



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Tawni Helms, Office Administrator

RE: Bellingham Food Bank

DATE: November 29, 2024

Enclosed is the Contract for Services between Whatcom County and Bellingham Food Bank for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Hunger remains a real concern for too many families in Whatcom County. The Bellingham Food Bank, the Whatcom Food Bank Network, and other hunger relief programs will use the funds to procure, warehouse and distribute food and prepared meals to low and very low-income families. On November 19, 2024 the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2024-057 which included additional funding for the Bellingham Food Bank to provide additional support to address food insecurity. Whatcom County has agreed to contribute \$1,445,000 to the Whatcom Food Bank Network's Food Purchasing Program over the next two years. These purchases will be focused on healthy and nutrient rich food items as defined by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Maximum consideration of the contract is \$1,445,000 for two years. \$695,000 is dedicated for year one (2025) and \$750,000 for year two (2026). The funding sources are:

- \$276,000 from the General Fund (\$138,000 in 2025 and 2026)
- \$1,169,000 from the Community Priorities Fund (\$557,000 in 2025 and \$612,000 in 2026).