



## Memorandum

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

**FROM:** Charlene Ramont, Interim Director

**RE:** Cascade Connections – Services to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Contract

**DATE:** MAY 23, 2025

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Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Cascade Connections for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides “Supported Employment” and “Community Inclusion” services to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities. Pathways to Employment services are designed to assist individuals in pursuing and maintaining paid employment in integrated community settings. Community Inclusion services are designed to increase participation and inclusion in the community. In January 2025, 339 adults in Whatcom County received Supported Employment services and 45 received Community Inclusion services. Cascade Connections is one of five community providers offering these services.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Total compensation under this contract will vary depending on the number of clients and types of services authorized, however, the estimated authorized service level is \$1,661,673. Funding for this contract is provided by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration (\$1,653,173) and local DD Millage (\$8,500). These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100 as estimated funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract; however, funding for these services has been provided through previous contracts with this Contractor since 2001. This contract adds contract definitions, updates client support service requirements, and adds outcome payments and criteria for reimbursement. Outcome payments have been added in order to improve Client outcomes; reimbursement will be based on individual Client outcomes and criteria defined by DSHS/DDA.

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

Encl.

