



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Whatcom Homeless Service Center
DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2024

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for the operation of the Whatcom Homeless Service Center (WHSC), Whatcom County's Coordinated Entry system for homeless housing services. The WHSC makes referrals to partner agencies for housing case management services and rental assistance programs, cultivates and maintains relationships with local landlords and motel operators, and serves as a liaison for homeless housing activities to the network of service providers and other community stakeholders. The WHSC has been identified as a strategic pillar in the state-required, Local 5-year Plan to End Homelessness and coordinates with Opportunity Council's Community Services department to manage client data collected at the co-located Community Resource Center.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

A six-month contract period is proposed in order to align future contract periods with the state fiscal year starting on July 1, 2025. Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$2,355,352, is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant, local document recording fees, HB 1406 funds, and the Veterans Assistance Fund. These funds are included in the requested 2025 budget. Council authorization is required as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract, however, funding for these services has been provided through previous contracts with the Opportunity Council since 2008. This contract updates funding sources and program outcomes but includes no additional significant changes from the contract ending on 12/31/2024 (WC contract #202012017).

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