



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Washington State Department of Commerce – Consolidated Homeless Grant
DATE: June 28, 2023

Attached is a grant between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) provides resources to fund homelessness crisis response systems and to assist people who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness to obtain or maintain housing. This grant supports the priorities outlined in the Whatcom County Plan to End Homelessness. Funding provided by this grant is passed through to partner agencies providing a wide variety of housing related services.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This grant provides \$10,543,379 in funding for the 2023-2025 biennium. Council authorization is required as the funding provided by this amendment exceeds \$40,000, per WCC 3.06.010.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new grant agreement; however, Whatcom County has been receiving funds through the Consolidated Homeless Grant since 2012. Differences from the grant ending on 06/30/2023 (Whatcom County Contract #202107011), include:

Section	Purpose
Special Terms & Conditions	Adds (#6) subgrant insurance requirements and (#8) fraud and other loss reporting requirements
Attachment A – Scope of Work	Adds: (A.c.) prioritization of households most likely to become homeless when using homelessness prevention rent assistance; (A.d.) a commitment to being anti-racist leaders in crisis response systems and facilitating partnerships among organizations that respond to the disproportionality in services and outcomes for communities that may not seek assistance from mainstream organizations; (E.) Performance Requirements for Housing Outcomes and Equitable Access (F.) Local Document Recording Fees Support – allows uses of these funds for any allowable CHG activity and any allowable activity pursuant to uses of local document recording fees;

	(G.) Inflation Increase – Requires prioritization of salary increases or retention stipends for the homeless service provider workforce and to offset other inflation costs.
Attachment B – Budget	Increase in funding for the 2023 – 2025 biennium by \$530,260 over the previous biennial budget (2021 – 2023)

Please contact Chris D’Onofrio, Housing & Homeless Services Supervisor at 360-778-6049 (CDonofri@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.