



ERIC J. RICHEY

WHATCOM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Erik K. Sigmar, Chief Criminal Deputy
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Thomas Seguire, Chief Civil Deputy
Hilary Thomas, Chief of Staff

MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive

FROM: Hilary A. Thomas
Chief of Staff
Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

RE: State Dep't of Commerce SFY 2026 DV Victim Grant Amendment

DATE: July 17, 2026

Please find attached an amendment to the SFY 2026 DV Victim/Witness Grant from the WA State Department of Commerce. Our office uses these funds from the State to reimburse salary and benefits related to a victim advocate in our office. Advocates assist prosecutors in keeping victims/witnesses of domestic violence informed of their statutory (RCW 7.69.030) and constitutional rights (Art. I, § 35), as well as the status of the cases in which they were victimized. Advocates also provide emotional support for victims of domestic violence by being present with them at defense interviews and judicial proceedings. Effective prosecution of domestic violence crimes depends significantly on the cooperation of the victims. Staffing the position is essential to ensure the health and well-being of the community and victims of domestic violence.

This Amendment adds an additional \$50,000 to the initial \$24,218 awarded in March of this year. The total awarded to this Office from the Washington Department of Commerce under this grant is \$74,218. The Amendment also extends the term of the contract to June 30, 2027. With these additional funds, our office will now be able to cover the majority of wages and benefits for one of our advocates from 2026 into 2027. Council approval is required as the amendment amount exceeds \$40,000. This grant, including this amendment, are 100% State funded, with no Federal funds. The term "Grant" in the original Grant includes the term "Grant as Amended." This Grant is separate from the VOCA grant application that was signed by the Executive on June 8, 2026 for \$53,570.00 for SFY July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

If you have any questions or concerns about this Amendment to the State Commerce grant, please contact me at x5764 or hthomas@co.whatcom.wa.us.