

## 2024 Clark County NACo Achievement Awards:

**Program Name:** The Historical Preservation of the Wedding Capital of the World

**Category:** Arts, Culture, and Historic Preservation

**Abstract:**

In 2022, Clark County Nevada (founded in 1909) issued its 5-millionth wedding license. In celebrating this milestone, we quickly realized that it wasn't the 5-millionth license that was important, but the five (5) million love stories that came before. Weddings are part of our DNA. Las Vegas was already an established wedding destination when the famous Flamingo Hotel opened in 1946 with a chapel inside. Since then, couples have continued to come to Las Vegas to get married. On September 23, 1953, Las Vegas' international wedding status was recognized in the London Daily Herald as the "Wedding Capital of the World." To celebrate this unique heritage, the Clerk's Office and the wedding community have come together to create the "Las Vegas Wedding Club." We are reaching out to couples to capture as many of their love stories as possible and each year we host an annual celebration that began last year with the 70th Anniversary of the "Wedding Capital of the World" and a mass vow renewal. Weddings and wedding couples are part of our heritage and an essential component of who we are as a county. Archiving these love stories preserves and honors our unique history.

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**Program Name:** Enhancing and Improving Transparency, Community Outreach, and Advocacy through Family Counseling Services at the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner

**Category:** County Administration and Management

**Abstract:**

The Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME) is dedicated to improving service to the public in a way that upholds the county's values. In 2021, our Office identified a gap in the manner in which, information from our Office and service referrals were delivered to grieving family members and endeavored to improve service provision and the professionalism and compassion of information delivery. When working with the bereaved medicolegal professionals know that delivering bad news is part of our duties; however, we often lack the training and resources necessary to provide services and support to those we encounter during our work. Alleviating this gap required the addition of a Family Counselor to the team of professionals at the CCOCME. Adding a Family Counselor to the CCOCME provides a more holistic approach to working with the bereaved. This social work-trained professional not only improved communication with these individuals, but also provides a more comprehensive understanding of the social aspects that impact families following the death of a loved one. This professional provides aid to families in the form of communication and by providing resources to aid them including resources to help with

all other socioeconomic and psychological impacts stemming from a death. Additionally, this professional provides additional support to the team of medicolegal professionals working at the CCOCME by leading peer support.

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**Program Name:** Leveraging Regional Collaboration to Drive a Sustainable & Resilient Future

**Category:** County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy, and Sustainability

**Abstract:**

Passed in April of 2023, the All-In Clark County Community Sustainability and Climate Action Plan (“Plan” or “All-In Community Plan”) is the area’s first ever comprehensive plan focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing Clark County’s residents, economy, environment, and infrastructure for the impacts of climate change. This Plan goes beyond ensuring clean air and water; it encompasses affordable housing, clean energy, sustainable employment opportunities, and a livable climate. During the Plan development process and now in the implementation phase, the County, five (5) municipalities, and two (2) regional agencies have committed through an interlocal agreement, to foster convening and capacity building, deliver regional public education and outreach, take action on climate solutions, and share and leverage resources to build a more sustainable future for Southern Nevada. This group, working as the All-In Regional Climate Collaborative, is leading the implementation of the Plan’s strategies and actions to pave a pathway to a 32% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 and a 72% reduction by 2050. The Collaborative is also leading EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program, which requires the development of another GHG inventory and climate action plan. However, completion of these tasks makes the region eligible for significant implementation funds.

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**Program Name:** Housing Crisis Navigation Center

**Category:** Health

**Abstract:**

The homeless crisis demands urgent attention and multifaceted solutions. The Housing Crisis Navigation Center project prioritized innovative solutions including housing options, mental health support, and connections to community-based resources to provide collaborative case management and services. Through collaboration between local government, direct service providers, and community advocates, Clark County implemented comprehensive outreach and assistance strategies to welcome individuals to the Navigation Center. With a foundation of compassion, trauma-informed care, and client-centered practices including harm reduction and housing first philosophies, Clark County aimed to make significant strides in alleviating unsheltered homelessness and restoring dignity to the community’s most vulnerable neighbors. The Housing

Crisis Navigation Center recognizes the interconnectedness of various factors contributing to homelessness and aims to provide holistic support. By leveraging resources and expertise across organizations, we created sustainable solutions that empower individuals and creates a community where everyone has access to safe housing, essential services, and opportunities for a brighter future.

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**Program Name:** US Vets BETterment Program

**Category:** Human Services

**Abstract:**

Through a Clark County initiative, the BETterment Community is a public and private collaborative that provides Bridge housing, employment and training to assist individuals without children to transition out of homelessness and into permanent housing in 90 days or less. Clark County has master leased an entire motel complex and rehabilitated the units to meet habitability standards and is designed for shared housing for up to 50 individuals at any given day. HELP of Southern Nevada and Caridad joined US VETS, the lead agency, to provide client-centered and trauma-informed services to program participants. Clients are active participants in all programming and are fully integrated into this therapeutic community. BETterment Community has been open and operational since February of 2023.