



COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – AUG. 18, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed Sept. 1.

Operational.

Status:

- With hot temperatures, **cooling centers at libraries** were re-activated on Tuesday will continue through this weekend, per City code. They were also activated earlier this month. Resources and other information are posted on the City's Hazard Sheltering web page.
- The online application portals for the **emergency rent assistance program** continue to be open, but are expected to close in the near future due to popular demand. Communications about the program continue. A press release was issued last week announcing the opening of the portals. Organizations reviewing applications also have paper applications. Applicants must meet all three of the initial screening criteria to be eligible for rental and/or utility assistance: household income is at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (examples: \$47,150 for a one-person family; \$67,300 for a four-person family); household is within the City of Spokane boundary; and currently have a missed/past due rent payment not paid or partially unpaid since March 1, 2020, and still occupying the residence. The funding is intended to prevent evictions by paying past due and future rent and utilities that have resulted during the pandemic. Funds will be distributed equitably based on population demographics.
- The **Trent shelter operations contract** with The Guardians Foundation was presented to the City Council's Finance and Administration Committee on Monday. It will be considered for final approval Monday, Aug. 22. Proposals for a service provider at the future homeless shelter on Trent Avenue are under review. A recommendation is expected to be forward to a City Council committee on Aug. 29. Other planning and preparations such as tenant improvements for the shelter continue. The shelter is expected to have a soft opening in late August with 40 beds. The Guardians would add 10 beds per day, ramping up to 150.
- The City is waiting to hear back from the Washington State Department of Commerce on its full plan for more than \$24 million in **state funding to help those at Camp Home** along Interstate 90 find housing.
- A request to accept and disperse **Youth Homeless Demonstration Project funds** through the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department will be presented to the Public Infrastructure Environment and Sustainability Committee on Monday. These funds are intended to prevent and reduce homelessness for youth. The focus will be on LGBTQ+ and BIPOC populations who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness. The proposals, which were recommended to the City Council by the Continuum of Care Board, include: \$134,880 Planning Grant 2; \$257,564, development of a youth-specific coordinated entry system; \$378,899, outreach and case management/supportive services; \$154,427, host home; and \$1,690,982, transitional housing/rapid rehousing. Proposals for the host home funds are being accepted through Friday, Aug. 26.

- The City Council on Monday approved a **contract extension with the House of Charity** through Dec. 31, 2022, to provide financial support for the continuation of 35 socially distanced shelter beds, maintaining their current overall capacity of 135 beds. The contract extension amount is \$280,409.63 with Emergency Solutions Grants-CARES Act funds.
- The City Council on Monday held a public hearing expressing the intention of the Council to designate **multi-family tax exemption (MFTE) residential targeted areas** and amend City code. The ordinance intended to create economic diversity and revitalization in neighborhoods was passed.
- The CHHS story map presentation that provides **context to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count** of the unhoused population is available online. Staff provided presentations on the story map at the Central Library, the Mayor's Advisory Council on Downtown Environment, the Homeless Coalition, the county, CHHS Board and the regional Continuum of Care Board.
- A group featuring the City, providers and other partners are working on improving the **coordinated entry system** with policies and procedures.
- Staff is starting to work on the annual HUD **Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**.
- Staff continue to work on **contract amendments and renewals**.
- **Family Promise of Spokane** is hosting an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony today to celebrate the completed remodel of the lower level of its Family Promise Center, 2002 E. Mission Ave. The project increased the center's capacity by 25 beds.
- Registration is open for the **Washington State Healthcare Authority and the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery's 2022 Outreach Academy** that will be on Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. via Zoom. Cost is \$75. This academy is designed to help our local behavioral health and nonprofit agencies train current and future outreach professionals. These courses will assist the outreach workforce gain the necessary skills and resources to conduct outreach confidently and safely. Scholarships are available. Contact Lisa Bennett-Perry at lisa.bennett-perry@hca.wa.gov with questions.
- The Behavioral Health Facilities (BHF) funding round through the Washington Department of Commerce for **Crisis Stabilization Facilities**. The pre-application deadline is Friday, Aug. 26. Applications are due Thursday, Sept. 8. View the program guidelines, Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), fact sheets and Frequently Asked Questions on the BHF program webpage. The competitive funding round is open to nonprofits, for-profit businesses, public entities and tribes that are a community hospital or a community-based behavioral health provider. Grant funds can be used for new construction, renovation, and/or acquisition. Funded capital projects must result in an increased number of beds and/or services.
- The second annual statewide **Week Without Driving** will be September 19-25. Disability Rights Washington created the event to help those who shape policy understand what their communities are like for non-drivers.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- Kimberly Babb will start work on Monday as a **program professional**. Paul Grinder, who was hired as a **program specialist**, will start work Sept. 22.
- CHHS is accepting applications for an operations manager through Sept. 18.
- Three applicants for **CHHS Board openings**, including Eric Robison, Chelsea Lowe and Breianna Gorder, were appointed to three-year terms on the board by the City Council on Monday.
- 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 partners.

Policy and Planning.

Status:

- The **CHHS Board** is planning for its annual retreat on Sept. 15.
- Mayor Nadine Woodward's **Homelessness Plan 2.0**, the next evolution of a plan she announced in July 2020, has been announced to various City and community groups.

Communication.

Status:

- Press releases were issued on the **activation of cooling centers** at libraries this week and earlier this month due to hot temperatures. See the City's Hazard Sheltering page for more information on weather-related plans.
- A CityCable 5 video profiles the **new interim zoning ordinance** called Building Opportunities and Choices for All that was unanimously approved by the City Council and allows for expanded housing choices and increased development flexibility to help the City respond to the current housing crisis.
- A press release was issued last week announcing the opening of the online application portals for the **Emergency Rent Assistance Program**.
- **Follow the City of Spokane's Mayor's Office** on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter, all new accounts, to stay up to date on news from the Mayor's Office.
- This week's City Council recap, which included an approved ordinance to designate **multi-family tax exemption (MFTE) residential targeted areas**, was presented by Council member Karen Stratton. There was no Council meeting last week due to summer break.
- Citizens and organizations are invited to subscribe to the City's **Community Update newsletter**. To read the latest newsletter, click here.
- The updated **Homeless Pocket Resource Guide** lists shelters, drop-in day centers, general resources, mental health contacts and free meal sites.
- 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

