



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: Opportunity Council – Leasing Specialist Contract Amendment #5

DATE: March 24, 2022

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

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Shelter Plus Care (S+C) and the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) are federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Programs under the Continuum of Care Program that provide long-term rental assistance in Whatcom County to people with a history of chronic homelessness and serious mental illness. The Opportunity Council, as a Whatcom County S+C and SHP sponsor, provides rental subsidies and leasing specialist services. Leasing Specialist services include assistance for clients in locating eligible housing units, providing leasing support, serving as a liaison between landlords and clients, and assisting clients in preparing Section 8 and public housing applications.

Another key support for people with a history of chronic homelessness is intensive case management services. Intensive case management is typically a team-based approach with a lower staff to client ratio than standard case management, serving people with co-occurring disorders, including serious mental illness, substance use disorder, and physical health problems. Intensive case management services have been provided by Catholic Community Services (CCS) for clients in scattered site housing units which are master leased by the Opportunity Council and whose rent is subsidized by S+C and SHP.

With this amendment, intensive case management for clients living in master leased, scattered site units rented by the Opportunity Council, will be transferred from CCS to the Opportunity Council's Community Leasing program, as agreed upon by these partner agencies. In addition to continuing to provide safe and affordable housing and leasing services, this contract will fund two intensive case management positions and related costs for the Opportunity Council. This amendment increases funding by \$159,613 to support the addition of 2 FTE Case Managers and related costs.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$229,103 for this contract period (01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022) and \$437,573 for the entire contract period (01/01/2019 – 12/31/2022), is provided by HB 1590 (Sales and Use Tax for Housing and Related Services), mental health millage, and document recording fees. These funds are included in the 2022 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds 10% of the approved budget.

Please contact Ann Beck, Human Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@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.

