



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Kayla Schott-Bresler, Deputy Executive

THROUGH: Satpal S. Sidhu, County Executive

CC: Erika Lautenbach, WCHCS Director
Rob Ney, Facilities Manager
Brad Bennett, Finance Manager

RE: ARPA Funding for 23 Hour Crisis Relief Center

DATE: July 30, 2024

Background

In February 2024, Whatcom County Council established a project based budget for a [23-Hour Crisis Relief Center](#), a key commitment of the [Whatcom County Justice Project](#). At that time, the County outlined a funding plan for the \$16M capital project that included \$2.3M in ARPA funding.

23 Hour Crisis Relief Center – Initial Proposed Capital Budget

Source	Amount	Status
Behavioral Health Fund	\$1,000,000	Transferred to PBB
Washington State	\$11,300,000	Awarded
ARPA	\$2,318,063	Earmarked
Remaining Gap	\$1,381,937	To Fundraise
TOTAL	\$16,000,000	

ARPA

Given the County's discretion to use ARPA funding for general government services, this revenue source should be considered somewhat similarly to the County's general fund. With the ongoing budget challenges facing the County, the Administration believes it is important to flag a decision-point for Council prior to binding these ARPA funds into contracts or a project-based budget, as a matter of fiscal transparency.

WHATCOM COUNTY
EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 98225



Satpal Singh Sidhu
County Executive

Recommendation

The Executive's position is that we must maintain the County's commitment to completing the 23 Hour Crisis Relief Center. At the August Council meeting, the Administration will have a recommendation about an appropriate funding mix and timing of budget transfers to accomplish this.

Please contact Kayla Schott-Bresler with any questions.