



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: City of Bellingham – Alternative Response Team Pilot Program Agreement Amendment #2
DATE: **AUGUST 25, 2023**

Attached is an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Alternative Response Team (ART) Program provides critical services to community members in crisis or who are at risk of being in crisis. ART aims to reduce the burden on Bellingham law enforcement by diverting lower-risk calls to a behavioral health team. ART responds to low-risk, low-acuity and non-criminal calls. ART is deployed by staff based at WhatComm 911, 10 hours/day, 5 days/week (currently Monday-Friday).

This contract commits funding from the City of Bellingham for staffing and implementation of the ART Program. The City of Bellingham recently received a grant for \$80,000 from the Association of Washington Counties (AWC) to establish an alternative response team program. This amendment passes AWC grant funding through to the County and extends the agreement through 06/30/2024.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract is provided by the City of Bellingham in an amount not to exceed \$80,000 in 2023. These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council authorization is required as the additional grant funds provided by this agreement exceed \$40,000, per WCC 3.06.010.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Purpose
General Terms – Section 2.	Extends agreement through 06/30/2024
General Terms – Section 3	Update the City’s designated Liaison
General Terms – Section 5.	Increases funding by \$80,000 and adds provisions for invoice documentation
Exhibit C – Grantee Reporting Requirements	Adds reporting requirements as support for the City’s billing to their grant from the AWC

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6163 (MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions.