



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: Opportunity Council – Childcare Stabilization Contract

DATE: April 10, 2023

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

▪ **Background and Purpose**

In line with recommendations by the Whatcom County Child and Family Well-Being Task Force and input from local childcare providers, this contract provides funding for childcare stabilization. Programming includes emergency childcare vouchers for families, workforce scholarships, business training, and purchase of a cloud-based childcare vacancy app. This work complements other ARPA investments into childcare, such as business stabilization and capital, and jumpstarts efforts under the Healthy Children’s Fund.

This contract is separate from – but complementary to Contract 202210022 for \$1.4M. Between these two contracts, the County will spend \$1.9M on ARPA childcare stabilization contracts.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$498,732.72, is provided by Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CFDA 21.027). These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Health and Human Services Supervisor at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

