



# North Star Project

Skagit County, Washington  
*Thriving Together*



**MAILED** & E-mailed  
2-10-2023

February 10, 2023

Representative Steve Tharinger  
Chair – House Capital Budget Committee  
314 John L. O'Brien Building  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Mike Steele  
Ranking Member – House Capital  
Budget Committee  
122A Legislative Building  
PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504

Senator Mark Mullet  
Vice Chair – Capital Budget, Senate Ways  
and Means Committee  
415 Legislative Building  
PO Box 40405  
Olympia, WA 98504

Senator Mark Schoesler  
Ranking Member – Capital Budget,  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
417 Legislative Building  
PO Box 40409  
Olympia, WA 98504

**RE: Capital Budget Support for Skagit County Crisis Stabilization Center**

Dear Representative Tharinger;  
Representative Steele  
Senator Mullet;  
Senator Schoesler;

We are writing today to express our collective support for Skagit County's \$12.7 million capital request for the Crisis Stabilization Center (SCCSC). This would provide the funding necessary to ensure that this facility is built, thus making significant progress toward the goals of our county and cities for a fully integrated behavioral health system in Skagit County. Ensuring this approach and decreasing barriers to care are integral pieces of the county's North Star Project—the joint effort between Skagit County and the cities of Burlington, Mount Vernon, Anacortes, and Sedro-Woolley to better align resources and services to address the complex behavioral health and homelessness challenges in our community.

In 2022, Skagit County opened the North Sound Evaluation and Treatment (E&T) Center, completing Phase 1 of the Skagit County Stabilization Campus, located in Sedro-Woolley. Funded with a combination of State capital and local dollars, this 16-bed facility provides inpatient mental health services to adults experiencing acute psychiatric symptoms, providing 24-hour support, and preparing individuals to return home or to other community-based programs.

The SCCSC is the next phase of the Stabilization Campus and is designed to work in conjunction with the E&T Center. The facility would add 16 crisis stabilization beds and 32 co-occurring treatment/acute detox beds. The goal is to divert patients in a mental health or substance use disorder crisis away from jail or emergency rooms, allowing these individuals to be treated in a more appropriate setting, and providing access to all needed services in one location.


The SCCSC would significantly increase behavioral health service capacity in the region. Currently, there are no available crisis stabilization beds in Skagit County, leaving individuals needing care without access to life-saving services. This is a critical need in northwestern Washington, and this project takes significant steps towards addressing service shortfalls.


Skagit County has applied for and received a grant through the Department of Commerce totaling \$5.8 million to support this project. The County has also maximized local behavioral health dollars to contribute to the planning and design of the facility.


Representing the needs of both the County and our four cities, we collectively ask that you include the full \$12.7 million for the SCCSC in your 2023 Capital Budgets request. Doing so would not only bolster our collective efforts toward tackling the complex housing and behavioral health challenges in Skagit County, it would also be an incredible asset to our regional partners and to all those we serve.

Sincerely,


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Jill Boudreau  
City of Mount Vernon

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Peter Browning  
Skagit County

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Lisa Janicki  
Skagit County

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Julia Johnson  
City of Sedro-Woolley

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Matt Miller  
City of Anacortes

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Steve Seaton  
City of Burlington

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Ron Wesen  
Skagit County

