



## **State of Nevada**

### **Department of Health and Human Services**

#### **Division of Child and Family Services**

#### **Grant Management Unit**

#### **Notice of Funding Opportunity**

### **Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program**

#### **Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Award**

**NOTE:** This document is available online at <http://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/GMU/GMU/>

# Application Form: Section A

Please complete each item. Add extra rows if more space is needed to provide complete responses.

## A. Applicant Organization

Name	Clark County Social Service	
Mailing Address	1600 Pinto Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89106-4196	
Physical Address	1600 Pinto Lane	
City & State	Las Vegas, Nevada	Zip (9-digit) 89106-4196
Federal Tax ID #	88-6000028	
UEI #	DF4MDGFTBJB4	
State of Nevada Vendor #	T81026920Y	

**B. Organization Type** ☒ Government Agency ☐ 501(c)(3) Nonprofit

**C. Geographic Area of Services Delivery.** Check applicable boxes and provide a brief narrative of the service area

<input type="checkbox"/> City	Clark County encompasses Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite, North Las Vegas, and fourteen unincorporated communities, which are known collectively as Southern Nevada. Clark County is the eleventh largest populated county in the nation with the seventh busiest airport. Clark County has over 45 million visitors each year. Clark County has an estimated population of more than 2.4 million people of which 1.2 million are between the ages of 20 and 64 and is the most populous county in Nevada. Seventy-five percent of the state's total residents live in Clark County.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County	
<input type="checkbox"/> Region	
<input type="checkbox"/> Statewide	This proposal is for Clark County Social Service to continue serving the eligible youth in Clark County, while expanding outreach and partnership efforts to reach additional and new youth who are eligible for services. It is our understanding that the Northern Nevada applicant intends to propose to continue serving Washoe County and the rural counties. If there were no other eligible applicants in Nevada, CCSS would be willing to manage the funds across the state as needed. In situations where a ETV participant from Clark County attends an ETV eligible institution in Northern Nevada, Clark County will still follow this ETV participant and provide services. The expectation is Northern Nevada would do the same for any other participants from their region that attend a Clark County ETV eligible institution.

Indicate projected number of young adults to be served:

Young Adults: \_\_\_\_80\_\_\_\_

#### E. Program Point of Contact

Name	Joseph Taylor
Title	Social Work Supervisor
Phone	702-455-3736
Email	<a href="mailto:joseph.taylor@clarkcountynv.gov">joseph.taylor@clarkcountynv.gov</a>

#### F. Fiscal Officer

Name	Maria Paz Maliksi
Title	Management Analyst
Phone	702-455-5604
Email	Maria.maliksi@ClarkCountyNV.Gov

#### G. Subcontracts

Does your organization subcontract its services? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, complete information below.		
Subcontractor		
Mailing Address		
Physical Address		
City		Zip (9-digit)
Federal Tax ID #	(xx-xxxxxxx)	

#### H. Key Personnel

Name	Title	Resume included?
Alisha Barrett	Social Services Manager	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Joseph Taylor	Social Work Supervisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Stacey Holland	ETV Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Maria Paz Maliksi	Fiscal Management Analyst	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No





**I. Current Funding List.** List all revenue for the agency/organization.

Funding Source	Pending/Secured	Time Period	Amount (\$)
County Revenue	Pending	Ongoing	\$12.3 million
Federal and State Grants	Secured	Ongoing	\$15 million

**J. Funding Request.** List funding requested for the one-year award period.

Funding	SFY 24 Award (if applicable)	SFY25 Request	Difference
ETV Program	\$316,737	\$316,737	0

**K. Certification by Authorized Official**

As the authorized official for the applying agency, I certify that the proposed project and activities described in this application meet all requirements of ETV program governing the grant as indicated by DCFS and the certifications included in the application packet; that all the information contained in the application is correct; that the appropriate coordination with affected agencies and organizations, including subcontractors, took place; and that this agency agrees to comply with all provisions of the applicable grant program and all other applicable federal and state laws, current or future rules, and regulations. I understand and agree that any award received as a result of this application is subject to the conditions set forth in the Notice of Subaward and accompanying documents.

Name (type/print)

Abigail Frierson

Title

Deputy County Manager

Signature



Phone

(702) 455-7297

Email

abigail.frierson@clarkcountynv.gov

Date

4/22/24

# Application Narrative: Section B

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## Application Narrative (70 points)

The complete questions are listed on page 9 of the NOFO. Begin typing below each question header.

- **Organization's goals and objectives**

Educational achievement and accomplishment are a key part of building and sustaining long-term success for many youth and young adults and can be even more important to youth in foster care. Completing secondary and post-secondary education helps increase job opportunities and earning capabilities and develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will increase stability and enhance the quality of life for a young adult starting out on their own. Building this foundation and cultivating success can be a difficult task for any youth but foster youth can face additional hurdles as they transition out of foster care and into adult life.

Youth in foster care face the typical developmental changes and new experiences common to their age. They also are confronted with the adjustment to being on their own and not under the child welfare agency's care. As youth age out of the foster care system, they can find themselves without a family, support system, and the skills necessary to make it on their own or properly navigate the many systems of higher education or vocational school. They are also faced with many unique challenges, including unstable housing or at-risk of homelessness, lack of adequate elementary and secondary education, lack of employment and job training, problems with physical or behavioral health, and a lack of social connections.

On any given day, approximately 3,000 children and youth are served in Clark County by the child welfare system. Roughly 100 Clark County youth "age out" of the foster care system every year on their eighteenth birthday. Clark County's economy is based on tourism, and many jobs available to these youth do not offer competitive salaries or medical insurance and require reliable transportation as well as potential startup costs such as TAM, Sherriff's, and Health cards, and drug testing. Additionally, the processes of searching for a job, applying, interviewing, and completing any required paperwork can be daunting and difficult for a foster youth with little to no experience or guidance.

Similar hurdles face former foster youth trying to enter higher education in Clark County. Navigating through program and school options and finding the appropriate resources, funding sources, departments, records, and contacts, while also maintaining their new housing and possible employment situations may not be an option for foster and former foster youth with limited means and support.

Along with traditional educational institutions such as University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV), University of Nevada Reno (UNR), College of Southern Nevada (CSN), and Nevada State College (NSC), Nevada also has a wealth of trade and vocational schools and programs available to students. Clark County is home to hundreds of these programs that provide accredited specializations, certificates, and degrees to enrolled students. Skilled trade workers, electricians, plumbers, HVAC technicians, gaming, and hospitality technicians are in high



demand in Clark County and can provide long-term employment and financial stability to graduates. While these options are helpful tools and programs for former foster youth, many are not being utilized due to youth's lack of awareness of the program or the required support and financial assistance required to navigate and utilize these programs successfully.

Clark County Social Service's Step Up Program (CCSS Step Up) bridges the gap between foster youth and educational and vocational institutions, and provides wrap-around services, individualized case management, and specialized resources that can encourage, direct, and support youth to pursue and thrive in these programs. Clark County Social Service (CCSS) has operated Step Up through a collaborative agreement with Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS) since 2010. CCSS Step Up is a young adult program for youth who have "aged out" of foster care in Clark County, Nevada. The goal is to assist youth in making the transition from foster care to economic self-sufficiency. They offer various forms of financial assistance and referrals to their network of community partners to assist young adults including housing assistance, educational assistance, employment assistance, transportation, resources, and case management. Services include funds for rental assistance, help with move-in fees and deposits, move-in kits (kitchen supplies, cleaning supplies, etc.), graduation incentives, monthly 30-day bus passes, and other resources.

CCSS Step Up is instrumental in assisting youth in gaining access to community housing programs or independent housing programs that fall within youth budgets. Young adults participating in the program are paired with a qualified case manager who will assist them in their journey to become self-sufficient. Together, they will work on individualized case plan goals and the young adult will have access to someone who will be their advocate and help guide them.

CCSS Step Up also maintains a youth drop-in center for program participants that is centrally located in Las Vegas (near Charleston/Rancho) and is close to a main bus route. The center features an open kitchen with snacks, several resource cabinets (hygiene, school supply, parenting resources), information boards (medical, education, employment, legal, events, etc.), and computers with internet access that are open for young adults to use. The center is designed to specifically support the needs of former foster youth and is ideal for promotion of Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) funding and opportunities. CCSS Step Up is now the "one-stop" program that serves young adults that "aged-out" of the foster care system in Southern Nevada. Their "no wrong door" approach specifically assists these young adults and ensures that they can find assistance for anything they need to ensure their continued success.

CCSS Step Up's goal for the ETV program is to ensure that this vital funding is utilized to maintain all eligible youth in academic and vocational programs while providing comprehensive services and support to maintain long-term success. Additionally, CCSS Step Up aims to expand services to additional youth, increase current outreach and information dissemination on ETV availability and resources to both youth, adults, and partner organizations, and continue to identify former foster youth adopted after age 16 and guardianship youth that are eligible for ETV funds but are not currently utilizing this resource.

CCSS Step Up serves approximately 300 youth and young adults, ages 18 to 21, per month and since 2020 has expanded the ETV program from serving 69 to 73 current youth. In 2023-2024 they increased engagement efforts to recruit 26 new ETV recipients and have reached out to 21 potential ETV students who are in varying stages of the ETV application process. This brings the outreach total to 47 newly engaged students and positions Step Up to continue serving at least 80 youth in



the upcoming year and to meet their goal of serving at least 80 youth in the current program year. CCSS Step Up will continue to utilize connections with Clark County DFS to obtain contact information and data from the Community Management Information System (CMIS) and Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) to identify, contact, and refer these additional youth and young adults to the resources and case management available to them and eliminate current gaps in service and support.

In the three years that the Step Up program has managed the ETV program they have seen great success. The number of Southern Nevada youth utilizing ETV increased 38% overall, rising from 57 served in the initial 2021-2022 program year, to 73 served in the current 2023-2024 program year. With continued funding for 2024-2025, CCSS Step Up aims to maintain the services of all current ETV youth and to meet the standard of 80 youth served. Throughout this change and expansion of services, the ETV coordinator, who has direct experience in working with aged-out former foster youth, has also developed and implemented updated program forms and processes that increase efficiency and promote client centered engagement for services. These changes ensure that funding is received on time, that there is no waitlist for services in Southern Nevada, and that the ETV program is prepared to support the additional participants.

In addition to the increase in utilization across program years, the ETV program has also initiated an increase in partnerships and engagement across providers. Step Up has built a successful partnership with DFS that has allowed information on ETV services to be disseminated to former foster youth adopted after age 16, the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP), and guardianship youth, and led to an increase in the number of adopted ETV recipients from 2 to 4 over the past year. This partnership also helped to inform and shape ETV processes and led to the inclusion of a data-sharing clause which allows for additional access to records and more outreach opportunities. Step Up program staff are active participants in the ETV Policy Group ran by DCFS Family Programs Office and recently completed new reporting through the State's "ETV HAL" portal.

The CCSS Step Up Program is uniquely positioned within the Clark County community to ensure the continued success and utilization of ETV supports. CCSS Step Up collects comprehensive data for each participant including demographic, financial, service and referral, and individual performance progress information. In addition, case management sessions will help provide an in-depth assessment of the services most beneficial and necessary for youth success. For purposes of the ETV Program there is one primary referral source and two primary systems with multiple report options that CCSS Step Up will utilize. CCSS Step Up will continue to receive participant referrals from DFS and will utilize their current partnership to increase the referral process to include all eligible foster youth and streamline initial program engagement. Consolidation of the referral process allows for faster engagement of case workers and service providers as well as allowing for ETV applications and processing to have direct one-on-one support and increased capacity and processing of applications.

CCSS Step Up continues work to increase partnerships and advocate for former foster youth across Clark County. Over the past year, the ETV coordinator has made great strides in expanding and sustaining a comprehensive program and increasing community partnerships aimed at strengthening and expanding the network and supports for both current and future ETV students. These connections are vital to the ETV Program and ensure that students and college staff have support throughout this process. They have developed a partnership with the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) through the Fostering Success Initiative which provides the Step Up ETV program with increased outreach to NSHE students and



opportunities to further engage educational partners, as well as a partnership with NSHE Laura Obrist, Foster Youth Ambassador, through the Fostering Success Initiative, which has also allowed for the development of a direct line of support for all NSHE students accessing ETV. The ETV Coordinator has also met with UNLV Heather Richardson, Fostering Scholars Program Coordinator, to build a partnership to further support UNLV students accessing ETV, and collaborates with CSN Jim Hammond, Youth Mentor, to support CSN students accessing ETV.

Through individualized case management, increased reporting, and ongoing community and DFS partnership and support, CCSS Step Up can offer and promote ETV to additional populations in need of this assistance and ensure that any gaps in services and utilization are identified and resolved efficiently. CCSS Step Up program staff will also increase the reach of information and resources to extend to former foster youth, parents, and guardians, and community resources through engagement at the drop-in center. All youth who enter CCSS Step Up programming will be provided with information on ETV funds as well as information on additional services, such as the Foster Youth Fee Waiver that can be utilized to cover enrollment fees for students. Individual case managers will also be able to advise youth on how to effectively utilize ETV funds with their monthly rental stipend and additional financial support to help maximize help with the application process while ensuring there are no duplication of services.

- **Plan to achieve your goals and objectives**

During the start of the grant period CCSS Step Up will focus on ensuring that the 73 youth who already receive ETV assistance will continue to receive funding, apply, and meet program eligibility standards. Over the next year CCSS Step Up will provide continued ETV services to youth enrolled in the program and will focus on expanding outreach to the additional eligible youth to include newly eligible youth identified via NSHE partnerships, CMIS, UNITY, and direct referral from DFS, including youth adopted after age 16 and in guardianship arrangements. Outreach will be multi-faceted to engage youth, parents, guardians, and additional community organizations such as the Nevada System of Higher Education, Fostering Success Initiative, Clark County School District, and Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care organizations. This targeted outreach will allow CCSS Step Up Program to maintain the number of youths enrolled in the ETV program while ensuring that service gaps are identified and resolved to allow for the future utilization of all eligible youth.

In order to meet the administrative demands of the ETV program, the ETV Coordinator will continue to be the main point of contact for the ETV program. They will focus on reviewing applications and facilitating the processes, verifications, record keeping, and data entry for the program. The ETV Coordinator will also be responsible for reporting updates, tracking progress, technical assistance, and program outreach. With direct experience working with aged-out former foster youth and multiple community partnerships in development, they are instrumental in ensuring that ETV funding is available to all eligible youth in Clark County.

CCSS Step Up Program has been providing services, both programmatic and fiscal to youth aging-out of the foster system for over 10 years and already has systems and processes set up for administration of funding and case management. CCSS Step Up will continue to provide on-site applications for ETV programming into their program and the drop-in center services. Current staff will be trained on ETV program specifics and how to guide youth in the application



for funding as needed. All community partners will also be notified of open applications and program eligibility to increase outreach and awareness of services.

There is a systematic cross-over between foster youth that are eligible for ETV and CCSS Step Up programming that provides Clark County with an incredible opportunity to maximize the services and benefits of each program and leverage community partnerships to increase young adults' success and access to resources. As youth age-out of the foster care system they are connected to the CCSS Step Up program and drop-in center for support of their ongoing needs. This provides assistance to navigate the myriad of decisions and choices youth must face as they transition into independence, as well as a streamlined process for independent living referrals and continued case management for youth in Clark County.

A majority of current ETV youth are current CCSS Step Up clients and case management will continue as normal to ensure continued success. Youth that are not yet eligible for CCSS Step Up programming will be provided with ETV updates and will have the full range of CCSS Step Up services and direct link to program personnel available when they become eligible. Any youth that is eligible but is not utilizing either CCSS Step Up or ETV funding will be contacted to increase access to services and help with any needs and services they may require.

The ETV Coordinator will provide all required grant reporting and will include fiscal reports, application counts, outreach, and program collateral in supporting documentation. This will ensure that reports with interactions and additional youth contacts and demographics will be available to show the utilization of the ETV funds, and individual success can be charted from initial contact through the course of ETV programming.

- **Coordination with other appropriate education and training programs**

The CCSS Step Up Program has a robust partnership with many community organizations and service providers across Clark County. As an administrator of both Voluntary Court Jurisdiction (VOL JUR) and Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY), programming staff and case managers are in regular contact with CCSD, Workforce Connections, and NSHE staff and institutions as well as multiple vocational programs across the state. CCSS Step Up staff are also part of the Southern Nevada Homelessness Continuum of Care Youth Working Group and work alongside multiple partners to ensure system-involved youth are supported with wrap-around supportive services ensuring they exit to housing stability rather than homelessness. With these contacts in place already, CCSS Step Up will be able to proactively recruit and build relationships with additional programs and streamline the process for all youth exiting foster care. CCSS Step Up is also able to utilize space in their drop-in center to showcase ETV program information that is available to youth.

The ETV Coordinator will be the primary contact for all education and training program personnel and will collect, coordinate, and organize specific program information to be utilized for newsletters, email blasts, resource fairs, infographics, and other forms of information dissemination. They will collaborate with CCSD and NSHE contacts to facilitate collaboration on former foster youth specific collateral materials and events and will begin building connections with social work interns and other health and human services programs to facilitate opportunities for collaborations and internships with CCSS Step Up. They will also continue to build partnerships and collaborate with the Fostering Success Initiative through NSHE and through partnerships with UNLV's Fostering Scholars Program and CSN's youth mentors to provide resources and support to both ETV students and agency staff on the ETV program and



requirements. DFS partnership and increased data-sharing will also provide additional referrals and partnership opportunities for the ETV Coordinator to utilize as they continue to develop ETV programming and supports.