



COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – AUG. 4, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed Aug. 18.

Operational.

Status:

- The City Council [approved \\$10 million for 11 proposed projects](#) that would be partially funded with three different sources to help address the housing crisis for low- to moderate-income individuals. The funding recommendations from the CHHS Board will support the construction of new affordable housing units, rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units, and supportive services to maintain housing stability. The [Request for Proposals](#) for **housing and housing-related supportive services** combined funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the local Sales and Use Tax for Affordable and Supportive Housing, and the local and state Sales and Use Tax for Housing and Housing-Related Supportive Services. Of the total amount, \$6 million is ARPA funds that provide governments resources to respond to the pandemic and its economic effects.
- 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.
- The [online application process](#) for the **Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP 2.0)** will open soon. LiveStories, Carl Maxey Center and Family Promise of Spokane will be processing rent assistance applications. Once portals are open, tenants and landlords are encouraged to apply as soon as possible due to high demand and no guarantee of how long the application process will remain open. 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 City hopes to hear back soon from the Washington State Department of Commerce on its [full plan for more than \\$24 million in state funding](#) to help those at **Camp Hope** along Interstate 90 find housing.
- The City [provided space at libraries](#) and extended hours to serve as **cooling centers** and a place for water during last week's heat wave, per [City code](#). Information on ways to beat the heat, including at splash pads and pools, and [FAQs](#) and press releases were also distributed to providers, community groups, the media, outreach personnel and the 211 resource center. Resources and other information were also posted on the [City's Hazard Sheltering web page](#). The cooling centers were [extended through Monday](#) this week as the heat wave continued.
- A [request for proposals](#) for a **service provider at the future homeless shelter** on Trent Avenue has been issued. Details, expectations, timelines, and submittal instructions are contained in the [Notice of Funding Availability](#). All communication, including questions, should be submitted by email to chhsrfp@spokanecity.org. Submissions are due on Sunday Aug. 14 by 11:59 p.m. The Guardians Foundation will be presented as the proposed day-to-day shelter operator during the

City Council's Finance and Administration Committee meeting on Aug. 15. The shelter is expected to open in September.

- CHHS **continues to accept comments** for the [draft 2022 Annual Action Plan](#) at spokanechhs@spokanecity.org or 509-625-6325 through Sunday, Aug. 7.
- Representatives from multiple shelter providers, including Volunteers of America, Transitions, YWCA, Catholic Charities and Family Promise, spoke about their operations and system improvement recommendations during today's City Council Study Session.
- Colton Ellingson, a summer intern in CHHS and GIS college student, is using **single-family rehabilitation data to identify trends** and service gaps with mapping technology. An initial overview of his work was presented during a [City Council Study Session](#) earlier this summer and his findings were presented during the [Council's Study Session](#) last week.
- 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**.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- Four applicants for **CHHS Board openings** are being considered by Mayor Nadine Woodward and the City Council. Candidate Eric Robison provided his background and why he's interested in the position during Monday's [City Council Briefing Session](#). Candidate Chelsea Low was introduced during today's City Council Study Session.
- The **CHHS Board** is planning for its annual retreat on Sept. 15.
- CHHS is seeking applications for a [program specialist](#) through Aug. 8. Nathan Basham, who formerly worked in My Spokane 311, joined the CHHS accounting team.
- **Family Promise of Spokane** will host an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completed remodel of the lower level of its Family Promise Center, 2002 E. Mission Ave., on Aug. 18 from 1 to 2 p.m. The project increased the center's capacity by 25 beds. The community is invited. RSVP is recommended by filling out [this form](#). Due to limited parking, try to carpool. Street parking surrounding the area is recommended.
- 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:

- 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:

- Multiple [press releases](#) were distributed on [how the community could beat the heat](#) during last week's heat wave and shared with service providers and outreach personnel who serve the most vulnerable. During the week, decisions were made to [extend library hours as cooling centers to Sunday](#) and [Monday](#) when the predicted heat wave was extended. A [FAQs document](#) related to the heat wave was also distributed and all news releases, help documents and other

community efforts were posted to the [City's Hazard Sheltering page](#). Resource information was shared with 211 and 311 so those centers could be used as a contact point for people in need. Multiple media interviews were also conducted during the stretch.

- A [City Cable 5 video](#) on new residential development **zoning changes that allow multi-family housing** to be constructed in zones that were previously zoned single-family to help address the demand for more housing was produced. The changes were unanimously approved by the City Council in July.
- A [press release](#) was issued on affordable housing funding proposal recommendations that were approved by the City Council on Monday and recommended by the CHHS Board in July.
- **Follow the City of Spokane's Mayor's Office** on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), both new accounts, to stay up to date on news from the Mayor's Office.
- Council Member Betsy Wilkerson [recapped the Aug. 1 Council meeting](#), which the approval of more than \$27 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding. That amount includes \$1.5 million in **capital improvements for community centers** on City-owned property. There will not be a Council meeting on Monday, Aug. 8, due to summer break.
- Council Member Jonathan Bingle [recapped the July 25 Council meetings](#), which included a decision to table indefinitely a [proposed sit-lie ordinance update](#) proposed by Bingle and Council Member Michael Cathcart. The proposal can only come back before the Council if the majority vote to bring it back.
- 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** 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