

**Whatcom County  
Superior Court Administration -  
Juvenile Division**  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 501 – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Main: (360) 778-5490  
Fax: (360) 778-5491



**Judges**  
David E. Freeman  
Lee Grochmal  
Evan Jones  
Robert E. Olson  
Jennifer Slattery

**Commissioners**  
John All  
Kacie B. Emerick  
Lisa M. Keeler  
Jonathan Richardson  
Ann Vetter-Hansen

**Administrator**  
Stephanie Kraft

# MEMORANDUM

**To:** Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive  
**From:** Stephanie Kraft, Superior and Juvenile Court Administrator  
**Subject:** Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program (FJCIP)  
**Date:** June 24, 2026

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Enclosed is one (1) original of the Agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts for your review and signature.

## **Background and Purpose**

This agreement provides funding to improve and support family and juvenile court operations as set forth in the Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Plan (FJCIP) legislation, RCW 2.56.220-230. This agreement will reimburse Whatcom County for the wages and benefits of a FJCIP Coordinator. The FJCIP coordinator is dedicated to improving dependency court operations and case outcomes for children and families involved in child welfare. The coordinator works closely with Judicial Officers and local system partners to identify opportunities for improvement, undertake meaningful practice change and assess the effectiveness of their efforts.

Additional information regarding FJCIP can be found here: <https://www.wacita.org/fjcip/>

## **Funding Amount and Source**

The Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts will reimburse Whatcom County in the amount not to exceed \$122,250.00 to cover the wages and benefits for a full time FJCIP Coordinator, a cross-system retreat, family engagement, trauma responsive supports and supplies. Council approval is required, pursuant to WCC 3.06.010 for grants exceeding \$40,000 and RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

## **Differences from Previous Contract**

This is a new agreement; however, funding for this agreement period (07/01/2026-06/30/2027) will increase by \$10,000 from the total provided in the agreement that ended on 06/30/2026 (WC Contract No. 202507014). This additional funding includes:

- a \$5,000 increase for FJCIP Coordinator Salary and Benefits;

- a \$1,000 increase for a Cross-System Retreat whose goal is to improve outcomes for children, families, and the professionals who support them;
- a \$750 increase for Family Engagement costs intended to strengthen relationships between court and families and support reunification efforts; and
- an additional \$3,250 for Trauma-Responsive Supports for the implementation and sustainability of trauma-responsive practices within dependency court systems.

Please contact Stephanie Kraft, Superior and Juvenile Court Administrator, at extension 5496 or [skraft@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:skraft@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.