



Memorandum

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu
From: Champ Thomaskutty, Director – Health and Community Services
Subject: Chinook Enterprises – Services to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Contract
Date: JULY 18, 2026

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Chinook Enterprises for your review and signature.

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides “Supported Employment” and “Community Inclusion” services to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities. Pathways to Employment services are designed to assist individuals in pursuing and maintaining paid employment in integrated community settings. Community Inclusion services are designed to increase participation and inclusion in the community. In January 2026, 347 adults in Whatcom County received Supported Employment services and 56 received Community Inclusion services. Chinook Enterprises is one of five 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 (\$73,378) and local DD Millage (\$1,500). Total compensation under this contract will vary depending on the number of clients and types of services authorized, however, the estimated authorized service level is \$74,878. These funds are included in the 2026 budget. Council approval is required as total cumulative funding for this contract is expected to exceed \$75,000 in future renewals.

- **Differences from Previous Contracts**

This is a new contract; however, this contract mirrors the contracts of other County-qualified providers, who have been providing these same services through the County for many years. Chinook Enterprises is a newly County-qualified provider of these services, through RFI 22-60 and 22-61. **State rules require the County to contract with all contractors who apply to provide services and are deemed qualified.**

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Health & Human Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.

