



# ERIC J. RICHEY

## WHATCOM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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Erik K. Sigmar, Chief Criminal Deputy  
Dona Bracke, Assistant Chief Criminal Deputy  
Christopher Quinn, Chief Civil Deputy  
Hilary Thomas, Chief of Staff

MEMO TO: Satpal Sidhu, Executive

FROM: Hilary Thomas, Chief of Staff

DATE: July 16, 2025

RE: High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Funding

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Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and the Executive Office of the President for your review and signature:

- **Background and Purpose:**  
NW HIDTA sent the 2025/2026 HIDTA approved grant award. The HIDTA grant funds pertain to reimbursement for salaries and benefits for two employees in my office, which is a Deputy II Prosecutor and a Legal Assistant. This grant will support initiatives designed to implement the Strategy proposed by the Executive Board of the NW HIDTA and approved by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- **Funding Amount and Source:**  
The 2025/2026 HIDTA grant amount of federal funding is \$193,147.00. The two positions that are assigned to the HIDTA initiative, also work on cases that are not HIDTA related; therefore, the grant only reimburses for 80% of the salaries and benefits. The grant agreement and conditions are enclosed.
- **Differences Between Previous Contract:**  
The Prosecutor's office has received this same grant in previous years with only a few changes to the 2025/2026 award. The award is slightly higher this year which reflects the 3% wage increase for County Employees. This award is solely for the Prosecutor's Office.

Please contact Hilary Thomas, Chief of Staff at 360-778-5764 ([hthomas@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:hthomas@co.whatcom.wa.us)) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.