



# Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

**FROM:** Champ Thomaskutty, Director

**RE:** Whatcom Center for Early Learning – Healthy Children’s Fund Mental Health Workforce Expansion Contract Amendment #2

**DATE:** **MARCH 6, 2026**

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Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Whatcom Center for Early Learning (WCEL) for your review and signature. This amendment renews the contract for one year, updates the scope of work to remove references to a pilot program and start-up activities and add ongoing program services, and updates the budget to reflect a 12-month contract period as the initial contract reflected a budget for an 18-month period.

Whatcom County Health and Community Services continually assesses its contract reporting requirements to align them with the department’s Results Based Accountability model and stakeholder needs for addressing program reporting requirements and evaluation. See attached Exhibit D for a summary of data for services performed under this contract through 2025.

Through the initial 18-month contract period, the program has focused on building strong clinical infrastructure, expanding workforce capacity, and addressing the high level of complexity among families served. Council authorization is required as this amendment also proposes to adjust the scope of work to reflect a shift from a pilot program to ongoing program services, update metrics to reflect a 12-month contract period, and authorize future revisions to reporting requirements, without contract amendment.

Council authorization is required as the adjustments made to the scope of work include substantial revision to shift from pilot and start-up activities to ongoing program services.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract supports expansion of WCEL’s Early Childhood Mental Health Support Program to low-income children. The expansion of services addresses significant barriers to accessing mental health services in Whatcom County by providing direct support to children and families in a current mental health crisis or extreme stress, while removing barriers in navigating insurance and access to outside providers. WCEL directly serves children with complex medical needs and their caregivers through early support and learning programs.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract period (04/01/2026 – 03/31/2027), in an amount not to exceed \$289,854, is provided by the Healthy Children’s Fund. These funds are included in the 2026 budget.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Differences</b>
<b>General Terms – Section 10.2, Extension</b>	Renews the contract for one year
<b>General Terms – Section 40.1, Modifications</b>	Updates the scope of work to remove references to a pilot program and start-up activities and add ongoing program services.  Updates the budget to reflect the budget for the renewed, 12-month contract period.
<b>Exhibit A – Scope of Work</b>	
<b>Exhibit B – Compensation</b>	

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

Encl.