

For Immediate Release
December 31, 2025

Whatcom Long-Term Recovery Group Applauds Unanimous Passage of Whatcom County Council Resolution Authorizing Flood Relief Funds for Families with Young Children

Everson, WA – The Whatcom Long-Term Recovery Group (WLTRG) today celebrates the unanimous passage of a resolution by the Whatcom County Council authorizing the use of up to \$750,000 from the Healthy Children's Fund to provide urgent disaster relief to flood-impacted families with vulnerable children aged 0-5 years. This critical funding will address immediate needs following the severe winter storms and flooding that began on December 9, 2025.

WLTRG extends heartfelt thanks to Council Members Mark Stremmer and Barry Buchanan for their tireless leadership and hard work in championing this resolution. Their dedication, alongside the efforts of all Council members who contributed to its unanimous approval, demonstrates a profound commitment to supporting the most vulnerable in our community during times of crisis.

As advocates for disaster impacted families, WLTRG has long emphasized the need to identify and access funding sources that can meet both urgent and long term recovery needs. This resolution fills a significant gap in current disaster relief systems, particularly for three-month housing stabilization, a priority WLTRG has vocally advocated for.

WLTRG is excited to announce that we will immediately apply to administer these funds through our proposed Early Childhood Flood Recovery Assistance Program. One hundred percent of the allocated funds will go directly to supporting flood-impacted families with children aged 0-5, with no administrative fees deducted by our organization. Assistance will include temporary housing stabilization and fulfillment of other needs as the HCF and the contract allows for child-specific necessities and other essential recovery needs.

With extensive experience managing state and federal grants, WLTRG is fully equipped to meet all compliance and reporting requirements. We pride ourselves on delivering detailed, on time transparent reporting that ensures accountability while prioritizing rapid disbursement of aid to those in need.

"We look forward to prompt communication and collaborative action from the County Executive and the Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management as the county moves forward with implementation," said Ashley Butenschoen, WLTRG Vice President and PIO. "This resolution exemplifies our community coming together to protect and uplift the most vulnerable during and after a disaster."

For more information on flood recovery support or to request assistance, visit www.whatcomstrong.com or contact WLTRG at whatcomltrg@gmail.com.

About Whatcom Long-Term Recovery Group

The Whatcom Long-Term Recovery Group (WLTRG), is a nonprofit organization dedicated to coordinating long-term recovery efforts for individuals, families, businesses, and communities affected by disasters in Whatcom County. Formed in response to the 2021 floods and activated again for the 2025 events, WLTRG provides case management, resource coordination, and direct assistance to those in need.

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