



Memorandum

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Champ Thomaskutty, Director – Health and Community Services
Subject: Washington State Health Care Authority – Alternative Response Team Program Grant Agreement Amendment #4
Date: JUNE 10, 2026

Attached is a grant agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority for your review and signature. This amendment decreases funding for state fiscal year 2027 (FY2027), 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027, due to state budget reductions, and amends deliverables.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for Whatcom County Health and Community Services' Alternative Response Team (ART) Program, which provides critical services to community members in crisis or at risk of being in crisis. ART aims to reduce the burden on Bellingham law enforcement by diverting lower-risk calls to the behavioral health team. ART responds to low-risk, low-acuity, and non-criminal calls. ART is deployed by staff based at WhatComm 911, 10 hours/day, 5 days per week (currently Monday — Friday).

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This amendment decreases the not to exceed amount by \$176,000, from \$4,561,000 to \$4,385,000. Total funding for this state-funded grant is \$4,385,000. These funds are reduced from the 2026 budget. Council authorization is required as this is an interlocal agreement.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Differences
Section 4	Decreases funding and amends deliverables for 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Schedule A1 – Statement of Work	Amends the Deliverables Table for 07/01/2026 – 06/30/2027
Effective Date	The effective start date of the amendment is July 1, 2026

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