



The purpose of the policy is to outline the criteria for Local Resource listings on WhatcomCounts.org and define the maintenance standards for the listings.

### **What is a Local Resource?**

A Local Resource is a nonprofit, education, government, social service, or community program or organization that connects people in Whatcom County with opportunities to learn more, get help, and take action to improve [community health](#).

### **Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

- WhatcomCounts.org will make every effort to include all relevant listings in the WhatcomCounts.org Local Resources database. New organizations and others not listed are encouraged to contact WhatcomCounts.org to submit their information. Once an organization is listed the individual agency or organization is responsible for updating their listing.
- The Local Resource must be available to and/or relevant to residents of Whatcom County.
- Resources available only to a very limited population or those not directly serving Whatcom County may be included at the discretion of the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities.
- All information may be edited to meet format, guideline, and space requirements.
- WhatcomCounts.org reserves the right to refuse or discontinue listings for organizations that have had serious verified complaints lodged against them with any regulatory body or any verified concerns that have been made to the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities
- Organizations and agencies included as Local Resources must be working to improve the health of the community and support the [mission](#) of the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities.
- Inclusion or exclusion of an agency or organization is at the discretion of the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities (WCHC).

Examples of Local Resources:

1. Nonprofit agencies providing a community resource or service.
2. Organizations (such as churches) which offer a communitywide resource.
3. Community groups, neighborhood associations, and self-help support groups.
4. City, county, state, and federal government agencies serving residents of Whatcom County and elected officials representing Whatcom County.
5. Health care facilities such as hospitals, health clinics, group homes, and adult care facilities.
6. Educational institutions.
7. Professional organizations and associations.
8. Advocacy groups.
9. Membership organizations active in Whatcom County.

10. Organizations offering low or no-cost family entertainment, sporting events, activities, etc.
11. Private companies which provide a community resource not otherwise available in the community. For-profit organizations will be considered on an individual basis. Inclusion is based on uniqueness of resource, lack of comparable resources available through nonprofit agencies or groups, degree of need for the resource, and the level of subsidized services available.

### **Standards for Data Maintenance**

- Authority to enter and alter records in the WhatcomCounts.org Local Resource database is restricted to individual agencies and Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities staff/volunteers.
- Member organizations agree to the following standards:
  1. Data will be entered in accordance with the criteria described in the Inclusion/Exclusion Policy.
  2. Before adding a new record the database will be checked for existing records.
  3. Fields requiring an entry should be filled out as completely as possible.
  4. All updates and changes must be approved by WCHC staff.
  5. Local Resource entries in the database will be updated annually. Organizations are encouraged to notify WhatcomCounts.org of changes that occur during the year.
  6. Updates will be solicited by email or mail by WhatcomCounts.org.
  7. Agencies and organization not responding to the Local Resource update request may be removed at the discretion of the Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities.