



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

**FROM:** Kayla Schott-Bresler, Strategic Initiatives Manager

**RE:** Whatcom Racial Equity Commission (WREC) Launch Contract

**DATE:** July 28, 2023

---

Attached is a funding agreement between Whatcom County and Chuckanut Health Foundation for your review and signature.

### ▪ **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County recognizes the community-wide costs and impacts associated with racial inequity and disparities, including negative health care outcomes, increased health care costs, reduced economic opportunity, increased government services costs, poor education outcomes, crime, and housing insecurity. To this end, Whatcom County - in coordination with numerous community partners and the City of Bellingham - established the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission (WREC) in October 2022. The Commission was formed through Whatcom County Council [Ordinance 2022-065](#) and through the addition of Chapter 2.107 to the Whatcom County code. Subsequently, the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County executed an interlocal agreement (Whatcom County contract [202210012](#)) which provides for joint governance, operational oversight, and funding to support the Commission.

The purpose of this contract is to provide the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission Appointment Committee – and the Commission itself – with effective support, facilitation, resources and equity advising consistent with the provisions of Chapter 2.107 WCC.

This contract was competitively procured through Whatcom County RFQ 23-27. Pending performance under this agreement and in alignment with County RFQ 23-27, the County anticipates a subsequent contract with Chuckanut Health Foundation to provide administrative services in support of the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission once the launch phase has been completed.

Per earlier discussions with and direction from County Council, the agreement reflects a sequence for establishing a quasi-governmental structure for the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission:

- County Council confirms the WREC Appointment Committee ([complete 6/20/23](#))



- CHF, as the procured contractor under RFQ 23-27, facilitates the Appointment Committee to recommend the first slate of Whatcom Racial Equity Commissioners.
- CHF, works with the Appointment Committee and Commission members to hire staff for the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission (WREC).
- Once WREC support staff is hired, CHF provides overhead services (office space, technology, medical benefits, etc.)

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement may not exceed \$235,592 and is provided half by Whatcom County general fund and half by the City of Bellingham, per interlocal 202210012. These funds are included in the 2023 Whatcom County budget, and the City's approval of the CHF contract is attached to this agenda bill.