



**TO:** Satpal Sidhu, County Executive  
**FROM:** Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive  
**RE:** Opportunity Council  
Laurel and Forest Project – Childcare Facility – ARPA funds  
**DATE:** June 27, 2022

Attached is a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Whatcom County will use these ARPA funds, consistent with the guidelines by budgeting these funds through “revenue loss”, and fund a portion of the capital project at Northwest Annex, which was set up using the funds anticipated from the transfer of the Laurel and Forrest project. The insufficient supply of affordable childcare in Whatcom County has created a childcare crisis for low-income households. Opportunity Council is the developer of the Laurel and Forest St Project, which will provide a newly-constructed 5,000 square foot childcare space that includes three classrooms and the capacity to provide childcare services for up to 65 children.

Whatcom County and Opportunity Council have agreed that it would be more efficient to move forward with the transfer of property at no cost as allowed through RCW 39.33.015. The Purchase and Sales Agreement has been updated to reflect the new transfer amount.

Additionally, since the approval of the original ARPA grant award of \$1,00,000, the Opportunity Council has been awarded \$773,000 from the State of Washington for the development of the Child Care Facility. In review of the overall budget and the Final guidance from the US Treasury for ARPA funding, Whatcom County and the Opportunity Council have agreed to reduce the contract award by \$800,000

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement may not exceed \$200,00 and is provided by the American Rescue Plan Act. With the adoption of Ordinance 2021-069, these funds are now included in the 2021 budget.