



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Champ Thomaskutty, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Healthy Children’ Fund Basic Needs Contract Amendment #2
DATE: MARCH 6, 2026

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council for your review and signature. This amendment extends the contract for three months, adds distribution of items to eligible families within the Opportunity Council’s early learning programs and external organizations seeking infant basic needs, and adds funding to support the extended contract period.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for the purchase and distribution of basic needs items to families with children ages 0-5, who qualify as low-income, including those in underserved, marginalized and rural communities within Whatcom County. As the designated Community Action Agency for Whatcom County, Opportunity Council provides basic need services through their Community Resource Centers located in Bellingham and East Whatcom County, where they have approximately 2,300 interactions per quarter with community members in need. OC anticipates distributing basic needs items during 350 engagements with families with children 0-5 per quarter through interactions with staff at their Community Resource Centers or through their housing program case managers.

Families visiting the OC’s Resource Centers in Bellingham or East Whatcom County or who are enrolled in one of the OC’s housing programs, may request basic needs items from a pre-approved list of items and will include:

- Diapers
- Wipes
- Transportation assistance: gas cards, ride hailing services, public bus passes

This contract supports Strategies 9 and 10 of the Healthy Children’s Fund Implementation Plan, to expand and enhance early parenting supports and implement coordinated systems to access resources.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This amendment adds \$17,250. Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$111,061, is provided by the Healthy Children’s Fund. These funds are included in the 2026 budget. Council authorization is required as the funding added by this amendment exceeds 10% of the amount originally authorized by Council.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Differences
Original Contract – Section 10.1, Term	Extends contract for three months, through 06/30/2026.
Original Contract – Section 40.1, Modifications	Adds distribution of items to eligible families within the contractor’s early learning programs and external agencies seeking infant basic needs.
Exhibit A – Scope of Work	
Exhibit B - Compensation	

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Health & Human Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.