

WHATCOM COUNTY CONTRACT INFORMATION SHEET

Whatcom County Contract No.

202606010

Originating Department:	70 - Superior Court
Division:	7010 - SC-Administration
Program:	701000 - SC-Administration
Contract or Grant Administrator:	Stephanie Kraft
Contractor's / Agency Name:	Department of Social and Health Services

Type of contract:	Grant (Whatcom County is Grantee) (Federal Funds)	
Is this a new contract ? Yes	If not, is this an amendment or renewal to an existing contract? No	If amendment or renewal (per W.C.C. 3.08.11(a)), original contract # :
Is this a grant agreement? Yes	If yes, grantor agency contract numbers: 2663-68729	ALN: 93.563 <i>Complete ALN field if contract involves direct federal grants/cooperative agreements or pass-through federal funds</i>
Is this contract grant-funded ? No	If yes, Whatcom County grant contract number(s):	
Is this contract the result of an RFP or Bid Process ? No	If yes, RFP and Bid number(s):	Federal reimbursement? Yes
Procurement Method:	N/A - Interlocal/Grant - For interlocal agreements between governments or grant-funded contra	
Council review requirements & exemptions:	Required - Grant exceeds \$40,000	

Fund:	1000	Original Contract Amount (if amendment):	Cost reimbursement-amount varies
Cost Center:	10007050	This Amendment Amount (if applicable):	NA
Object Account:		Total Contract Amount:	Cost reimbursement-amount varies

Contract term ends: 06/30/2031

Contract routing (*please initial & date*):

Prepared by:	MH 5/21/26	Contractor signed:	
Contractor review:		Executive review:	<i>7W 6/15/2026</i>
Attorney signoff:	Electronic approval TS/MH 5/21/26	Council approval, if necessary:	06/09/2026
AS Finance review:	J. Thomson 05/28/2026		AB#: 2026-446
IT review (if related):	<i>n/a</i>	Executive signed	<i>6/15/2026</i>

**Whatcom County
Superior Court Administration -
Juvenile Division**
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 501 – 5th Floor
Bellingham, Washington 98225
Main: (360) 778-5490
Fax: (360) 778-5491



Administrator
Stephanie Kraft

Judges
David E. Freeman
Lee Grochmal
Evan Jones
Robert E. Olson
Jennifer Slattery

Commissioners
John All
Kacie B. Emerick
Lisa M. Keeler
Jonathan Richardson
Ann Vetter-Hansen

MEMORANDUM

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Stephanie Kraft, Superior and Juvenile Court Administrator
Subject: Department of Social and Health Services-County Program Agreement for Court Commissioner's Services
Date: 05/21/2026

Enclosed is one (1) original of the County Program Agreement between Whatcom County and Department of Social and Health Services for your review and signature.

Background and Purpose

Whatcom County has long contracted with Department of Social and Health Services for reimbursement of a percentage of Superior Court Commissioners time when working civil court cases involving Child Support Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. The funds support a Federal Requirement of States to provide an expedited process for adjudicating and concluding these types of cases. This is a federal incentive payment agreement.

Funding Amount and Source

The total contract amount varies each state fiscal year. In 2026, Superior Court Administration could seek reimbursement for up to \$60,000 from Department of Social and Health Services. This is a six-year contract. Council authorization is required pursuant to WCC 03.06.010 for grants exceeding \$40,000 and RCW 39.34.030(2) for agreements between public agencies.

Differences from Previous Contract

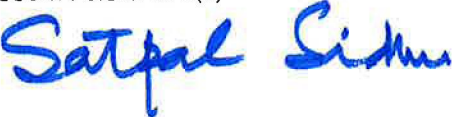
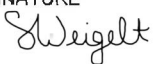
This is a renewal agreement and has no changes from the previous contract ending 06/30/2026, Whatcom County Contract #202111039. As mentioned above, the amount of reimbursement Superior Court Administration is able to seek reimbursement for changes each year. The amount is determined by the Department of Social and Health Services.

Please contact Stephanie Kraft at extension 5496, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the terms of this agreement.

Encl.

Whatcom County Contract No.

202606010

		COUNTY PROGRAM AGREEMENT Court Commissioner's Services		DSHS Agreement Number 2663-68729
This Program Agreement is by and between the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the County identified below, and is issued in conjunction with a County and DSHS Agreement On General Terms and Conditions, which is incorporated by reference.				Administration or Division Agreement Number County Agreement Number
DSHS ADMINISTRATION Economic Services Administration	DSHS DIVISION Division of Child Support	DSHS INDEX NUMBER 1241	DSHS CONTRACT CODE 3051CS-63	
DSHS CONTACT NAME AND TITLE Jennifer Carlson County Liaison		DSHS CONTACT ADDRESS PO BOX 9162 Olympia, WA 98507-9162		
DSHS CONTACT TELEPHONE (360)664-5237		DSHS CONTACT FAX (360)664-5342		DSHS CONTACT E-MAIL jennifer.carlson@dsht.wa.gov
COUNTY NAME Whatcom County		COUNTY ADDRESS 311 Grand Avenue Suite 301 501 Bellingham, WA 98225-4048		
COUNTY FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER		COUNTY CONTACT NAME Stephanie Kraft		
COUNTY CONTACT TELEPHONE (360) 778-5496		COUNTY CONTACT FAX		COUNTY CONTACT E-MAIL skraft@co.whatcom.wa.us
IS THE COUNTY A SUBRECIPIENT FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PROGRAM AGREEMENT? Yes			ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBERS 93.563	
PROGRAM AGREEMENT START DATE 07/01/2026		PROGRAM AGREEMENT END DATE 06/30/2031		MAXIMUM PROGRAM AGREEMENT AMOUNT Fee For Service
EXHIBITS. When the box below is marked with an X, the following Exhibits are attached and are incorporated into this County Program Agreement by reference: ☐ Exhibits (specify): ☒ No Exhibits.				
The terms and conditions of this Contract are an integration and representation of the final, entire and exclusive understanding between the parties superseding and merging all previous agreements, writings, and communications, oral or otherwise, regarding the subject matter of this Contract. The parties signing below represent that they have read and understand this Contract, and have the authority to execute this Contract. This Contract shall be binding on DSHS only upon signature by DSHS.				
COUNTY SIGNATURE(S) 		PRINTED NAME(S) AND TITLE(S) Satpal Sidhu, Count Executive		DATE(S) SIGNED 6/15/2026
DSHS SIGNATURE 		PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Sarah Weigelt, Key Contracts Admin. DSHS/ESA/ Division of Child Support		DATE SIGNED 6/16/2026

Special Terms and Conditions

1. Definitions Specific to Special Terms. The words and phrases listed below, as used in this Contract, shall each have the following definitions:

- a. "Cost Reimbursement Plan" means the DCS approved funding methodology and process by which Title IV-D reimbursement claims are calculated by the County.
- b. "Court Commissioner" means a person appointed by the County Superior Court to carry out the judicial duties authorized by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 2.24.040 and Washington Constitution Article IV, Section 23.
- c. "DCS" means the Division of Child Support, a division of the Department of Social and Health Services' Economic Services Administration, the single designated entity which administers, supervises, and monitors Washington State's child support enforcement program and State Plan under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.
- d. "DSHS" means the State of Washington's Department of Social and Health Services.
- e. "Dedicated Docket" means a regularly scheduled court calendar devoted to the expedited processing of Title IV-D child support services cases which provides the time required for the volume of Title IV-D cases.
- f. "Direct Costs" means costs which are incurred by and directly allocable to the County.
- g. "Expedited Processes" are as defined in 45 CFR Chapter III, Part 303, Section 303.101.
- h. "Federal Financial Participation" means the percentage of costs that the federal government reimburses DCS for expenses incurred in carrying out the Washington State Title IV-D child support program.
- i. "Federal Incentive" means the additional reimbursement of funds from the federal government to DCS based upon specific performance measures.
- j. "Indirect Costs" means costs that are incurred by the County but not directly allocable to the County in carrying out the IV-D child support program.
- k. "Title IV-D Child Support matters or services" mean and includes: the establishment of paternity; the establishment and modification of child support orders; the enforcement of judicially or administratively ordered child support or medical support obligation in cases initiated by the County Prosecuting Attorney, the Attorney General, or an attorney contracted to act on behalf of the State of Washington. Title IV-D of the Social Security Act is codified at 42 USC Chapter 7, Subchapter IV, Part D, section 651 et seq.

2. Purpose

Engage the services of a Court Commissioner to ensure that all Title IV-D child support cases are processed with priority in a manner sufficient to meet all relevant program standards and time frame requirements, set forth in Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and related provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, including 45 CFR Part 303.

- a. DCS is required by federal regulation to perform various judicial proceedings and case actions within prescribed time frames, see 45 CFR 303. Federal regulations also provide for enhanced federal funding for DCS when it performs at a high level through the provision of federal incentive payments (45 CFR 304.12).

Special Terms and Conditions

- b. The Counties are valuable partners for maintaining compliance with required federal performance standards and achievements-based federal incentive payments. Crucial areas where Court Commissioners help in meeting federal requirements include:
 - (1) Hearing and deciding Title IV-D paternity and child support matters as expeditiously as possible;
 - (2) Entering child support orders that are in accord with the Washington State Child Support Schedule and the obligor's reasonable ability to pay; and
 - (3) Establishing obligations for provisions of health insurance coverage for the dependent children.
- c. The rationale for the reimbursement of Court Commissioner time with Title IV-D funds is the federal requirement that states provide an expedited process for adjudicating and concluding Title IV-D cases.
- d. Consideration is paid under this agreement in order to ensure that all IV-D child support cases are processed with priority in a manner sufficient to meet all relevant program standards and time frame requirements, set forth in Title IV-D of the Social Security Act and related provisions of the Code of Federal Regulations, including 45 CFR Part 303, as in effect or later amended, and such other regulations as may be adopted.
- e. The parties, under this Agreement, agree to coordinate activities to expedite the establishment, modification, and enforcement of orders in Title IV-D child support matters.

3. Period of Performance

The period of performance is as stated on Page 1 of this Agreement.

4. Duties of the County

The County is empowered under state law through the use of Court Commissioners to preside over family law judicial proceedings in Superior Court. Under this Agreement, the County shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. To preside over child support related hearings in Superior Court actions.
- b. To comply fully with the requirements of:
 - (1) 42 USC Chapter 7, Subchapter IV, Part D, sections 651 et seq. (Title IV-D of the Social Security Act);
 - (2) 45 CFR Chapter III, Part 302, section 302.34 (Cooperative Arrangements); Part 303, section 303.107 (Requirements for Cooperative Arrangements); Part 304 (Federal Financial Participation); and Part 305 (Program Performance Measures, Standards, Financial Incentives, and Penalties);
 - (3) 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards).
- c. To ensure that an adequate amount of time is set aside for expedited processing of Title IV-D child support cases initiated by the County Prosecuting Attorney, the Attorney General, or an attorney contracted to act on behalf of the State of Washington. Preferable methods for achieving this goal include dedicated dockets, or set-aside time on family law calendars exclusively for IV-D cases.

Special Terms and Conditions

- d. If the County cannot provide a dedicated docket for Title IV-D cases, the County must develop an acceptable alternative process to ensure expedited handling of these cases.
- e. To meet as needed with the County Prosecuting Attorney and DCS to review the effectiveness of the expedited processes in meeting the program standards and time frame requirement defined in 45 CFR Part 303.
- f. If requested by DCS, provide DCS an annual budget of court costs and expenditures for which reimbursement is expected to be claimed under this Agreement, using a format established by DCS. The County must monitor its budget and reimbursements. If initial budget authorization is found to be insufficient for the full calendar year, the County will be notified by DCS to submit a budget amendment request prior to the submission of any reimbursement claims that would result in exceeding the approved budget. DCS shall review the budget amendment request and notify the County whether the request is approved or denied. DCS is under no obligation to approve any budget amendment requests.
- g. To maintain on file with DCS a current County Indirect Cost Allocation Plan. The Plan, which is the responsibility of the County, must be updated annually in accordance with federal requirements contained in 2 CFR Part 200.
- h. To maintain or forward to DCS case records and supporting fiscal records as are required by state or federal laws or regulations adopted pursuant to Title IV-D.
- i. To retain case records for five (5) years after final disposition and be available for inspection, review, or audit by authorized DCS personnel, the Office of the State Auditor or federal auditors during the Agreement period.
- j. To submit to DCS copies of any support orders, documents or information obtained that indicates the disposition of cases.
- k. To respond to reasonable requests for information from DCS regarding the current status of cases.
- l. To respond to reasonable requests for information from DCS regarding performance under the contract.

5. Duties of the Division of Child Support

DCS is the designated single state entity that administers, supervises, and monitors Washington State's Child Support Enforcement Program and the State Plan under Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. Under this Agreement, DCS will have the following responsibilities:

- a. To comply fully with the requirements of:
 - (1) 42 USC Chapter 7, Subchapter IV, Part D, sections 651 et seq. (Title IV-D of the Social Security Act);
 - (2) 45 CFR Chapter III, Part 302, section 302.34 (Cooperative Arrangements); Part 303, section 303.107 (Requirements for Cooperative Arrangements); Part 304 (Federal Financial Participation); and Part 305 (Program Performance Measures, Standards, Financial Incentives, and Penalties);
 - (3) 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards).

Special Terms and Conditions

- b. To inform counties of:
 - (1) Relevant federal statutes, regulations and policies;
 - (2) Provisions of the State Plan;
 - (3) State policies, standards, procedures and instructions; and
 - (4) Changes in federal and state funding, match rates, incentives, program requirements, performance measures and reimbursement methodology.
- c. To provide reasonable technical assistance and cooperation in program and fiscal areas necessary to assist counties in meeting state and federal requirements.
- d. To reimburse funds expended by the County for allowable expenditures pursuant to an approved reimbursement plan:
 - (1) Reimburse the allowable direct costs of the County in accordance with the County Court Commissioner's Funding Methodology, at the amount of the current federal match rate.
 - (2) Reimburse the other allowable indirect costs of the County, at the amount of the current federal match rate or the County's current Indirect Cost Allocation Plan.
 - (3) Provide a proportionate share of the federal incentive payments to the County.
 - (4) Ensure that reimbursement shall not exceed the estimated financial participation as set forth in the County budget, including subsequent changes, approved by DCS.
 - (5) Ensure compliance with federal regulations at 45 CFR 304.21(b) (Limitations) specifying that federal funding is not available for compensation (salary and fringe benefits), travel and training, and office-related costs incurred by judges or administrative and support staff of judges.

6. Billing and Payment

- a. Billing
 - (1) The County shall submit a monthly claim for reimbursement using a format established by DCS and the Cost Reimbursement Plan.
 - (2) Monthly claims shall be submitted for reimbursement for the actual allowable expenditures incurred in execution of this Agreement and must be in sufficient detail for DCS, state, and federal auditors to verify consistency.
 - (3) All claims for reimbursement must be submitted to DCS within 90 days from the date of expenditure. No claim submitted more than 12 months after the date of expenditure will be reimbursed.
 - (4) Any funds paid to the County which is later disallowed by state or federal auditors must be returned to DCS.
 - (5) The County shall not claim reimbursement for any funds expended in execution of this Agreement that are, or have been derived directly from, federal funds, or are to be allocated to, or included as, a cost of any other federally financed program in either the current or a prior period.

Special Terms and Conditions

- (6) The County shall not claim reimbursement for the acquisition cost of any real property.
- (7) The County shall not claim reimbursement of any personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit without prior approval, except for the acquisition of automatic data processing equipment and software. This exception does not apply to imaging and equipment, which must have prior DCS approval due to budget constraints.
- (8) The County may claim reimbursement for the depreciation expense of nonexpendable personal property purchased by the County for use in execution of this Agreement, provided that management and accountability of said property is consistent with federal regulations adopted pursuant to Title IV-D. Per CFR 45.92.32, any equipment or items partially purchased with IV-D funding must be tracked and if disposed of or moved out of the Court's office, must be accorded a value at the time of disposal and if that value is over \$5,000 the asset value must be deducted from that month's reimbursement claim.
- (9) The County shall not claim reimbursement for charges levied by one county office against another where such fees are not charged uniformly to all those using the provided services.

b. Payment

- (1) Monthly claim reimbursements shall be submitted to:

DCS County Fiscal Liaison
DSHS/Division of Child Support
MS 45860
P.O. Box 9162
Olympia, WA 98507-9162

- (2) The County shall contact the DCS County Fiscal Liaison by phone or email, as provided on page 1 of this Agreement, concerning billing questions.
- (3) Payment shall be considered timely if made by DSHS within thirty (30) days after receipt of the complete and accurate monthly cost reimbursement claim.
- (4) DSHS may, at its sole discretion, withhold payment claimed by the County for services rendered if the County fails to satisfactorily comply with any term or condition of this Agreement.