

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF HEALTHY CHILDREN'S FUND DOLLARS FOR
FLOOD RELIEF FOR FAMILIES WITH VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County experienced severe winter storms, high winds, flooding, mudslides, and landslides beginning December 9, 2025 (herein "2025 Storm Events"); and

WHEREAS, the winter storms beginning on December 9, 2025 led to evacuations, property damage, and disruption of daily life for Whatcom County residents and has intensified the vulnerability of many families with young children in our community; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu issued a Proclamation of Emergency on December 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the availability of state and federal assistance is unknown at this point and, if available, will likely be slow to arrive; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy Children's Fund is a voter-approved property tax levy to support early childhood learning and care and for the support of vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, for purposes of this resolution, "vulnerable children" refers to children aged 0-5 and their immediate families impacted by the 2025 Storm Events and as otherwise consistent with the Healthy Children's Fund ordinance and administrative guidelines, including but not limited to income level, housing instability, or developmental risk; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to provide rapid support to flood-impacted families with vulnerable children by using funds from the Healthy Children's Fund; and

WHEREAS, expenditures that stabilize housing, address health and safety needs, and reduce trauma for children aged 0–5 following a disaster directly support the Healthy Children's Fund purposes of promoting early childhood health, development, and family stability; and

WHEREAS, although the Healthy Children's Fund is not intended to function as a disaster relief program, limited and targeted use of funds to stabilize families with vulnerable young children following a declared emergency is consistent with the Fund's purpose; and

WHEREAS, the immediate needs of flood-impacted families with vulnerable children are not being met by current disaster relief funding systems; and

WHEREAS, the Council will support the reimbursement of any Healthy Children's Fund dollars used to support families impacted by the 2025 Storm Events with state or federal disaster relief dollars that arrive at a later date; and

WHEREAS, the use of Healthy Children's Fund dollars under this resolution is intended to supplement, and not supplant, other local, state, or federal disaster assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, the Council expects little to no long-term impact on funds available through the Healthy Children's Fund due to the limited nature of the proposed use, the potential for partial or full reimbursement through future state or federal disaster relief funding, and the continued prioritization of core early childhood investments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council requests the County Executive to use up to \$750,000 from the Healthy Children's Fund to provide disaster relief assistance related to the 2025 Storm Events to families with vulnerable children aged 0–5 years, in a manner consistent with purposes of the Healthy Children's Fund, and that the Executive report back to Council on expenditures, outcomes, and any reimbursement received from state or federal sources.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Approval by Chris Quinn via email 12/26/25-ks
Chris Quinn, Civil Deputy Prosecutor