



**COUNTY OF NEVADA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
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Trisha Tillotson  
Community Development Agency Director

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BOARD AGENDA MEMO**

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**MEETING DATE:** March 26, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency Director

**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION approving and authorizing execution of a professional service contract between the County of Nevada and the Community Foundation of Nevada County in the amount of \$250,000 over three years (\$83,333 a year) to administer the Nevada County Relief Fund, engage with the Office of Emergency Services to explore if a western county Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) is feasible, facilitate collaborative engagement with the County of Nevada and the nonprofit sector, coordinate with the Economic Development Office on community initiatives that align with Nevada County objectives, and direct the Auditor-Controller to amend the FY2023/2024 budget (4/5 affirmative vote required).

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive a Community Foundation of Nevada County (CFNC) presentation and approve the Resolution and three-year contract through the Economic Development Office that supports CFNCs operations while advancing economic development and community initiatives that align with Board priority objectives.

**FUNDING:** Funding is \$250,000 for the period of April 1, 2024, through June 30 2027 over three years (\$83,333 per year) to be matched through their fundraising with \$500,000 (\$166,666 a year) directed toward operational costs of the CFNC for their first three years. Funding for this will come from the Board Priorities Assignment of the General Fund. The funding will flow through the Economic Development budget.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the spring of 2020, the Nevada County Relief Fund (NCRF) was established as western Nevada County's response to the COVID-19 crisis through a coalition of County government, nonprofit agencies and community members. Within weeks, a public/private partnership was formed and eventually over \$1,500,000 was raised to fund small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the pandemic and later that year, the effects of local wildfires.

Galvanized by this extraordinary response, a Steering Committee composed of members of the NCRF's Community Advisory Council (CAC) and diverse community leaders engaged in a feasibility study to determine whether a community foundation could be formed. Of the six disaster relief funds studied by the emerging coalition, all were fielded and administered by their local community foundation. Yet western Nevada County, which is at acute risk of wildfire disaster, is the only community of its size in the state of California which does not have access to the services of a community foundation.

The six month assessment, which included listening tours and conversations with philanthropic leaders who had undertaken similar initiatives in the past, underscored the urgency and importance of launching our first Community Foundation of Nevada County.

Community foundations have an important role to play in bringing together civil society and governments. They bring innovative ideas and skills to public authorities in both the design of policies and the delivery of services to the public. Their collaboration also enables community foundations to access information and resources that increase their effectiveness. It also ensures that both public and private institutions are working together in a shared community towards common goals, avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring maximum impact.

From the local government side, independent funders like community foundations are an attractive partner and collaborator because they can build partnerships across sectors, give government a "human dimension", ensure all the public money gets to the recipient, help to leverage public funding and are free of short-term mindset of elected bodies.

In December 2023, CFNC received its 501c3 nonprofit status. A diverse board of fourteen nonprofit, business and community leaders was formed that are dedicated to guiding the Foundation, and ensuring it operates with the highest levels of community trust and integrity. The Board has a wide variety of expertise in the fields of law and finance, local business, agriculture, construction, nonprofit management, arts and culture bearers, and public service.

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve a three-year contract of \$250,000 over three years (\$83,333 a year) with the CFNC matching \$500,000 (\$166,666 a year) toward their operations. In addition, a scope of work will be completed that includes 1) administer the Nevada County Relief Fund, 2) engage with the Office of Emergency Services to explore if a western county Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) is feasible, 3) facilitate collaborative engagement with the County of Nevada and the nonprofit sector, and 4) coordinate with the Economic Development office on community initiatives that align with Nevada County objectives.

**Item Initiated by:** Kimberly Parker, Economic Development Office/Community Development Agency

**Approved by:** Trisha Tillotson, Community Development Agency, Director

**Submittal Date:**