



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Housing Case Management Contract
DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2024

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

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding for case management for households who are experiencing homelessness, at risk of experiencing homelessness, or who are newly housed to improve housing stability and reduce homelessness in Whatcom County. The Opportunity Council's Community Services Division provides a continuum of services to ensure individuals and families with children experiencing homelessness have access to housing and the tools and support required to maintain housing stability long-term.

Programs supported by this contract include Coordinated Entry intake and referral, housing pool case management, diversion, deposit assistance, family emergency shelter, family rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, homeless prevention, and veteran housing services navigation. This project addresses the critical community need for stable housing among low-income households experiencing homelessness and housing instability in Whatcom County. This contract is awarded as a result of RFP 24-42.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

A six-month contract is proposed in order to align future contract periods with the state fiscal year starting July 1, 2025. Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$1,003,932, is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant (\$952,160), the local veterans' assistance fund (\$40,573), and document recording fees (\$11,199). These funds are included in the 2025 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100, as funding for these services exceeds \$40,000.

▪ **Differences Between Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract; however, funding for these services has been provided through previous contracts since 2011. This contract updates language within the scope of work to reflect standardized language for similar contract types adds incident reporting and severe weather planning templates, and includes reimbursement of client transportation assistance, but includes no additional significant changes from the contract ending on 12/31/2024 (WC Contract #202106045).

Please contact Christopher D'Onofrio, Housing and Homeless Services Supervisor at 360-778-6049 (CDonofri@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

