



## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Director

**RE:** Opportunity Council – Whatcom Homeless Service Center Contract Amendment #6

**DATE:** September 17, 2021

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

- **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, cultivates and maintains relationships with local landlords, and serves as liaison for homeless housing activities to the network of service providers and other community stakeholders. The purpose of this amendment is to increase Commerce ESG-CV and HB 1406 (Affordable and Supportive Housing Sales and Use Tax) funding by \$162,400 for additional rental assistance and subsequent indirect costs. This amendment also updates allowable uses of HB 1406 rental assistance funds to include all low-income households that are prioritized by the Whatcom Homeless Service Center's coordinated entry process and increases the target number of households served by 35.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract period (07/01/2021 – 12/31/2021) is not to exceed \$1,113,951 and funding for the total contract period (01/01/2021 – 12/31/2021) is not to exceed \$2,508,023. Funding is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant, the federal Emergency Solutions-CV Grant (CFDA 14.231), local document recording fees, the Veteran's Assistance Fund, HB 1406, and Whatcom County's COVID Response Fund. These funds are included in the 2021 budget. Council approval is required as the additional funding provided by this amendment exceeds 10% of the approved budget.

Please contact Ann Beck, Human Services Supervisor at 360-778-6055 ([ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us)) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 ([KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us)), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

