



# Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Charlene Ramont, Interim Director  
**RE:** Opportunity Council – Whatcom Homeless Service Center, Rental Assistance  
**DATE:** JUNE 6, 2025

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Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for the authorization and distribution of funding in the form of rent subsidies to local landlords and motel room rentals to local motel operators, on behalf of households experiencing or exiting homelessness. Financial assistance will be distributed by the Whatcom Homeless Service Center (WHSC) in accordance with the County's coordinated entry system for homeless housing services. WHSC staff manage the Homeless Management Information Services (HMIS) data collection and reporting requirements, and serve as a liaison for homeless housing activities to the network of service providers and other community stakeholders to ensure that all eligibility requirements are verified and properly documented.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this two-year contract, in an amount not to exceed \$7,274,164, is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant (\$6,250,312), HB 1406 funds (\$950,000), and the Veterans Assistance Fund (\$73,852). These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100 as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract, however, funding for these services has been provided through previous contracts with the Opportunity Council since 2008. The current WHSC contract ends on June 30, 2025. (WC contract #202012017). Beginning on July 1, 2025, the services reimbursed in the current WHSC contract will be divided into two contracts, one for coordinated entry related services and one for services related to the administration of rental assistance and motel payments.

Please contact Christopher D'Onofrio, Housing & Homeless Services Supervisor at 360-778-6049 ([CDonofrio@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:CDonofrio@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions.

