



# Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Charlene Ramont, Assistant Director  
**RE:** Ferndale Community Service – Healthy Children’s Fund Housing Strategy Contract Amendment #1  
**DATE:** **NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Ferndale Community Services for your review and signature. This amendment extends the contract for one year and updates the scope of work, as detailed under ‘Description of Amendment, #3’ on page 1 of this amendment. This amendment proposes a substantive and material modification to the original contract by expanding the scope of eligible households. The original contract was designed to assist at-risk, eligible households with children who are severely cost burdened with rent and childcare expenses, with the objective of stabilizing finances, addressing behavioral health concerns, and where appropriate, providing parenting support. This amendment proposes to modify the eligibility criteria to 60% AMI for all groups, and severely cost burdened by housing costs for Group 1. Specifically, households will no longer be required to demonstrate that they are severely cost burdened by both childcare and rent expenses to qualify for assistance. The program objectives remain the same.

■ **Background and Purpose**

Funding for this contract will assist eligible, low-income, at-risk households with young children to stabilize their finances and receive housing case management support, as appropriate. The contractor may also assist in transitioning income-qualified families with children who are engaged with supportive services, from unsafe and/or shared housing arrangements to independent housing.

This contract was awarded as a result of RFP 24-07 and supports Strategy 8 of the Healthy Children’s Fund (HCF) Implementation Plan, intended to support vulnerable children by increasing housing stability for families with (or expecting) children who are five years old or younger. The strategy’s purpose is to reduce children’s negative health outcomes that will result from the stress and trauma associated with housing instability and increase their well-being.

■ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$481,996, is provided by the Healthy Children’s Fund. These funds are included in the 2026 budget and Council authorization is required as funding for this amendment exceeds 10% of the amount authorized by Council on 10/08/2024.

■ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Differences
<b>General Terms – Section 10.2, Extension</b>	Extends contract through 12/31/2026
<b>Exhibit A – Scope of Work</b>	Please see full description of changes on page 1 under ‘Description of Amendment’.
<b>Exhibit B – Compensation</b>	Amends the Exhibit to reflect the budget for the extended contract period.
<b>Exhibit D – Flex Fund Guidelines</b>	Replaces document with the current guidelines.

Please contact Christopher D’Onofrio, Housing and Homeless Services Supervisor at 360-778-6049 or [CDonofrio@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:CDonofrio@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

