



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Charlene Ramont, Interim Director
RE: Washington State Health Care Authority – LEAD Program Expansion Services Agreement Amendment #1
DATE: August 27, 2025

Attached is an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) for your review and signature. This amendment extends the agreement for two years, increases funding by \$1,466,580 from \$420,000 for the previous agreement term, and updates the statement of work and deliverables for the extended term.

The increase in funds will be utilized to support the ongoing operation of the LEAD program. This allocation will ensure compliance with the contractual scope of work and facilitate the comprehensive collection and reporting of program data as required under the contract.

- **Background and Purpose**

This agreement provides funding for Whatcom County Health and Community Services to expand the operational capabilities of its existing Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion/Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (LEAD) Program.

LEAD provides intensive case management services to individuals recently arrested and/or at high risk of arrest. LEAD enhances safety, health and equity by building a community-based alternative to arrest and incarceration for people whose unlawful behavior stems from unmanaged substance use, mental health challenges, or extreme poverty.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this agreement period (07/01/2025 – 06/30/2027) is \$1,466,580. These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.06.010, as the grant funding added by this amendment exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Vanessa Martin at 602-501-3595 (VMartin@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

