



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Washington State Health Care Authority – LEAD Program Expansion Services Agreement
DATE: September 13, 2023

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program enhances safety, health and equity by building a community-based alternative to arrest and incarceration for people whose unlawful behavior stems from unmanaged substance use, mental health challenges, or extreme poverty. This agreement provides funding for Whatcom County Health and Community Services to provide intensive case management services to individuals recently arrested and/or at high risk of arrest through expansion of the LEAD Program.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this agreement, in the amount of \$1,175,834, is provided by the Washington State HCA. These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.06.010 for grants exceeding \$40,000.

Please contact Vanessa Martin at 602-501-3595 (VMartin@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial and Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.