



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: Ferndale Community Services – Severe Weather Shelter Operations Contract

DATE: August 24, 2023

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale Community Services for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County continues to experience a shortage of life-saving emergency shelters during severe weather episodes. The severe weather experienced in Whatcom County over the last few years has demonstrated a need to provide additional shelter options for the County's most vulnerable people. This contract provides funding for Ferndale Community Services to provide an overnight low-barrier shelter option outside of Bellingham city limits when temperatures and weather conditions reach levels, as determined by the Health Department, that would endanger the lives of those who do not have adequate shelter. Ferndale Community Services' typical service area includes Ferndale, Custer, Blaine, Birch Bay, Lynden, and the surrounding unincorporated county areas. An RFP seeking severe weather shelter facility operator(s) outside of Bellingham city limits was advertised on 07/05/2023 and Ferndale Community Services was the only respondent. Ferndale Community Services has operated a severe weather shelter since the winter of 2021-2022.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$75,450, is provided by federal American Rescue Plan Act funds (CFDA 21.027). These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Christopher D'Onofrio, Housing & Homeless Services Supervisor at 360-778-6049 (CDonofrio@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.