

Request for Coronavirus Relief Fund Allocation

Response to the economic impacts of COVID-19 – Economic support

Program(s) Name: COVID-19 Coordinated Economic Response Plan

Agency(s) Administering Program: Governor’s Office of Economic Development/State Treasurer’s Office

Total Amount Requested from CRF: \$1,050,000

Funding Breakdown:

Necessary consulting agreements for COVID-19 response research and feasibility studies = \$800,000

- *Broadband, telecommunications, and e-commerce expansion to respond to public health, distance learning, and economic pressures created by COVID-19.*
- *Supply chain and last-mile delivery enhancements to improve delivery services impacted by COVID-19.*
- *Assessing Nevada’s behavioral health care delivery systems to ensure capacity to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, negative economic pressures, and related government stay-at-home orders.*
- *Retraining Nevada’s workers who have been displaced during the COVID-19 public health emergency.*
- *Strengthening state systems and processes to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.*

Consulting agreement for the COVID-19 Comprehensive Economic Response Plan = \$250,000

Total= \$1,050,000 (all proposed expenditures would utilize CRF)

Targeted IFC: October 22, 2020

Explanation of Expeditious Action: This program requires expeditious action due to the importance of quickly responding to the economic challenges caused directly from the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to ensure that consulting agreements can be completed and acted upon in a timely fashion, we are requesting that this work program be processed as soon as possible.

Explanation if Other Fed Funds Cover this Cost: There are no other federal funds that will cover the cost of this program. Therefore, CRF are the only funds currently available that can ensure that the State can develop an economic response plan to respond to the immediate effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

How does this transition out/get paid for after 12/30/20? This program is designed to provide the State with an immediately actionable economic response plan. The actions that would be taken by the State following the completion of this plan would not result in additional costs after December 30, 2020.

Description – The Nevada COVID-19 Coordinated Economic Response Plan will ensure that the State can understand and measure the impacts that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on the State’s systems and the economy, while providing the Governor’s Office of Economic Development with an actionable COVID-19 response plan that is ready for immediate implementation.

For this program, CRF would be used to perform research and feasibility studies for critical components of Nevada's economy that have been directly impacted by COVID-19 and identified by the Governor's Office of Economic Development. These feasibility studies would be completed prior to November 30, 2020, and would focus on the following areas: broadband, telecommunications, e-commerce, supply chain, last-mile delivery services, primary and behavioral health care services, the retraining of displaced workers, and how best to strengthen State processes to respond to COVID-19. These feasibility studies will then be organized into a comprehensive economic response plan.

This program will require six short-term contracts for consulting, economic analysis, and strategic implementation documents which will provide the State of Nevada with an actionable plan to best respond to the economic impacts posed directly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of these contracts will end prior to December 2020, and the State will obtain a comprehensive economic response plan to be acted upon immediately.

Sub-Components of the COVID-19 Coordinated Economic Response Plan

Each of the items included below is an integral component of shaping the State's economic recovery strategy in response to COVID-19.

1. Study - Broadband, telecommunications, and e-commerce expansion to respond to the public health, distance learning, and economic pressures created by COVID-19. - \$125,000 (CRF)

The State's broadband, telecommunications, e-commerce infrastructure have been stressed by the impacts of COVID-19 as companies have shifted to remote work, public schools and universities have transitioned to distance learning, and tele-health services have been in demand across the State. This request will allow GOED to contract with a qualified vendor(s) to perform a study that identifies the effects that COVID-19 has had on these systems and incorporates recommendations for immediate and mid-term improvement.

Costs: Up to \$125,000 to contract for the development of a comprehensive report.

2. Study - Supply chain and last-mile delivery enhancements to improve delivery services impacted by COVID-19 - \$100,000 (CRF)

The State's supply chain infrastructure has been severely constrained during the COVID-19 pandemic, as residents have struggled to gain access to essential products and lifesaving prescription medications. This request will allow GOED to contract with a qualified vendor to perform a study that identifies the effects that COVID-19 has had on Nevada's supply chain and outline recommendations for improving necessary last-mile delivery services to vulnerable populations.

Costs: Up to \$100,000 to contract for the development of a comprehensive report.

3. Study – Assessing Nevada's behavioral health care delivery systems to ensure capacity to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, negative economic pressures, and related government stay-at-home orders - \$300,000 (CRF)

COVID-19 has posed a significant public health risk to Nevada’s existing behavioral health care infrastructure as residents have struggled with the effects of isolation caused by stay-at-home orders, sudden unemployment, the stressors of being threatened with eviction and/or foreclosure. This request will allow GOED to contract with a qualified vendor to perform a necessary study that identifies the effects that COVID-19 has had on the State’s behavioral health system, along with recommendations for immediate improvements to increase capacity and quality of care for residents.

Costs: Up to \$300,000 to contract for the development of a comprehensive report.

4. Study - Retraining Nevada’s workers who have been displaced during the COVID-19 public health emergency - \$100,000 (CRF)

Nevada has been the hardest hit state in the nation with regard to unemployment and job displacement caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the State’s tourism and service-based economy continues to struggle in the midst of the public health emergency, the need for a rapid pipeline for workforce retraining and upskilling has become paramount. This request will allow GOED to contract with a qualified vendor to perform a study that identifies the effects that COVID-19 has had on Nevada’s workforce and develop strategies to retrain workers displaced due to COVID-19, for new career pathways. The vendor who is selected to conduct this study will be required to work collaboratively with Nevada’s existing workforce partners to coordinate existing workforce training programs to best meet the State’s needs to directly respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

These partners would include: OWINN, Workforce Connections, NSHE (mainly the community colleges), the Regional Development Authorities, local chambers of commerce, the Apprenticeship Council, and the State’s existing career and technical education programs.

Costs: Up to \$100,000 to contract for the development of a comprehensive report.

5. Study - Strengthening State systems and processes to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency - \$175,000 (CRF)

COVID-19 has exposed vulnerabilities and inefficiencies in State systems and processes, as the State has worked to respond to the adverse economic effects caused by the pandemic. This request will allow GOED to contract with a qualified vendor to perform a study that looks at the State’s existing processes to identify innovative ways leverage federal and private investment to aid in the State’s economic response to COVID-19.

Costs: Up to \$175,000 to contract for the development of a comprehensive report.

6. COVID-19 Comprehensive economic response plan - \$250,000 (CRF)

To ensure that the State can quickly and effectively act on the policy recommendations that will be developed in the previously mentioned studies, all of the data and information will need to be compiled into a single plan. This request will allow GOED to contract with qualified vendor to perform a high-level analysis that takes the various elements of the five studies that will be conducted under this program and incorporate them into a comprehensive economic response plan for the State. This vendor will be engaged in all facets of this program to ensure that the State can act on this plan to respond to the immediate effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Costs: Up to \$250,000 to contract for project management assistance and the development of a comprehensive COVID-19 economic response plan.

Expected outcome – The CRF dollars requested for this COVID-19 Coordinated Economic Response Plan will ensure that the State can understand the impacts that the COVID-19 public health emergency has had on the State’s systems and the economy, while providing the Governor’s Office of Economic Development with an actionable plan that is ready for immediate implementation. This program is critical to Nevada’s economic response to COVID-19 and will provide GOED with a coordinated plan which can be rapidly deployed throughout the State.

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 21, 2020

To: Susan Brown, Director, Governor's Finance Office

From: Michael Brown, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development 

cc: Allison Combs, Treasurer Zach Conine, Director Terry Reynolds

Re: Coronavirus Relief Funds – COVID-19 Coordinated Economic Response Plan

The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) is requesting an expeditious action for a work program, requested by the Governor's Office, to obtain budget authority for emergency funds awarded as part of the COVID-19 CARES Act funding to develop a coordinated economic response plan that will ensure that the State can understand and measure the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the State's systems and economy.

Approval of this expeditious action for a work program will allow GOED to access the CARES Act funds needed to secure contracts with vendors to perform research and feasibility studies for critical components of Nevada's economy that have been directly impacted by COVID-19. Once completed, these studies will then provide the State with an actionable plan to best respond to the economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attached for your information is the final Request for Coronavirus Relief Fund Allocation of \$1,050,000.

State of Nevada Work Program

WP Number: C52984

FY 2021

<input type="checkbox"/> Add Original Work Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> XXX Modify Work Program	BUDGET DIVISION USE ONLY DATE _____ APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR BY _____		
DATE	FUND	AGENCY	BUDGET	DEPT/DIV/BUDGET NAME
09/21/20	101	102	1526	GOED - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEV

Funds Available

Budgetary GLs (2501 - 2599)	Description	WP Amount	Revenue GLs (3000 - 4999)	Description	WP Amount	Current Authority	Revised Authority
			4666	TRANSFER FROM CARES ACT-D	1,200,000	0	1,200,000
Subtotal Budgetary General Ledgers		0	Subtotal Revenue General Ledgers(RB)		1,200,000		1,200,000
Total Budgetary & Revenue GLs					1,200,000		

Expenditures

CAT	Amount	CAT	Amount
14	1,200,000		
Sub Total Category Expenditures			1,200,000

Remarks

This work program requests the addition of \$1,200,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) transferred from the CARES Act 2020 Account to develop a Nevada Labor Certification Plan, as well as a Workforce Skills Matching Platform.

Total Budgetary General Ledgers and Category Expenditures (AP) 1,200,000

bvale1

Authorized Signature

09/21/20

Date

Controller's Office Approval

Requires Interim Finance approval since 15 Day Expeditious Action submitted pursuant to NRS 353.220(5)(b) on September 21, 2020. The 15 day clock expires on October 6, 2020.

**STATE OF NEVADA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Budget Account 1526 - GOED - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEV
Work Program C52984
Fiscal Year 2021**

Submitted September 21, 2020

Budget Account's Primary Purpose, Function and Statutory Authority

The Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) works to diversify and strengthen the state's economy by: attracting companies to Nevada; assisting in the retention and expansion of existing Nevada companies; providing support to start-ups; and developing the workforce that will fill the jobs of Nevada's future. In addition, GOED partners with higher education to increase the research and development/commercialization opportunities for targeted Nevada industries, including: Aerospace & Defense; Health Care; Information Technology; Manufacturing & Logistics; Mining; Natural Resource Technologies; and Tourism & Gaming. The office works closely with local, regional and statewide entities to achieve the goals that were first identified in the 2012 GOED State Plan for Excellence in Economic Development, which also includes expanding global exports and increasing foreign investment in Nevada. Statutory Authority: NRS 231.

Purpose of Work Program

This work program requests the addition of \$1,200,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) transferred from the CARES Act 2020 Account to develop a Nevada Labor Certification Plan, as well as a Workforce Skills Matching Platform.

Justification

Nevada's workforce has been one of the hardest hit in the nation and job displacement impacts are not expected to level off in the near future. It is paramount that workforce and economic development systems align to expedite the return to work through strategic response systems based on the needs of business and the workforce pipeline. This request will allow GOED to contract with a qualified vendor to perform a study that identifies and sheds light on the dynamics of Nevada's workforce following the COVID-19 public health emergency to drive action.

GOED will work with the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation, the Office of Science and Technology, the Department of Education and regional workforce and economic development partners to customize the survey instrument to gather the intelligence necessary to effectively respond to the business and workforce impacts sustained during the public health emergency.

Workforce skills and availability have also become a top priority for businesses considering location and expansion and this study can strategically position each region of our State for investments leading to job creation, increased tax base and diversification of local economies.

In addition, GOED is seeking a software solution that guides jobseekers through the process of inventorying their skills and then matching them to both local jobs and upskilling/reskilling opportunities. The solution will allow displaced workers and adult learners to understand their backgrounds from a skills lens and make career/education decisions based on their experience.

Expected Benefits to be Realized

The Nevada Labor Certification Plan will help the State to understand what the skills, utilization rates and occupational opportunities of Nevada's workforce are in order to better develop policies and strategies for job creation and rapid reemployment of those displaced by the COVID-19 public health emergency. This program is critical to Nevada's economic response to COVID-19 and will provide GOED and the State's workforce and economic development stakeholders with the data to position the systems to more effectively and simultaneously support business and prospective employees.

In addition, the CRF dollars requested for the COVID-19 Workforce Skills Matching Platform will enable the deployment of a statewide resource that can expedite the reemployment of displaced workers and increase the visibility of workforce training programs that can propel workforce reentry.

Explanation of Projections and Documentation

Attached to this work program are the following documents: 1526 SFY21 Budget Status Report, 1526 SFY21 Before and After Fund Map, Nevada CRF Allocation Request for COVID-19 Nevada Labor Certification Plan, Nevada CRF Allocation Request for COVID-19 Workforce Skills Matching Platform, Budget Account File Maintenance Form, and Memorandum to GFO for Approval of 15-Day Work Program.

New Positions: No

Summary of Alternatives and Why Current Proposal is Preferred

It is preferred that this work program be approved in order to allow the agency to secure a contract with a qualified vendor to perform a study that identifies and sheds light on the dynamics of Nevada's workforce following the COVID-19 public health emergency to drive action, as well as prevent the agency from contracting for a Workforce Skills Matching Platform that could assist displaced worker. Non-approval of this work program would prevent the State from being able to help those that have been displaced due to the COVID-19 and also would prevent the agency from obtaining valuable information that could be obtained with the Nevada Labor Certification Plan.