



MEMORANDUM

TO: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
FROM: Erika Lautenbach, Director
RE: Opportunity Council – Whatcom Homeless Service Center Contract Amendment #11
DATE: February 28, 2023

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

▪ **Background and Purpose**

The Whatcom Homeless Service Center (WHSC) provides coordinated entry for the homeless housing system. The WHSC makes referrals to partner agencies for housing case management services, cultivates and maintains relationships with local landlords and motel operators, and serves as liaison for homeless housing activities to the network of service providers and other community stakeholders. This amendment adds \$1,344,000 in funding for eviction prevention based on referrals from partner agencies. Funds will be paid directly to landlords and property management agencies for households meeting eligibility criteria.

▪ **Funding Amount and Source**

Funding for this amendment, in an amount not to exceed \$1,344,000, is provided by the Washington State Department of Commerce Consolidated Homeless Grant (including supplemental Shelter and RRH Grant). These funds are included in the 2023 budget. Total amended contract amount is \$9,033,021. Council authorization is required as the additional funding provided by this amendment exceeds 10% of the amount authorized by Council on 08/09/2022.

▪ **Differences from Previous Contracts**

Section	Revision Purpose
Exhibit A – Scope of Work	Adds funding, outcome and reporting requirements for newly available eviction prevention funds based on referrals from partner agencies. Funds will be paid directly to landlords and property management agencies for households meeting eligibility criteria.
Exhibit B – Compensation	Increase homelessness prevention rental assistance funds by \$1,200,000 and indirect funding by \$144,000 for a total increase of \$1,344,000.

Please contact Ann Beck, Community Services Manager at 360-778-6055 (ABeck@co.whatcom.wa.us) or Kathleen Roy, Financial & Administrative Manager at 360-778-6007 (KRoy@co.whatcom.wa.us), if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request.

