional investment in the program will be aimed specifically at children with disabilities in foster care settings.
- "The TOTS Grant has been a lifeline for children with disabilities and their families, who have faced insurmountable challenges throughout this pandemic," **said Treasurer Zach Conine**. "The additional \$7 million investment for this first-in-the-nation program will allow us to fund every family who applied for this grant and also support 400 foster children with disabilities throughout the State."

Nursing apprenticeship:

- More than \$20 million was also approved to strengthen the nursing apprenticeship program, which is helping alleviate staffing shortages in hospitals and health care settings.
- The funds will pay the per diem rate for nursing students working in Nevada facilities, provide an hourly rate increase for each supervising registered nurse (RN) providing oversight, provide travel stipends when working in rural Nevada facilities and provide stipends for Nurse Apprentices who complete their nursing school program, become licensed and agree to work at a qualifying facility for a specific duration of time.
- There is interest from hospitals and skilled nursing facilities to increase or create these positions to meet the demand and address the staffing shortages in Nevada facilities. There are about 900 nursing students and more than 90 facilities that would be eligible to access this program.

Victims of Crime Service providers:

- The Interim Finance Committee approved \$5.75 million in American Rescue Plan Act federal grant funds to support Victims of Crime service providers. The funding will be awarded to community organizations that support victims of crime. Federal funding for these programs has decreased nationwide and the award will bring level funding for the partners who support families in their communities.

Forestry:

- American Rescue Plan Act funds the replacement of three mobile kitchen units and the purchase of three mobile shower units with tow vehicles which together support wildland fire suppression incidents and critical natural resource projects in Nevada.
- \$5 million for emergency wildfire response – including firefighter personnel, equipment, supplies, and other necessary costs – to help

protect Nevada families, community infrastructure and the natural environment from wildfires.

DETR upgrades:

- \$836,619 is the first step in modernizing the unemployment insurance (UI) program so DETR can respond to future economic disruptions: While DETR has been making updates and improvements to its existing systems, this funding was earmarked for modernization to the UI Information System. Funds will be used to develop the modernization Request for Proposal. Modernization work is on track; DETR has already started the first phase of the project to upgrade the unemployment compensation program which is to build out the requirements that will go into the Request for Proposal. The RFP will be released in February of 2022.

EV charging infrastructure:

- Funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) are being repurposed to build out electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in state-owned buildings. This partnership between the Governor's Office of Energy and the State Public Works Division is an important step in electrifying workplaces, transitioning state fleets to EVs, and reaching our climate goals.

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