



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

THROUGH: Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive

FROM: Kayla Schott-Bresler, Strategic Initiatives Manager

RE: Bellingham Food Bank - Whatcom County food purchases (ARPA)

DATE: September 1, 2022

Attached is an agreement between Whatcom County and the Bellingham Food bank for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

Food insecurity in Whatcom County is a public health issue and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the decline of pandemic public assistance benefits and rising inflation, Whatcom County food banks are seeing significant increases in the numbers of clients served. Food prices are a challenge for households as well as the food bank network. This agreement provides \$500,000 to the Bellingham Food Bank to purchase food for Whatcom County food bank customers. The following food banks may be supported through this agreement: Point Roberts Food Bank, Blaine Food Bank, Project Hope Food Bank (Lynden), Foothills Food Bank (Deming), Ferndale Food Bank, Everson Nooksack Valley Food Bank, Nooksack Tribal Food Bank, Lummi Nation Food Bank, Salvation Army Food Bank, and Bellingham Food Bank.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement may not exceed \$500,000 and is provided by the American Rescue Plan Act. With the adoption of Amendment 12 to the 2021-2022 Budget Ordinance #2020-068, these funds will be included in the 2022 budget.