



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Charlene Ramont, Assistant Director

RE: City of Bellingham – Severe Weather Shelter Facility Operation Interlocal Agreement

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2025

Attached is an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Through this agreement, the City of Bellingham will provide partial funding for Whatcom County's 2025-2026 Severe Weather Shelter. The City and the County will jointly fund the Shelter, whose primary function is to serve as a life-saving intervention during dangerous weather conditions. This shelter will provide space for approximately 60 guests, with surge capacity to follow the guidance of local building inspectors and fire department officials.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This is a revenue-based agreement funded by the City of Bellingham for reimbursement to Whatcom County for staffing and operational expenses of the Severe Weather Shelter. Revenue will not exceed \$100,000, contingent upon County expenditures as further outlined in Exhibit B. Council authorization is required per RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

▪ **Differences between Previous Agreements**

This is a new agreement; however, the City of Bellingham provided funding for the 2024-2025 winter season. The City's contribution in this agreement is \$50,000 less than the amount contributed in the previous agreement (WC Contract #202502003) as the County has reduced shelter capacity from 80 to 60 beds for this season, otherwise there are no significant revisions in this agreement from the previous agreement.

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

Encl.

