



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010

Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2025-872

File ID:	AB2025-872	Version:	1	Status:	Substitute Amended and Approved
File Created:	12/26/2025	Entered by:	KSmith@co.whatcom.wa.us		
Department:	Council Office	File Type:	Resolution		
Assigned to:	Council (Special)			Final Action:	12/30/2025
Agenda Date:	12/30/2025			Enactment #:	RES 2025-050
Related Files:					

Primary Contact Email: ksmith@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution authorizing the use of Healthy Children's Fund dollars for flood relief assistance for families with vulnerable children

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

n/a

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
12/30/2025	Council (Special)	SUBSTITUTE APPROVED AS AMENDED	
		Aye: 7 Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremier	
		Nay: 0	

Attachments: Proposed Resolution, Substitute Resolution, 2nd Substitute Resolution, Memo - Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-050

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF HEALTHY CHILDREN'S FUND DOLLARS TO
PROTECT VULNERABLE YOUNG CHILDREN AFFECTED BY FLOODING**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County experienced severe winter storms, high winds, flooding, mudslides, and landslides beginning December 9, 2025 (herein "2025 Storm Events"); and

WHEREAS, the winter storms beginning on December 9, 2025 led to evacuations, property damage, and disruption of daily life for Whatcom County residents and has intensified the vulnerability of many families with young children in our community; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu issued a Proclamation of Emergency on December 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the availability of state and federal assistance is unknown at this point and, if available, will likely be slow to arrive; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Children's Fund is a voter-approved property tax levy to support early childhood learning and care and for the support of vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of this resolution, "vulnerable children" refers to children aged 0-5 and their immediate families impacted by the 2025 Storm Events and as otherwise consistent with the Healthy Children's Fund ordinance and administrative guidelines, including but not limited to income level, housing instability, or developmental risk; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to provide rapid support to flood-impacted families with vulnerable children by using funds from the Healthy Children's Fund; and

WHEREAS, expenditures that stabilize housing, address health and safety needs, and reduce trauma for children aged 0-5 following a disaster directly support the Healthy Children's Fund purposes of promoting early childhood health, development, and family stability; and

WHEREAS, although the Healthy Children's Fund is not intended to function as a disaster relief program, limited and targeted use of funds to stabilize families with vulnerable young children following a declared emergency is consistent with the Fund's purpose; and

WHEREAS, the immediate needs of flood-impacted families with vulnerable children are not being met by current disaster relief funding systems; and

WHEREAS, ensuring every Whatcom County child gets a healthy start is a fundamental goal of the Healthy Children's Fund; and

WHEREAS, the use of Healthy Children's Fund dollars under this resolution is intended to supplement, and not supplant, other local, state, or federal disaster assistance programs; however, the Council supports the reimbursement of any Healthy Children's Fund dollars used to support families impacted by the 2025 Storm Events with state or federal disaster relief dollars that arrive at a later date; and

WHEREAS, the Council expects little to no long-term impact on funds available through the Healthy Children's Fund due to the limited nature of the proposed use, the potential for partial or full reimbursement through future state or federal disaster relief funding, and the continued prioritization of core early childhood investments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council requests the County Executive to use up to \$750,000 from the Healthy Children's Fund to provide disaster relief assistance related to the 2025 Storm Events to families with vulnerable children aged 0–5 years, in a manner consistent with purposes of the Healthy Children's Fund, and that the Executive report back to Council on expenditures, outcomes, and any reimbursement received from state or federal sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council supports the reimbursement of any Healthy Children's Fund dollars, pursuant to the terms of the Healthy Children's Fund, used to support families impacted by the 2025 Storm Events with state or federal disaster relief dollars that arrive at a later date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expenditure from the Healthy Children's fund shall supplement, and not supplant, other local, state, or federal disaster assistance programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this expenditure from the Healthy Children's Fund shall be made equitably available and accessible to all flood-impacted families with vulnerable children ages 0-5 years, from all backgrounds, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

APPROVED this 30th day of December, 2025.

ATTEST:

The seal of the Whatcom County Council is circular with a dotted border. Inside the border, the words "COUNTY COUNCIL" are at the top, "OF WHATCOM COUNTY" are in the middle, and "STATE OF WASHINGTON" are at the bottom. A star is in the center with arrows pointing left and right.
Cathy Halka
Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kaylee Galloway
Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kimberly Thulin by email 12/30/25-ks

Civil Deputy Prosecutor