



# Whatcom County Sheriff's Office News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, December 19, 2022

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## **WHATCOM COUNTY RECEIVES OVER \$2 MILLION OF STATE FUNDING FOR FLOOD VICTIMS Funds secured through WCSO's DEM, distributed by WLTRG**

Whatcom County, WA – On November 22, 2022, the Whatcom County Council unanimously approved a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for State Individual Assistance Grant Funds for November 2021 Flood housing assistance of \$2,050,000. This funding will aid in the recovery of low-income and disabled individuals and households affected by the November 2021 flood event.

Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management (DEM) met with members from the State's Emergency Management Division to request funding to help rebuild homes damaged during the flooding. The funding came from the newly created (and first-time implemented) Washington State Individual Assistance Grant Program which states that funds should be provided solely to make grants for individual assistance to those impacted by extreme weather events and natural disasters.

Eligible costs from this grant include:

- Housing Assistance which includes:
  - Rental Assistance (First/Last Month's Rent, Security Deposit (No Maximum Amount)
  - Moving and Relocation Assistance (No Maximum Amount)
- Household Appliance and Home Repair which includes:
  - Household Appliances Replacement (\$6,400.00 per household maximum)
  - Home Repairs (\$37,900.00 per household maximum amount)

Persons must meet HUD Low-Income requirements or be Disabled or Seniors.

"Many families in our community were devastated by the 2021 flood event and are still working to find new homes or make existing homes more habitable," said Sheriff Bill Elfo. "We appreciate the designation of this funding so those most vulnerable can continue to move forward with their lives. We will advocate that those responsible for disbursement and financial decisions proceed as expeditiously as possible."

Whatcom County Individual Assistance program has an active caseload of approximately 450 individuals and households still in need of such assistance. Whatcom County Sheriff's Office DEM will administer the grant. Eligibility and assistance requests will be preapproved by the Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group (WLTRG), Whatcom County, and Washington State before any dispersal of funds. The funds will be passed through to the Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group which will distribute the funds per contract requirements.

For more information on applying for assistance, please contact WLTRG's Disaster Case Management at [whatcomDCM@gmail.com](mailto:whatcomDCM@gmail.com) or call 360-788-5392. Para español: 360-525-3748, [mayra.wcdcm@gmail.com](mailto:mayra.wcdcm@gmail.com).

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