



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Whatcom Homeless Service Center Contract
DATE: December 1, 2020

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Whatcom Homeless Service Center (WHSC) provides coordinated entry for the homeless housing system. The WHSC makes referrals to partner agencies for housing case management services, cultivates and maintains relationships with local landlords, and serves as liaison for homeless housing activities to the network of service providers and other community stakeholders.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$796,701 for the 01/01/2021 through 06/30/2021 contract period, is provided by the WA State Department of Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant, the federal Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID (CFDA #14.231), HB 2060 Low-Income Housing Funds, local document recording fees, and the Veteran's Assistance Fund. These funds will be included in the 2021 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contract**

This is a new contract; however, funding for these services has been provided through previous contracts between Whatcom County and the Opportunity Council since 2008. This contract adds federal Emergency Solutions Grant-COVID funding for rental assistance and personnel to the contract that is currently in place (Whatcom County Contract #201611024). ESG-CV funding is intended to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus pandemic, among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance. The Contractor maintains its determination as a sole source contractor for the services provided in this contract.

Please contact Kathleen Roy at extension #6007 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.

Encl.

