



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) – Ground Floor Day Use Center Contract
DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract supports operations at the Ground Floor Day-Use Center, an accessible, supportive and service rich space for young adults in Whatcom County (ages 18 – 24), who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. This funding will provide early interventions in young people’s lives to promote health, wellbeing and community connections. In 2022, the Ground Floor served 355 youth, providing food, survival supplies, showers, laundry, referrals to emergency shelter and permanent housing, harm reduction education and coaching, and more. With increased staffing capacity in 2023, NWYS intends to increase the number of youth served in 2024.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$170,000, is provided by local document recording fees (\$70,000) and the Emergency Housing Grant (ALN 21.027) from the Washington State Department of Commerce (\$100,000). These funds are proposed in Supplemental Budget Request 4213 for the 2024 budget. Council authorization is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract; however, funding for these services has been provided through a previous contract since 2020. This contract includes no significant changes from the contract ending on 12/31/2023 (WC Contract #202001014). This contract is awarded from RFP 23-70 and NWYS was the only respondent.

Please contact Christopher D’Onofrio, Housing & Homeless Services Supervisor or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions.

Encl.