

STAFF REPORT

Date: June 14, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Approval of Subrecipient Agreement with Neighbor Network of Northern Nevada for Award of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support senior transportation in the amount of \$200,000. (ARPA Funds)

From: Noemi Gomez, Community Relationships Manager

Department: City Manager's Office

Summary:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The City of Reno received \$51,519,997 from the SLFRF and began allocating funds to critical projects on August 25, 2021, following initial acceptance of the funds. Since acceptance, Council adopted seven priority categories based on community input, Council direction, Treasury requirements, and the City of Reno master and strategic plans. On April 26, 2023, Council approved \$200,000 in funding to Neighbor Network of Northern Nevada to go towards transportation services and support for Reno Seniors. Staff is seeking approval of the Subrecipient Agreement with Neighbor Network of Northern Nevada that relates to this action.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Fiscal Sustainability

Previous Council Action:

January 26, 2022 - Council approved recommended \$24,499,998.50 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation. \$1,000,000 of the funds were allocated for senior support. February 8, 2023 - Council requested for staff to get further input from the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and the community regarding the senior ARPA allocations plan, then bring a plan forward approved by the SCAC. April 26, 2023 - Council approved to adopted the proposed Senior ARPA plan of the amount of \$1,000,000 for Senior-focused programming and initiatives.

Background:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 establishing the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF). The SLFRF allocates funding to state, county, and local governments to support efforts to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The SLFRF allocated \$51,519,997 directly to the City of Reno to assist in response and recovery efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discussion:

Neighbor Network of Northern Nevada (N4) will be the leading nonprofit organization for senior transportation services. N4 will offer free rides utilizing its Lyft/Uber program. Each participant will receive an \$80 Lyft/Uber voucher each month. N4 will provide hands-on training to participants to use the Lyft/Uber apps. They will conduct community outreach activities to include technology workshops for seniors in the Reno community.

If a participant does not have the desire or ability to use a smartphone, they will be offered N4's concierge service at no additional charge. With concierge, the participant and/or their support person simply calls the N4 office to have the ride scheduled for them through a special platform N4 has with Lyft/Uber.

N4 will utilize its marketing contractor to promote the program and ensure project outcomes are met. Participant feedback will be collected on a quarterly basis to evaluate satisfaction and program effectiveness.

The goal is to ensure senior transportation barriers are reduced and their opportunity to participate in recreation and programming is maximized. Transportation support for the senior community is an essential service that seniors depend on. This transportation program will have a direct benefit to seniors in the community and the City of Reno.

Financial Implications:

Approving the \$200,000 Subrecipient Agreement has no impact on the General Fund. The funds have been allocated from the City of Reno's ARPA SLFRF funds.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council approve the Subrecipient Agreement with Neighbor Network of Northern Nevada for Award of American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support Senior transportation, in the amount of \$200,000. (ARPA Funds)

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Neighbor Network ARPA Agreement