



## Snohomish County Council

**Committee:** Finance  
**ECAF:** 2021-0119  
**Proposal:** Mot. 21-145

**Analyst:** Jim Martin  
**Date:** April 7, 2021

### **Consideration:**

Motion authorizing the Executive to re-designate Economic Alliance Snohomish County as the Associate Development Organization for Snohomish County.

### **Background**

The Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) is directed by RCW 43.330.080 to contract with county-designated Associated Development Organizations (ADOs) to increase the support for and coordination of community and economic development services in communities or regional areas. Every two years, Commerce begins the process of contracting with ADOs by sending a letter to the Board of County Commissioners or the County Executive in each county requesting designation of an ADO. The designated ADO for Snohomish County is Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC), a non-profit organization and public-private partnership of businesses, community and government leaders committed to promoting the economic vitality and sustainability of the county. Council previously approved the designation of EASC as Snohomish County's ADO on May 29, 2019 (Motion 19-130).

The role of an ADO is that of advocacy and leadership, serving as the point of contact for local economic activities, recruiting/hosting new businesses, and coordinating business retention and expansion efforts within its service area. The ADO serves as principal contact for Commerce, helping to gather data about community profiles, industrial sites, plans for business development and retention, proposals for economic activities and reports on business activities. The ADO must be broadly representative of community and economic interests, capable of identifying key problems and mobilizing support for recommended initiatives.

ADOs must meet with other ADOs at least twice a year to share best practices, and provide quarterly reports to Commerce on activity outcomes: Business retention and expansion assistance; business recruitment; entrepreneurial business start-ups, as well as significant accomplishments.

### **Current Proposal**

By this motion the Council authorizes the County Executive to complete the ADO Certification/Designation Form to re-designate the Economic Alliance Snohomish County as the ADO for Snohomish County for the 2021-2023 biennium.

*Duration:* Two years.

*Fiscal Implications:* N/A

**2021 Budget:** N/A

**Future Budget Impacts:** None.

**Handling:** NORMAL

**Approved-as-to-form:** N/A.

**Risk Management:** N/A.

**Executive Recommendation:** APPROVE.

**Attachments:** See ECAF packet.

**Amendments:** NONE.

**Request:** Move to General Legislative Session on April 14<sup>th</sup> for consideration.