



COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – APRIL 14, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed April 28.

Operational.

Status:

- Mayor Nadine Woodward announced on Tuesday that the City is negotiating a lease to open a **new on-demand night-by-night homeless shelter** with wrap-around services in east Spokane. The proposed shelter building, at 4320 E. Trent, has more than 33,000 square feet of indoor space. It will serve adult men and women and operate 24 hours a day. Three proposals from potential contract shelter operators were received. Both the lease and shelter operator contract are subject to City Council approval. For more information, visit the [City website](#). Meanwhile, a request for an **interim zoning ordinance** to operate the shelter in a heavy industrial zone and the **shelter operator RFPs** are expected to be considered by the City Council on Monday.
- The **CHHS Board is recruiting for three board members** to benefit the community through affordable housing and human services. The vision of the [Community, Housing, and Human Services Board](#) is to provide opportunities that enhance the quality of life for Spokane's extremely low- to moderate-income populations. Candidates in fields such as real estate, financial institutions, lived experience, K-12 education, faith, health or managed care are encouraged to apply. Youth may also serve as members. Application deadline is May 15. Submit [applications](#) to Mayor@spokanecity.org. Click [here](#) for more information on the vacancies.
- The City Council appointed **Barbara Lee and Karen Ssebanakitta** to the CHHS Board to serve terms from April 18, 2022, through April 17, 2025.
- The City expects to administer \$4.4 million and the County \$2.6 million in one-time **HOME-American Rescue Plan** (not to be confused with ARPA) planning funds from HUD. While the City and County are conducting [a regional planning effort](#) for consistency and efficiency, each has its own citizen participation and approval process for the plans they develop. A confidential [survey](#) asking for input from local affordable housing developers, homeless housing and service providers and citizens to guide fund usage is online. Each jurisdiction will offer HOME-ARP fund through requests for proposals (RFPs) for activities found to be of the highest and best use according to funding guidelines, community needs and feedback, and consideration of realistic timelines and development limitations.
- A coordinated community plan for the **Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)** must be submitted by April 29 to HUD, the agency that awarded the grant last year. For more information, email Melissa@betterhealthtogether.org. The City Council recently accepted a \$134,881 planning grant that will be used to create a YHDP plan.
- **RFPs** will be created for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), 1590 (state/local), HOME-ARP (American Rescue Plan) and YHDP funds.
- A group featuring the City, providers and other partners are working on improving the **coordinated entry system** with policies and procedures.

- The **Point-in-Time (PIT) Count** required by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development is in the data organization and analysis phase. The **housing inventory count (HIC)** is being conducted to complement the PIT Count.
- The latest **daily shelter capacity report** is attached.
- CHHS applied to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for **Unified Funding Agency (UFA)** status on behalf of the regional Continuum of Care. The standing allows the City to perform monitoring and compliance work on behalf of HUD for the sub-recipients. UFAs are allowed flexibility to move funds.
- A policies and procedures document for the **single-family home rehabilitation program** is being developed.
- Existing **Emergency Rent Assistance Program funds** are being exhausted due to recent distributions and allocations. Two online application portals have been paused due to distributions and allocations. Meanwhile, The Carl Maxey Center, which prioritizes assistance to African American and BIPOC households, was rewarded additional funds that are available to apply for.
- A new **pilot system change to the coordinated entry prioritization process** will be analyzed over the next year for permanent supportive housing (PSH) after a work group identified a need to address PSH projects serving a narrow age group. All PSH referrals are now being offered to individuals in the waiting pool from the 62-and-older and 18-24 age groups until their respective unit allotments are filled or the waiting pool has no remaining eligible participants. The pilot change is already showing improved housing results compared to all of last year.
- There are **Resident Assistance programs** for emergency help to pay for City utility bills, which include charges for water, wastewater, stormwater and garbage collection. Interest-free payment plans are also available for residential and commercial customers.
- Bids were accepted through today for the **North Monroe gateway neighborhood sign project**, a community development block grant (CDBG) project in coordination with the North Hill and Emerson-Garfield neighborhoods.
- The Washington State Department of Commerce has a **new funding opportunity for multifamily rental housing projects providing permanent supportive housing (PSH)**. Awarded grants will support the operation, maintenance and service costs for housing projects that received funding from the Housing Trust Fund or other public capital funding. Applications are due April 16. For more information, visit the Commerce website.
- Commerce will close its **Landlord COVID Relief Program** to applications on April 29 for the coverage that ended on Dec. 31, 2021. The landlord must approve all adjusted claims and provide any missing documentation to Commerce before April 29 for the claim to be considered. The Landlord Damage Relief and Tenancy Preservation Programs will remain open. Learn more about the Landlord Mitigation Programs.
- The new **Teen Chat and Text Line** at 844-814-TEEN (8336), a joint venture between Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health and Excelsior Wellness, is a free confidential safe place service available to any teen or young adult in surrounding counties. Youth will be connected to a certified peer support specialist who has lived experience as well as access to other professional providers and resources.
- As of Monday, all **COVID-19 outbreaks** in shelters and congregate settings were over.
- The Spokane Regional Health District continues to monitor increases in **COVID-19 hospitalization rate increases** in other states, mostly in the East, along with post-spring break activity and more people staying indoors with recent cold weather.

- The application process for a three-year **Department of Health grant** from American Rescue Plan funds for the detection and mitigation of COVID-19 in congregate shelter settings will be announced soon. Applications will be accepted in May and the release of funds will start this summer.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- April is Spokane Gives month. Find a volunteer project online at VolunteerSpokane.com.
- Applications for the **Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director** position are under review. There were 17 total applications. Interviews will be scheduled soon.
- A new **COVID-19 Program Specialist** started work on Monday. The CHHS Program Professional for Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Services will transition out of that role and become the COVID-19 Program Manager on May 3. That move will create a Program Professional opening as a result. The opening for CHHS Senior Manager will be posted soon.
- The **CMIS Team** continues to extend access to the CMIS database by onboarding new community partners and training new staff at current participating agencies. The team continues to look for ways to innovate and improve its internal and external data processing to better serve our partners. It has two projects underway, Monthly Daily Quality Report and Rental Assistance, with the goal to improve stability, consistency, reporting capability, and lower the time spent on manual data manipulation.
- Regarding the **Built for Zero Initiative** under the United Way of Spokane County, case conferencing meetings with providers continue. Single adults case conferencing meets every two weeks with CMIS-participating providers to discuss clients who are in one of two priority areas, chronic unsheltered and chronic sheltered, and steps to move them toward housing. A similar meeting occurs for veterans on the opposite weeks of the month and for youth every Thursday. United Way formed new lived experience advisory group similar for youth to advise Built for Zero.
- NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101 will offer a free training called **“Trauma and Resilience in Tribal Communities and Practicing with Cultural Humility”** on May 17 at the West Central Community Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Register: <https://bit.ly/3IO9in>

Policy and Planning.

Status:

- Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC), in partnership with Spokane Transit, is working on the 2022 update to the **Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan** (CPT-HSTP) for Spokane County. The planning process is evaluating special public transportation needs in the Spokane County planning area and will take place through early fall 2022. A **CPT-HSTP Project Page** has been established for public transportation users, service providers, and community members. A [survey](#) for public input is open through June. For more information, email contact.srtc@srtc.org or call 509-343-6370.
- Empire Health Foundation is leading a two-month **funding prioritization process for housing and human services needs**. The first planning meeting was April 13. The funding prioritization process comes after several agencies attended a planning retreat organized by the CoC in February to start the six-month process of updating the community’s five-year plan on homelessness.

Communication.

Status:

- A press release was issued on Mayor Woodward's announcement that the City is negotiating a lease to open a new on-demand night-by-night shelter in east Spokane.
- City Council member Zack Zappone recapped Monday night's Council meeting.
- Mayor Nadine Woodward's **State of the City address** is April 27 at the Spokane Convention Center's Centennial Ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meanwhile, the first **State of Downtown** will be May 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the Riverfront Park pavilion.
- The panel discussion **"Housing Affordability: Understanding this Important Issue"** hosted by the Gonzaga University featuring Gonzaga Lecturer and CHHS Board Member Adriane Leithauser and City Planning Director Spencer Gardner, Washington Trust Bank's Chris Patterson, VOA President/CEO Fawn Schott, and Inland Group President Darin Davidson was March 30.
- Citizens and organizations are invited to subscribe to the City's **Community Update newsletter**. To read the latest newsletter, click here.
- The **Homeless Pocket Resource Guide** that lists shelters, drop-in day centers, general resources, mental health contacts and free meal sites has been updated, is posted on multiple City websites and can be shared.
- **Communications** team is planning housing success stories pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant, HOME and Head Start to Construction Trades programs.
- These **CHHS updates** are archived and posted on the City's website.

Reaching out.

To help us communicate better and more efficiently, please use email **distribution lists** created to ensure the right individuals get the email and can respond quickly:

Grantees – please send invoices and reports to the chhsreports@spokanecity.org email instead of sending items to specific staff members. They will be received and processed.

For general CHHS inquiries (not billing- or reporting-related), please send an email to spokanechhs@spokanecity.org for assistance.

For leadership, status, or program level questions: CHHS Leadership (chhsleadership@spokanecity.org)

For contracts or financial related questions: CHHS Accounting (chhsaccounting@spokanecity.org)

For grant related questions: CHHS Grants (chhsgrants@spokanecity.org)

For RFP submittals or questions: CHHS RFP (chhsrfp@spokanecity.org)

For CMIS/HMIS related questions: CHHS CMIS (cmis@spokanecity.org)

Thank you for your continued interest and investment in the body of work the CHHS department provides our community. We are always open to questions and input.

CHHS Leadership Team and Staff