

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE 23-HOUR CRISIS RELIEF CENTER FUND AND
ESTABLISHING A PROJECT BASED BUDGET FOR THE 23-HOUR CRISIS RELIEF
CENTER PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the local continuum of behavioral health services is inadequate to meet the needs of individuals in crisis; and

WHEREAS, on July 11, 2023, the Whatcom County Council adopted [Ordinance No. 2023-039](#) to approve the Justice Project Needs Assessment Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, "build a 23-hour Crisis Relief Center" is identified as an initial project in the Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the County is now ready to begin pre-development of a 23-hour Crisis Relief Center, as established in Chapter 433, Laws of 2023, State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington has awarded \$9,000,000 to grant to Whatcom County for this project; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Washington State Department of Commerce must enter into contract for this grant; and

WHEREAS, the County can utilize its behavioral health fund to begin pre-development work on the project and accelerate the project timeline; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three (3) years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established titled 23-hour Crisis Relief Center Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures of the capital project mentioned above; and

