



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

RE: Commerce Funding for Refugee Stabilization Grant

DATE: November 21, 2023

Enclosed is the Contract for Services between Whatcom County and World Relief Western Washington for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The County Executive's Office applied for 2024-2025 funds and was subsequently awarded \$300,000. The County will contract with World Relief Western Washington to facilitate distribution of those funds to households following all eligibility guidelines. The contractor will ensure all funding requirements are fulfilled.

The grant contract provides the following parameters:

"Assistance can include but is not limited to paying for rent and housing needs, transportation, healthcare, food, employment barrier-removal, clothing and other essential items or services that the applicant deems necessary to help stabilize the refugees."

Assistance must be prioritized according to need.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding in the amount of \$300,000 has been granted to Whatcom County to serve newly arriving refugees. The Commerce grant will be managed by the Executive Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Jed Holmes (jholmes@co.whatcom.wa.us).