



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Housing & Essential Needs Contract Amendment #2
DATE: February 21, 2023

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

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) is a program of the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Consolidated Housing Grant (CHG) and provides funding to each county for rent and utility assistance, essential needs items and case management for recipients whose eligibility is determined by the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). This is a sole source contract with the Opportunity Council as the administrator of the Whatcom Homeless Service Center.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

The additional funding provided by this amendment is \$157,120. Funding for the entire contract period (07/01/2022 – 06/30/2023), in an amount not to exceed \$2,811,264, is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce CHG. These funds will be included in the 2023 budget. Council approval is required as the additional funding provided by this amendment and the previous amendment exceed 10% of the amount authorized by Council on 06/21/2022.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Revision Purpose
Exhibit A – Scope of Work	Adds funding, outcome and reporting requirements for new funding available through the 2022 State’s Supplemental Operating Budget, specific to HEN-eligible, Foundational Community Support (FCS) enrollees, until 6/30/23. Eligible households no longer have a HEN referral from DSHS due to an increase in income, or other eligibility changes. This funding prioritizes serving those enrolled in FCS and enrolled in Supportive Employment, with rental assistance and case management. These services are also intended to provide support for households who no longer have a HEN Referral from DSHS due to increased income or other changes in eligibility. The FCS Program provides supportive housing and supported employment services for Apple Health-eligible beneficiaries with complex needs. Household income must be at or below 80% Area Median Income for those receiving assistance funded by HEN FCS.
Exhibit B – Compensation	Adds \$157,120 in Foundational Community Support (FCS) funds to create a bridge period of rent assistance for households enrolled in FCS, prioritizing households enrolled in Supportive Employment, who no longer have a HEN Referral from DSHS due to increased income or other changes in eligibility.

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

