



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director

RE: City of Bellingham – GRACE Program Interlocal Agreement

DATE: November 16, 2022

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for your review and signature.

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Health Department’s Ground-level Response And Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program is designed to provide intensive care coordination services to individuals who frequently use the crisis system and law enforcement responses in ineffective ways. Care coordination activities are coupled with other necessary services from relevant service providers to create comprehensive intervention and care plans. The overarching GRACE program goals are to reduce First Responder calls, Emergency Department visits, arrests, and jail admissions while improving the health, well-being and stability of these individuals.

This Agreement provides funding from the City of Bellingham for GRACE Program activities intended to increase public safety, reduce use and cost of emergency and criminal justice systems, and improve the health and well-being of individuals with complex needs.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this Agreement is not to exceed \$784,000 (\$392,000 annually) and is provided by the City of Bellingham. These funds are included in the 2023-2024 budgets. Council approval is required as this award exceeds \$40,000.

Please contact Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager at 360-778-6131 (MChriste@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Assistant Director at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

