



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Northwest Youth Services – COVID-Related Youth Housing and Support Services
DATE: July 24, 2020

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and Northwest Youth Services for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

This contract is in response to a notification from Whatcom County Health Department to core not-for-profit behavioral health and social service providers of federal grant funding available to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on their organizations. Each respondent to the notification has worked with Health to specify COVID-related expenditure reimbursement needs. Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) staff have been adapting to operational changes necessary to observe COVID-19 risk mitigation measures while continuing efforts to sustain housing stability for the youth participating in their programs. The purpose of this contract is to provide reimbursement in the form of hazard pay for staff who continue to provide direct service to youth, rental assistance for program participants who have encountered changing criteria for lease renewals due to COVID-19 or are experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and an upgrade to the NWYS building HVAC system to address air flow and increase fresh air intake in office space without windows, necessary to continue operations during the pandemic.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract may not exceed \$53,791. Funds under the contract are made available by a grant awarded by the US Department of Treasury and subject to Section 601(a) of the Social Security Act, as amended by section 5001 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), and Title V and VI of the CARES Act, passed through the Washington State Department of Commerce Local Government Coronavirus Relief Fund (CFDA 21.016). These funds are included in the 2020 budget. Council approval is required as funding exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Kathleen Roy at extension #6007 if you have any questions regarding this agreement.

Encl.

