WHATCOM COUNTY
Health and Community Services

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Memorandum

TO: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu

FROM: Champ Thomaskutty, Director – Health and Community Services

SUBJECT: AidKit, Inc. – Healthy Children's Fund Child Care Augmentation Contract

DATE: **JULY 24, 2026**

Attached is a contract between Whatcom County and AidKit, Inc. (AidKit) for your review and signature.

On June 9th, Whatcom County Health and Community Services (WCHCS) staff shared an update at the Public Works and Health Committee on progress regarding the Kids First Subsidy Program budget and contract development. The input from Council members was helpful in finalizing the parameters for this work.

- **Background and Purpose**

  This contract provides funding for the development and implementation of a localized child care provider rate augmentation and family subsidy program. The program in its first iteration will serve families earning up to 75% of the State Median Income (SMI), ($104,848/year for a family of four) with a focus on expanding support for families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are currently underserved. This contract also provides funding for subsidy-related public education and outreach activities and enrollment navigation services. These efforts are expected to measurably increase participation of local families in the state funded Working Connections Child Care Program.

  This contract is a result of Resolution 2024-057 and aligns with Strategy 3 of the Healthy Children's Fund Implementation Plan. It improves access to early learning and care through subsidies that reduce the cost of programs for children from families who are cost-burdened. This contract is awarded through RFP 25-66. AidKit, Inc. was selected based on its demonstrated success administering large-scale direct cash assistance programs nationwide and its experience navigating complex government systems and benefit structures unique to each program they administer. This contract budget supports services for a minimum of 1,400 children throughout Whatcom County. Actual reach may be a greater number, depending on factors such as children's ages, program matriculation, enrollment patterns, and other variables.

- **Funding Amount and Source**

  Funding for this contract, in an amount not to exceed $7,052,947, is provided by the Healthy Children's Fund. These funds are included in the 2026 budget. Council authorization is required as funding for this contract exceeds $75,000.

Please contact Sarah Simpson, Child and Family Programs Supervisor at 360-778-6176 (SSimpson@co.whatcom.wa.us) if you have any questions.