



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Erika Lautenbach, Director  
**RE:** Cascade Connections – Services to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Contract  
**DATE:** June 11, 2021

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Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Cascade Connections for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides “Pathways to Employment” and “Community Inclusion” services to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities. Pathways to Employment services are designed to assist individuals to pursue and maintain paid employment in integrated community settings. Community Inclusion services are design to increase participation and inclusion in the community. In January 2021, 353 adults in Whatcom County received employment services and 32 individuals received community inclusion services. Cascade Connections is one of four community providers offering these services.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract is provided by the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration. Total compensation under this contract will vary depending on the number of clients and the types of services authorized, however, the estimated authorized service level is \$1,321,837. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

▪ **Differences Between Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract; however, funding for these services has been provided through previous contracts between Whatcom County and Cascade Connections since 2001. This contract updates hourly rates in line with a temporary 12% rate increase through December 31, 2021 and otherwise includes no significant changes from the contract that is currently in place (WC Contract #201706028).

Please contact Anne Deacon, Human Services Manager at 360-778-6054 ([ADeacon@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:ADeacon@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.

