



## Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Champ Thomaskutty, Director  
**RE:** Opportunity Council – Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) Rental Assistance Contract  
**DATE:** MARCH 27, 2026

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

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for the Opportunity Council to administer up to twelve months of rental assistance to eligible individuals who are involved in the criminal legal system and in recovery from a substance use disorder (SUD). The goal of the rental assistance provided through this contract is to promote housing stability as a foundation for sustained recovery and reduced recidivism. This effort is part of the county's broader strategy to support recovery-oriented systems of care and reduce the long-term impacts of substance use and incarceration.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$79,090, is provided by the Behavioral Health Program Fund (\$20,000) and the CJTA (\$59,090), passed through the Washington State Health Care Authority. These funds are included in the 2026 budget. Council authorization is required as funding for this contract exceeds \$75,000.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract; however, funding for these services have been provided through previous contracts with the Opportunity Council since 2019. There are no material changes to the overall terms of service, relative to the previous contract, which concludes on 06/30/2026 (WC Contract #202211041).

Please contact Hannah Fisk, Special Projects Manager at 360-820-7212 or [HFisk@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:HFisk@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

Encl.