



COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – APRIL 29, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed May 12.

Operational.

Status:



- Mayor Nadine Woodward challenged the community to continue working together during her annual [State of the City Address](#) and made three announcements: the formation of a Spokane Police Department Violent Crimes Task Force, the next evolution of her homelessness plan, and a partnership to relocate the House of Charity out of downtown. The address can be viewed [here](#). [Woodward emphasized collaboration](#) as critical to recent successes and how the City will overcome its current challenges to reinvigorate the region's economic engine coming out of the pandemic. She added mental health and operational sustainability to her initiative areas of public safety, housing, homelessness, and economic development.
- Woodward's [Homeless Plan 2.0 is an extension](#) of the one Woodward announced in July 2020 and built around eight focus areas, including several identified during discussions with former Gov. Christine Gregoire, who leads an organization that did extensive research about attitudes toward homelessness statewide and in Spokane. The local plan is the culmination of months of listening to providers, nonprofits, private industry, and government, reviewing recommendations, and searching for common ground to further build a regional system of assets and resources that meet people with services, prevent them from becoming homeless or get them temporarily housed, and move them out of homelessness.
- The City has also formalized a partnership with Catholic Charities to pursue a new permanent shelter campus that would **relocate House of Charity out of downtown**. The vision is to significantly increase space for women, provide comprehensive services that will help people become more stable and help them move into permanent supportive housing, and offer even greater flexibility in giving everyone a fresh start toward making Spokane a model for how the community supports the individual journey. That campus will be in a different area than the drop-in shelter currently being finalized with another partner, outside of downtown, and

become part of a transportation loop being developed to connect people to shelter and additional supportive services.

- Woodward recognized **Kris Brewer** (pictured above with a painting of Spokane), a [man who had recently moved into his own apartment](#) with help from [The Way Out Center](#) after three years of homelessness.
- The City continues to negotiate a possible lease for a **proposed future low-barrier shelter** at 4320 E. Trent Ave. An interim zoning ordinance, which is needed to operate an emergency shelter in an industrial zone, didn't pass the City Council last week but may be reintroduced. A request for proposals for a shelter operator will be issued in the near future.
- The City Council, on a 5-2 vote, passed a resolution recommending **best practices for future low-barrier shelters**. The recommendations include: capping shelter space with 100 beds/acre on a daily basis with the option to increase that capacity in extreme weather events; dedicated space for wrap-around service providers onsite to help people transition out of homelessness; independent security assessments; on-site lockable storage; and proximity to/dedicated transportation to training sites. The resolution also includes a preferred criteria that includes the following recommendations: private sleeping areas; plumbed bathrooms, showers, and laundry inside the building; nutritious meals available; and open space for recreational activities
- The City Council passed a resolution for the City to join the federal **House America initiative** to help provide additional tools to tackle homelessness. House America, a partnership between the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, provides technical assistance for cities facing homelessness issues.
- The Washington State Department of Commerce and the Washington State Department of Health have released the **Washington state five-year consolidated plan** that determines priorities, establishes goals, and allocates resources for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds. HUD programs in the plans are administered by Commerce and the Department of Health and include: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). Public input on the plan is sought through [email](#) by 5 p.m. on May 17. A virtual public hearing will be at 10 a.m. on May 10 via [Zoom](#). Call in option: Dial +1 253-215-8782; Meeting ID: 834 6521 1763; Passcode: 673672. To submit comments, request the documents in an alternate format, or arrange accommodations with at least one-week notice, contact jennifer.lane@commerce.wa.gov or 360-789-6127.
- 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.
- **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 final stages of data organization and will be submitted to HUD next week. The **Housing Inventory Count (HIC)** is being conducted to complement the PIT Count.
- 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. An additional \$5.9 million in rent assistance funds granted by the Washington State Department of Commerce have been received by the City and the method of disbursement and how to apply will be developed soon.
- 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 is starting. Applications will be accepted in May and the distribution of funds will be in June and July. For more information, contact Kira Lewis at Spokane Regional Health District at klewis@srhd.org.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- Applications for **Program Professionals** who manage programs and special projects that make a positive influence on the community and work with a variety of groups are being accepted through May 9.
- Applications for an **Attorney Assistant** to assist CHHS Program Professionals and Finance will be accepted through May 2.
- Applications for the **Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director** position are under review. There were 17 total applications. Interviews will be scheduled soon.
- 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.
- 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.
- Visit **VolunteerSpokane.org** for community volunteer opportunities, including clean-up and beautification efforts and more.
- 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.
- 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/3lOn9in>

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 **2021 snapshot presented at the State of the City Address** of the City's Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Division, which includes the CHHS Department, is attached.
- The Spring Edition of the Association of Washington Cities' [Cityvision Magazine](#) features a story on the collaboration on homelessness in Spokane.
- City Council Member Lori Kinnear recapped the [April 25 City Council meeting](#) that included a non-binding resolution on recommendations for future low-barrier shelters.
- City Council Member Jonathan Bingle recapped the [April 18 City Council meeting](#) that included the interim zoning ordinance proposal to allow an emergency shelter in a heavy industrial zone and shelter operator proposals.
- Citizens and organizations are invited to subscribe to the City's **Community Update newsletter**. To read the latest newsletter, [click here](#).
- The first **State of Downtown** will be May 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the Riverfront Park pavilion.
- The Journal of Business will host a free webcast called "**Business' Role in Addressing Homelessness**" on May 19 from 4-5 p.m. on Zoom. The speaker will be Chris Patterson, Community Solutions Advisor at Hello for Good. Register [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.
- 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