



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – 22 North Permanent Supportive Housing Contract
DATE: June 10, 2022

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

▪ **Background and Purpose**

22 North is a 40-unit apartment building that provides affordable, permanent supportive housing for individuals exiting homelessness. This contract provides funding for the Opportunity Council to provide 24/7/365 on-site supportive services and housing for people who have behavioral health disorders and who require these services to remain stably housed. Special populations to be served at 22 North include Veterans, young adults and individuals with a history of chronic homelessness.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$242,648, is provided by the Behavioral Health Program Fund, Local Document Recording Fees, and Mental Health Millage. These funds are included in the 2022 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

▪ **Differences Between Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract; however, the Opportunity Council has delivered these services through a previous contract (WC Contract #201805007) since 2018. In order to meet the increasingly complex needs of residents and provide for their safety and changes, this contract increases funding from the previous contract for additional personnel and reduces the term to six months so that outcomes and needs can be re-evaluated prior to extending the contract again. This contract also includes a requirement to support new residents in developing crisis and housing retention plans, ensuring hygiene and safety standards through regular in-unit visits, and a requirement for staff to be trained within 90 days of hire and annually thereafter.

Please contact Ann Beck, Human Services Manager 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.

