



## Staff Report

June 5, 2023 Council Workshop Meeting

Community Assistance Referral and Education Services (CARES)

Presenter: Shaun Ford, Division Chief of EMS

Time Estimate: 10 minutes

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**Background:** CWFD has an opportunity to add a Community Assistance Referral and Education Services or "CARES" employee via grant funds from Southwest Washington Accountable Community of Health (SWACH). CWFD would join the current CARES team being led by Clark-Cowlitz Fire and Rescue as part of a county wide consortium. This employee would be a 40-hour FTE staffed by either a paramedic or registered nurse.

**Summary:** Staff will provide a presentation of what services CARES provides and how this added position would benefit all residents of CWFD's service area.

**Budget Impact:** Salary of the added position would be revenue neutral as the total cost of salary and benefits would be covered by a grant which is available for two years currently. There may be initial capital equipment costs to supply this position with the appropriate equipment to function in the position. It is possible some or all the capital costs may be covered by the grant as well.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends this item be placed on the June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Regular Council Meeting Agenda for Council's consideration.