



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Champ Thomaskutty, Director
RE: Seattle Foundation – Trueblood Grant Agreement
DATE: APRIL 20, 2026

Attached is a grant agreement between Whatcom County and Seattle Foundation for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Trueblood et al. v DSHS is a Washington State class-action lawsuit challenging the state’s unconstitutional delays in providing mental health competency evaluations and restorative services to individuals in jail. As a result of these delays DSHS was fined over \$400 million, with \$100 million paid and the remainder held in abeyance. Funding has been released in five phases, beginning with Phase 1 in 2019. In 2025, the County applied for funding under Phase 5 to support the development of affordable housing for Trueblood Class Members. On October 15th, 2025, the Honorable United States Senior District Judge Marsha J Pechman, signed an order awarding Whatcom County \$3,603,879. Of this award, \$3,087,940 will be passed through to Lake Whatcom Treatment Center in consideration of eleven (11) units in their 27-unit Lincoln Street Studio complex, secured through a 25-year restrictive covenant. The remaining funds will be used WCHCS staff time (.35 FTE) for program management, a rental assistance program for class members, and indirect costs.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This grant provides \$3,603,879 from the Seattle Foundation. The majority of funds will be dispersed in the 2025-2027 biennium with some staff time, rental assistance, and indirect costs carrying over through 2030. A supplemental budget request is submitted concurrently to County Council to include the funding in the budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.060.

Please contact Eric Chambers, Special Projects Manager at 360-778-6100 or EKChambe@co.whatcom.wa.us if you have any questions.

Encl.