



# Memorandum

**TO:** SATPAL SIDHU

**FROM:** Hannah Fisk, Special Projects Manager, Response Systems  
Division, Health and Community Services Department

**DATE:** 4/13/26

**RE:** SFY 2026-2027 CRIMINAL JUSTICE TREATMENT ACCOUNT (CJTA) PLAN

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**MESSAGE:** The Whatcom County CJTA Panel is submitting the following plan for review and approval by the County Council. Pursuant to state law, the county legislative authority must approve the CJTA Plan.

Washington State adopted RCW 71.24.580 in 2002, establishing the Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA). This law created an account to fund alternatives for treating nonviolent offenders with substance use disorders (SUDs) via savings in the Department of Corrections from reducing prison sentences. Key provisions of the CJTA law include allocation of funding to counties for treatment and recovery support services for people with criminal charges who have SUDs, and the development of a local CJTA Panel to submit a plan for the disposition of funds.

The Whatcom County CJTA Panel has met each biennium since its establishment in 2018 to provide recommendations to the Council in the CJTA Plan. These recommendations align with RCW 71.24.580 and local efforts of the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Taskforce. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the CJTA Panel voted to submit the enclosed plan for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026-2027, which does not change from the previous year.

Council Action Requested:

The County Council is asked to approve the enclosed SFY 2026-2027 CJTA Plan for submission to the State.