WHATCOM COUNTY
Health and Community Services

Erika Lautenbach, MPH, Director
Amy Harley, MD, MPH, Co-Health Officer
Greg Thompson, MD, MPH, Co-Health Officer

Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: City of Bellingham – Interim Community Shower Program Interlocal Agreement

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 2023

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**
  The City of Bellingham and Whatcom County are jointly funding the Opportunity Council to operate an interim shower program. This program will provide showers, toilets and sinks to the public who are in need of hygiene services, aiming to offer around 500 showers each month to approximately 350 people. This Agreement provides funding for the City to manage and fund a contract with the Opportunity Council to operate mobile hygiene services in the back parking log of City Hall, Friday through Saturday from 8am to 5pm.

  Over the last few years, the City's Arne Hanna Aquatic Center has provided 500-700 free showers per month however, the primary function of the Aquatic Center is recreational use and the facility does not have the capacity or adequate staffing to continue to provide free showers. The Opportunity Council will operate this interim shower program to bridge the gap in services until the Way Station opens in late summer, 2024.

- **Funding Amount and Source**
  Whatcom County will reimburse the City of Bellingham for 50% of the staffing and operational expenses of the services described above. Funding will not exceed $137,500 and is provided by American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA (CFDA 21.027)]. These funds are included in the 2023 budget and Council authorization is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

  Please contact Chris D'Onofrio, Housing & Homeless Services Supervisor at 360-778-6049 (CDonofri@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions.

  Encl.

509 Girard Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-4005

WHATCOM COUNTY
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Main Line: (360) 778-6000
www.whatcomcounty.us/health