



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Charlene Ramont, Interim Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Housing and Essential Needs Contract
DATE: JUNE 13, 2025

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

- **Background and Purpose**

The purpose of this contract is to provide rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention case management, rental assistance, utility assistance, and essential needs items to Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) and HEN Foundational Community Supports (FCS) Bridge- eligible households, whose eligibility is determined by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). HEN is a program within Washington State Department of Commerce's Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) and funding is passed through the County to the Opportunity Council for housing support (rent and utility assistance), essential needs items, and case management services for recipients whose eligibility is determined by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). This is a sole source contract with the Opportunity Council as the administrator of the Whatcom Homeless Service Center and Community Resource Center.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this two-year contract, in an amount not to exceed \$3,409,883 (\$887,684 in year 1 and \$2,522,199 in year 2), is provided by the CHG. These funds are included in the 2025 budget and will be included in the 2026-2027 budgets. Council authorization is required as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract, however funding for these purposes has been provided through previous contracts with the Opportunity Council since 2014. This contract standardizes contract language to align with contracts of similar types and adds a partner incident report and severe weather planning templates but no includes no significant changes from the contract ending on 06/30/2025 (WC Contract #202206019).

Please contact Christopher D'Onofrio, Housing and Homeless Services Supervisor at 360-778-6049 (CDonofri@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

Encl.

