



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Communities In Schools of Whatcom-Skagit – Student Support Services Contract
DATE: April 25, 2023

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Communities In Schools of Whatcom-Skagit for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Students that experience challenges with poor mental health, substance use, basic needs, academics, life skills, and similar issues attend school less regularly and drop out of school at higher rates. This in turn, contributes to a number of other long-term and often life-long problems. The Communities In Schools (CIS) Program is an evidence-based and cost-beneficial program designed to support a range of behavioral health needs and to increase access to critical school and community services. The CIS model surrounds students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. This program has operated in Bellingham and Ferndale School Districts with Whatcom County support since 2016 and is the only program serving these districts in this capacity. This is a sole source contract and CIS continues to exceed expected service levels and demonstrate positive outcomes that meet identified goals. This contract primarily supports personnel costs (\$134,600) for a Site Counselor and the Executive Director and a nominal amount (\$1,400) supports staff training, supplies, travel and professional development costs.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$136,000, is provided by the Washington State Health Care Authority – Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, and the local Behavioral Health fund. These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract, however, funding for these services has been provided by Communities In Schools through previous contracts since 2016. There are no significant changes from the contract ending on 06/30/2023 (WC Contract #201906018).

Please contact Joe Fuller, Program Specialist at 360-778-6045 (JFuller@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Services Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

