

Date: May 3, 2013

To: Grants Management Advisory Council
Mike Wilden, Director
Laurie Olson, Chief – Grants Management Unit

From: Lyon County and Carson City County Agencies who are currently provide food assistance

Re: Grants Management Advisory Committee – Fund for Healthy Nevada
Grant Award Recommendations – April 30, 2013

We the undersigned would like to state our concern regarding the Grants Management Advisory Council's Sub-Committee on Food Wellness process and award recommendations for the FY14 Fund for Healthy Nevada grant requests at the meeting on April 30, 2013.

As partners of rural communities, we feel that there were many inadequacies with the methodology and apparent disregard for the RFA instructions, food insecurity state plan and most importantly, the actual distribution of funding for food insecurity in the rural regions.

1.) The state strategic plan addresses a need for coordinating service levels with federal nutrition plans, the need for an existing infrastructure for food distribution. In addition there is a requirement addressing both short term and long term needs. There was a requirement to demonstrate that the agencies funded would work toward building stronger infrastructures. The agency that got the highest score, Community Services Agency in Washoe County (CSA), apparently indicated in their proposal that they will serve the northern rural regions, however, during the questioning process, it did not appear that they had put much effort into contacting the food partners in the rural communities that they propose to serve. It is unclear, who they plan to work with to create this infrastructure as representatives from CSA have not approached any of us regarding how they plan to work with the existing agencies that provide food to address the food insecurities issues in our respective counties.

2.) The GMAC subcommittee disregarded the scoring process and proposed some grant awards based on unknown criteria. Agencies that scored above 70% were not recommended for funding and proposals that scored much lower were recommended for funding. The recommendation was that CSA would receive 2 grants without partner agreements and without infrastructure. Additionally the GMAC committee stated their process for the meeting was "no two organizations covering the same geographic area" will receive funding for the same grant - that did not happen. Catholic Charities was reduced to one grant but CSA and Northeast NV FRC remained at 2 awards. If this process would have been followed, 635,000 of additional funding would have been available for the rurals.

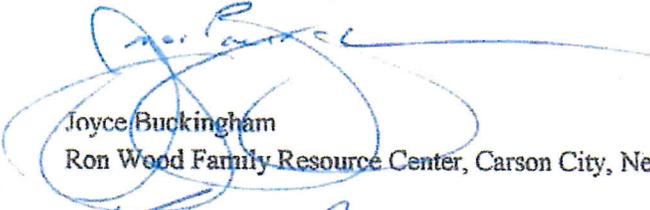
3.) The northern rural regions remain underserved; northern counties did not receive equal consideration. Carson, Lyon and Churchill are among the highest food insecure counties in the state, yet did not receive proportionate consideration in the funding recommendations. While CSA has been recommended for funding, the fact that they have not contacted any one of us, we have concerns regarding whether this is truly going to be a collaborative process or whether funds will actually be used to serve the rural areas. Our concern is that the agency is giving "lip service" to rural services and will be spending a large amount of funding that could be

used to actually address food insecurity to attempt to initiate a collaborative infrastructure instead of using the one that is already in existence.

4. CSA HAS NOT contacted those of us who are currently proving food and assistance. While the Food Bank of Northern Nevada worked diligently to bring all parties to the table to discuss how best to serve each of our respective counties CSA did not approach any of us prior to presenting a proposal to serve our counties. There is a concern that the agency being proposed to serve the rural areas does not current have a strong presence in the area of food insecurity in the rural counties that they propose to serve. Does this mean that they will be using the funding to work on the developing a new collaborative process, when there is already a strong collaborative in place?

We are aware that the Sub-Committees make the initial funding recommendations and it is at the GMAC meeting that final awards recommendations are made. We respectfully request that the funding recommendations for the food insecurity grants be reevaluated to insure that the scoring and funding recommendations meet the RFA criteria and also take into consideration an equitable distribution of funding to serve our rural populations.

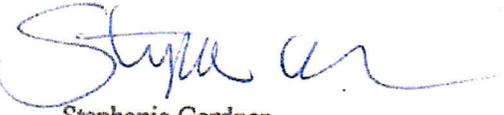
Respectfully submitted,



Joyce Buckingham
Ron Wood Family Resource Center, Carson City, Nevada



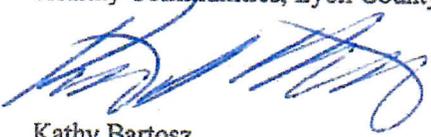
Travis Crowder
Boys and Girls Club of Mason Valley



Stephanie Gardner
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