



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Ferndale Community Services – Healthy Children’s Fund Housing Strategy Contract
DATE: **SEPTEMBER 27, 2024**

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale Community Services for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

Funding for this contract will help eligible, at-risk households with children who are severely cost-burdened with rent and childcare expenses, to stabilize their finances and receive housing case management support, as appropriate. Funding will also be used to facilitate the transition from unsafe and/or shared housing arrangements, to independent housing for income-qualified families with children who are engaged with supportive services.

This contract is awarded as a result of RFP 24-07 and supports Strategy 8 of the Healthy Children’s Fund (HCF) Implementation Plan, intended to support vulnerable children by increasing housing stability for families with (or expecting) children who are five years old or younger. The strategy’s purpose is to reduce children’s negative health outcomes that result from the stress and trauma associated with housing instability and increase their well-being.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$376,416, is provided by the Healthy Children’s Fund. These funds are included in the 2024 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

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

Encl.