



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: City of Bellingham – GRACE Program Interlocal Agreement

DATE: May 27, 2022

Attached is an Interlocal Agreement amendment between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This Agreement establishes Whatcom County as the administrator of the Whatcom Ground-Level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program. Coordinated administration with the City of Bellingham (COB) is required to administer direct services and monitor success of the GRACE Program. Whatcom County assumed full oversight and staffing of the GRACE Program from SeaMar Community Health Centers, in March 2022, resulting in an estimated 32% increase in GRACE Program costs for 2022 and in turn, this amendment increases COB's 2022 GRACE contribution by 32%.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

COB will reimburse Whatcom County with up to \$316,800 in GRACE Program costs and separately, \$40,000 in expanded behavioral health crisis response planning and program design for a total contribution of \$356,800. Council approval is required as funding exceeds 10% of the budget previously authorized by Council on 03/23/2021.

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6131 (MChriste@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.

