



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Champ Thomaskutty, Director
RE: EKS Evaluation Consulting – Response Systems Division Evaluation Plan Contract
DATE: MAY 4, 2026

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and EKS Evaluation Consulting for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This two-year contract provides funding for the development of a comprehensive evaluation plan for the five, key Response Systems Division (RSD) programs within Whatcom County Health and Community Services. The contractor will conduct an initial program assessment and develop a plan that includes measures of equity, performance monitoring, community impact, financial considerations, as well as impacts on EMS, the emergency department, the legal system, and law enforcement.

The RSD programs are designed to meet the behavioral health and basic needs of individuals who lack sufficient health care for behavioral health challenges and fundamental needs with the community. These programs seek to alleviate the reliance on emergency services such as 911, crisis interventions, and the legal system.

This contract is awarded as a result of a competitive solicitation through the MRSC Consultant Roster. The Contractor has demonstrated prior experience conducting program evaluation within Whatcom County, providing familiarity with local systems and needs. Based on the solicitation criteria, the Contractor's proposal received the highest overall score, best aligning with RSD's evaluation needs and priorities.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$83,150, is provided by the Washington State Health Care Authority LEAD Grant. These funds are included in the 2026 budget. Council authorization is required as funding for this contract exceeds \$75,000.

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-746-9045 or MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions.

Encl.