



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Charlene Ramont, Interim Director

RE: Ferndale Community Services – Severe Weather Shelter Operations Contract

DATE: October 3, 2025

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale Community Services for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides 100% of the funding for the Contractor to provide overnight shelter for up to 15 individuals who are outside of Bellingham city limits during dangerous weather conditions. FCS will provide overnight and day shelter options and their typical service area includes Ferndale, Custer, Blaine, Birch Bay, Lynden, and the surrounding unincorporated county areas. FCS was the sole respondent to RFP #25-59 and is awarded this contract based on their proven success in operating low-barrier shelters for the past five winter seasons. Operational activities and corresponding costs will be dependent on weather. Prior years have shown remaining funds for similar contracts at the end of the season, however this budget provides funding that could be necessary if weather patterns lead to prolonged shelter activations or an extended season.

Whatcom County continues to experience a shortage of life-saving emergency shelters during severe weather episodes. Severe weather in Whatcom County has demonstrated a need to provide additional shelter options for the County's most vulnerable people.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$145,993, is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant (\$103,993) and Local Document Recording Fees (\$42,000). These funds are included in the 2025 budget and Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100 as funding for this contract exceeds \$75,000.

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

Encl.

