



Memorandum

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Bellis Phase I Affordable Housing Contract
DATE: AUGUST 27, 2024

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

- **Background and Purpose**

This contract provides funding to support the construction of a 65-unit affordable housing facility, known as Bellis Phase I. Twenty percent of the units within Bellis Phase I will be reserved for families with children exiting homelessness and another 20% will be reserved for households with one or more individuals with a disability, including behavioral, physical, and/or developmental.

This project meets the eligibility requirements for HB 1590 funding as authorized under RCW 82.14.530, as the facility will provide affordable housing to residents that are at or below 60% of the Area Median Income and more than 15% of the units will be occupied by residents who were previously living in or near Bellingham.

The constructed facility shall maintain 65 units of affordable housing for fifty years, as described in this contract, commencing upon the completion of the construction of the facility.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000, is provided by HB 1590 funds. These funds are included in the 2024 budget. Council authorization is required per WCC 3.08.100 as funding for this contract exceeds \$40,000.

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

Encl.