



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Jack Louws, County Executive  
**FROM:** Regina A. Delahunt, Director  
**RE:** Opportunity Council – Leasing Specialist Services Contract  
**DATE:** December 18, 2018

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Enclosed are two (2) originals of a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Sponsor Based Rental Assistance (SBRA) is a federal program that provides long term rental assistance in Whatcom County to homeless persons with serious mental illness. The Bellingham Whatcom County Housing Authority administers the SBRA program by providing housing vouchers directly to eligible persons. The program design requires that service match be provided to recipients by other sources; for example, case management, mental health treatment, housing search and placement. Opportunity Council acts as a SBRA sponsor in Whatcom County and helps SBRA recipients find and maintain housing. The Opportunity Council also master leases units for another federal grant that provides rental assistance, the Supportive Housing Program. Funding provided by the County under this contract funds a leasing specialist and related administrative costs for SBRA and SHP. Opportunity Council will provide safe, clean and affordable housing to an annual average of 75 formerly homeless mental health consumers annually. Consumers will benefit from rental subsidies from the SBRA and SHP programs, and from the administrative reimbursement to the Opportunity Council by Whatcom County for provision of master leasing services. This is a new contract resulting from RFP 18-13; however it is very similar to contracts in place with this contractor since 2012.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The funding source for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$69,490, is mental health millage. These funds are included in the 2019 budget. Council approval is required as this contract exceeds \$40,000

Please contact Barbara Johnson-Vinna at extension #6046 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.

Encl.