



Nevada Legislature

August 2, 2023

Amy Luksza, Scholarship Director
Ralph Luksza, President/CEO
America's Scholarship Konnection
24 W. Camelback Road, Suite A-535
Phoenix, AZ 85013

Dear Ms. Luksza and Mr. Luksza:

As you may be aware, the Governor's Finance Office has submitted an expedited request to the Interim Finance Committee of the Nevada Legislature to allocate \$3.2 million in federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the Nevada Department of Education for the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program (often referred to as the Opportunity Scholarship Program). This request will be considered by the Interim Finance Committee during its [August 9, 2023, meeting](#).

When evaluating proposed revisions to the legislatively approved budget, [Nevada Revised Statutes 353.220\(7\)](#) requires the Interim Finance Committee to consider, among other things, the need for the proposed budget revision and the intent of the Legislature in approving the budget. As one of the registered Scholarship Grant Organizations for the Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program, you are being sent this letter to assist the Interim Finance Committee in evaluating the funding request from the Governor's Finance Office. Accordingly, please respond to the following questions:

- Based on the *Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program 2022-2023 Report* prepared by the Nevada Department of Education, your Scholarship Grant Organization provided a scholarship to 5 students last school year. Please provide documentation to confirm this is the correct number of students who received a paid scholarship from your Scholarship Grant Organization for the 2022-2023 school year.
this is correct, see attached screenshot
- Given existing donation sources, how many students does your Scholarship Grant Organization anticipate providing scholarships to for the 2023-2024 school year?
5 returning students
- Of the number of students your Scholarship Grant Organization anticipates providing scholarships to for the 2023-2024 school year, how many would be returning students who received a scholarship in the 2022-2023 school year and how many would be

new students who did not receive a scholarship in the 2022-2023 school year? Please provide the total dollar amount awarded by your Scholarship Grant Organization for both new and returning recipients. 5 returning students at \$17,000

- Given existing donation sources, does your Scholarship Grant Organization anticipate not being able to renew any student scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year due to insufficient funding? If so, how many scholarships would not be renewed?
all may be renewed
- If your Scholarship Grant Organization anticipates providing fewer scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year than in the 2022-2023 school year, how much additional funding would your Scholarship Grant Organization need to provide scholarships for the 2023-2024 school year to returning students (excluding graduates) who received a scholarship in the 2022-2023 school year? Please provide details on how this amount was calculated. We dont anticipate funding fewer students.
- In any given year, total donations received by a Scholarship Grant Organization may exceed the total dollar amount of scholarships awarded by that Scholarship Grant Organization. Subject to certain limitations, state law allows unspent donations to be carried forward to subsequent years. What was the dollar amount of funding carried forward by your Scholarship Grant Organization from the 2022-2023 school year to the 2023-2024 school year? If this carry forward amount is different than the dollar amount difference between your Scholarship Grant Organization's reported donations received and scholarships awarded in the *Nevada Educational Choice Scholarship Program 2022-2023 Report*, please explain the difference. \$68,328
- If your Scholarship Grant Organization receives a portion of the \$3.2 million in federal funds as requested by the Nevada Department of Education, will this funding be used solely to ensure students who received a scholarship last school year continue to receive a scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year, or will some or all of the funding be used to grant new scholarships to students who have not previously participated in the program? If any of the funding would be used to grant new scholarships, how many additional scholarships would be supported? All of the funding will go to grant new scholarships to student applicants.

You may provide your responses via email prior to the August 9, 2023, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee. Your email response and any attached supporting documentation should be sent to IFC@lcb.state.nv.us. Alternatively, you may respond to the above questions in person during the Interim Finance Committee meeting on August 9, 2023. The meeting will be held at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4401 (555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89010), with videoconference provided to the Legislative Building, Room 4100 (401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701). You may attend the meeting and provide your responses to the questions at either location.

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In order for the Interim Finance Committee to consider and review this request, it is critically important for your Scholarship Grant Organization to provide the Interim Finance Committee with as much supporting information as possible in your responses to the questions in this letter and in your responses to any questions that may be asked during the meeting on August 9, 2023. If the Interim Finance Committee is not provided with sufficient supporting information, the Committee may conclude that there has been a failure to meet the standards for approving this request, including, without limitation, that there has been a failure to show the need for the proposed budget revision or a failure to show that the proposed budget revision is consistent with the intent of the Legislature in approving the budget.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau at (775) 684-6821 or send an email to fiscal@lcb.state.nv.us. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Chair, Interim Finance Committee
Chair, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means



Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop
Vice Chair, Interim Finance Committee
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance

cc: Senator Nicole Cannizzaro, Majority Leader
Assemblyman Steve Yeager, Speaker
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui, Majority Leader
Sarah Coffman, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Wayne Thorley, Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Amy Stephenson, Director, Governor's Finance Office
Jhone Ebert, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education



Academic Year 2022-23

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Nevada AB-165 Committee

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Funds

Awarding Open	Fund	Candidates	Last Matched	Awarded	Awarded \$
✓	Nevada AB-165 Scholarship -MRPH	184	8/24/2022	5	\$16,726.00