



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: Opportunity Council – Whatcom Homeless Service Center Contract Amendment #8

DATE: February 8, 2022

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

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Whatcom Homeless Service Center (WHSC) provides coordinated entry for the homeless housing system. The WHSC makes referrals to partner agencies for housing case management services, cultivates and maintains relationships with local landlords and motel operators, and serves as liaison for homeless housing activities to the network of service providers and other community stakeholders.

In response to growing community needs and safety concerns created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHSC expanded provision of emergency shelter to households experiencing housing instability. The motel rooms used as emergency shelter provide alternatives to congregate settings, thus decreasing exposure to COVID-19, and increases safety and linkages to housing resource for participating households.

This amendment increases funding by \$574,760 to support additional households with rental assistance and families with children using motel rooms as emergency shelter, the addition of a staff position to coordinate emergency shelter placements for families with children, and the addition of a staff position to support, expand, and improve implementation of the coordinated entry referral system.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$2,225,008 during this contract period (01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022) and \$4,733,031 for the entire contract period (01/01/2021 – 12/31/2022) is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant, (including supplemental Shelter and RRH Grant), the federal Emergency Solutions-CV Grant (CFDA 14.231), local document recording fees, the Veteran's Assistance Fund, County American Rescue Plan Act funds (CFDA 21.027), and HB 1406. These funds are included in the 2022 budget. Council approval is required as the additional funding provided by this amendment increases the approved total budget by more than 10%.

Please contact Ann Beck, Human Services Supervisor at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

