



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Bellingham Food Bank – Healthy Children’s Fund Basic Needs Contract
DATE: JULY 22, 2024

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Bellingham Food Bank for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for the purchase and distribution of diapers and infant formula to families with children ages 0-5, who qualify as low-income, including those in underserved, marginalized and rural communities within Whatcom County. Bellingham Food Bank’s *Infant Care Program* will utilize the Whatcom County Food Bank Network (WCFBN) to increase the availability of diapers and infant formula to thousands of eligible families through the WCFBN’s locations throughout all of Whatcom County. Twenty percent of Whatcom County families with children visit the 14 Whatcom County food banks on a regular basis, making the food bank sites convenient locations to access critical infant resources.

This contract is awarded as a result of RFP 24-44 and supports Strategies 9 and 10 of the Healthy Children’s Fund Implementation Plan, to expand and enhance early parenting supports and implement coordinated systems to access resources.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$867,688, is provided by the Healthy Children’s Fund. These funds are included in the 2024 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Health & Human Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

Encl.