



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Director  
**RE:** United Way of Whatcom County – Help Me Grow Planning Coordination Contract  
**DATE:** October 3, 2022

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Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and United Way of Whatcom County for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Washington State has identified Help Me Grow as a model to develop a dependable, interconnected system that puts families first, ensuring that resources and supports are accessible to every child and family. Local data and information gathering efforts have consistently shown service access and supports for families with young children to be a concern, especially for children with special needs, immigrant families, rural families, and families experiencing adversity, including racism; this has also been identified at the state level as a consistent barrier to optimal child health and well-being.

This contract provides funding for the United Way of Whatcom County to coordinate Help Me Grow planning and implementation, ensuring alignment with regional and statewide planning efforts to achieve similar goals. This work is to be done in collaboration with the local early learning coalition, Whatcom Early Learning Alliance (WELA).

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$59,400, is provided by general funds. These funds are included in the 2022 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

▪ **Differences between Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract awarded through RFP 22-13 however similar services have been provided through a previous contract (WC Contract #202104011) with the Whatcom Early Learning Alliance Coordinator from 03/29/2021-07/15/2022. This contract expands upon the services accomplished in the previous contract and furthers its objectives among diverse stakeholders, across the early learning community in Whatcom County. The United Way of Whatcom County will be contracted to do this work.

Please contact Judy Ziels, Public Health Nursing Supervisor at 360-778-6030 ([JZiels@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:JZiels@co.whatcom.wa.us)) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 ([KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

