



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: Opportunity Council – COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Contract

DATE: February 9, 2021

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**
Stable housing is a key component of economic security. Housing security is necessary to ensure residents, whose income was impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or unemployment, are able to remain stably housed. Rental assistance will offer housing security to households at or below 80% AMI and address the needs of some of the most impacted residents in the community. This AMI eligibility equates to \$47,800 for a one-person household or \$68,250 for a four-person household. Maintaining housing for those most impacted will serve to support recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this contract is to provide rental and utility assistance funding for eligible recipients and funding for Opportunity Council personnel who will confirm program eligibility and administer financial assistance.
- **Funding Amount and Source**
Funding for this contract may not exceed \$6,807,911. Funds under the contract are made available by a grant awarded by the US Department of the Treasury and subject to Section 501 of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Pub L No 116-260 (CFDA #21.023). These funds will be included in the 2021 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Kathleen Roy at extension #6007 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.

Encl.