

Kittitas County Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee
205 W. 5th Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 18, 2011

To: Kittitas County Board of Commissioners

CC: Judy Pless, Jerry Petitt, Kittitas County Auditor

From: Kittitas County Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee (HAHC)

Re: Funding for project Kittitas County Community Connects

Project Community Connects is an event designed to bring agencies and homeless families and individuals together in one place at one time and provide the resources and referrals that these individuals need to move forward with their lives. Based on a national model, the Kittitas County event is the first of its kind. Other counties, such as Yakima, Snohomish, Tacoma/Pierce, and Whatcom have staged this event for several years. All reports indicate this is a very successful event and is helpful to strengthen the system of services for this population in these counties. We believe it will do the same for Kittitas County.

The Continuum of Care, a responsibility of Hopesource, in our county has planned and is staging this event on January 27, 2011 at the Kittitas County Events Center. Numerous agencies will be present with their staff and information to help enroll participants in programs, get individuals connected to services, and provide needed resources for these individuals and families. This is the first event of this type held in our county and the Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee is excited that this planning has occurred. Staging this event is one of the priorities in the 10-Year Plan, and we hope it will become an annual event.

The Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee is recommending support for this project in two ways:

1. A recommendation to the BOCC to allocate \$2200 to offset the food and advertising costs for the event, (funds to come from the 2163 fund); and
2. A recommendation to the BOCC to waive the Kittitas County Event Center rental fee for this event (\$112).

Your support of this project with your approval of these recommendations and your presence at this event is encouraged.