



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Whatcom Homeless Service Center Contract Amendment #16
DATE: JUNE 10, 2024

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council for your review and signature. This amendment extends and increases funding for motel stays and rental assistance by utilizing newly issued funds from the Washington State Department of Commerce’s Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) funding.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Whatcom Homeless Service Center (WHSC) provides coordinated entry for the homeless housing system. The WHSC makes referrals to partner agencies for housing case management services and rental assistance projects, cultivates and maintains relationships with local landlords and motel operators, and serves as liaison for homeless housing activities to the network of service providers and other community stakeholders.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

This amendment increases funding by \$2,023,518. Funding for this contract period may not exceed \$5,360,269 and is provided by the Consolidated Homelessness Grant and Emergency Housing Funds grant passed through the Washington State Department of Commerce, local document recording fees, HB 1406 funds, the Veterans Assistance Fund, and County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds (ALN 21.027). These funds are included in the 2024 budget. Council authorization is required as the additional funding provided by this amendment exceeds 10% of the amount last authorized by Council on 04/25/2023.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Differences
Exhibit A – Scope of Work	Updates funding source requirements, program outcomes and reporting requirements.
Exhibit B – Compensation	Increase Commerce CHG and Inflation funding to support additional rental assistance and motel stays.

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Health & Human Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

Encl.