



# Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Director  
**RE:** Ferndale Community Services – Housing Engagement and Stability Services Contract  
**DATE:** **NOVEMBER 25, 2024**

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Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale Community Services for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract funds housing and homeless services to triage and address basic needs. Ferndale Community Services will emphasize outreach and 1:1 housing navigation services, to achieve or maintain housing stability for North Whatcom County clients (including but not limited to Ferndale, Custer, Birch Bay, Blaine, Everson, Sumas, and Kendall). The Contractor's staff will connect unhoused clients to resources (including but not limited to financial, medical, behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, and basic needs), assist them with applications, work with landlords, and navigate complex systems. Activities performed by the Contractor will include outreach, resource referral, homelessness prevention, and diversion.

This contract is awarded as a result of RFP 24-42 intended to contract for services that promote housing stability and household wellbeing as a means to respond to the strategies outlined in the [2019 Strategic Plan to End Homelessness](#).

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$500,643, is provided by local Document Recoding Fees. These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract, however funding for some of the services included in this contract have been provided through a Community Resource Navigator contract (WC contract #202402015) and Rural Outreach contract (WC contract #202407016). The services provided through those contracts are consolidated with additional housing and homeless services through this contract, in order to ease the administrative burden on the Contractor and the County.

Please contact Christopher D'Onofrio, Housing and Homeless Services Supervisor at 360-778-6049 ([CDonofri@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:CDonofri@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions.

Encl.