

COMMUNITY SHELTER RECOMMENDATIONS 2024



BACKGROUND

In an effort to improve Spokane's shelter system and make it more cost-effective, the **Community, Health and Human Services Department** conducted an emergency shelter audit and community and neighborhood survey. Results were provided and feedback obtained through meetings with providers and partners. Recommendations based on those activities, along with community discussions, conversations with those experiencing homelessness but not engaged with the shelter system, and success stories, will be put before the City Council for consideration in May.

SOURCES FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

SHELTER AUDIT

Beds:

- **1,372** emergency shelter
- **290** transitional shelter
- **1,220** permanent housing
- **1,122** permanent supportive housing
- **706** rapid rehousing

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

- **6** City departments consulted
- **8** shelter tours
- Partner interviews

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SURVEY

- **103** responses

COMMUNITY SURVEY

- **464** responses

INTERACTIVE MEETINGS WITH PROVIDERS, PARTNERS

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

SUCCESS STORIES

RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ Transition to Scattered Site Model

Alleviate having a single large shelter in one neighborhood and concerns of warehousing. Develop and issue RFP to create several scattered, 20-30 bed sites with appropriate staffing-to-individual ratios.

✓ Develop Navigation Operator

Develop navigation operator to coordinate meetings, site and housing type identification, transportation, street outreach, and with applicable City departments.

✓ Develop Navigation Center

Use Cannon site to provide centralized access to the shelter/housing system. Site would be used to house a maximum of 30 people, provide basic needs, and develop next steps within 30 days.

✓ Decommission TRAC

Decommission within July timeframe and use site through 2024 as hazard sheltering during inclement weather.

✓ Leverage Partnerships

Leverage and utilize partnerships with churches, community centers, veterinarians, grief counseling services, street medicine, outreach teams, food coordination, transportation, security, behavioral health and dementia housing grant options.

✓ Maintain Emergency Shelter 24/7

Utilize the 24/7 model which is best for providers and those utilizing the system.

✓ Address System Gaps

Address gaps for medical detox care, hospice care, housing for those exiting the criminal justice system, and long-term beds after treatment.

