



## **COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – July 7, 2022**

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed July 21.

### **Operational.**

#### **Status:**



- Mayor Nadine Woodward joined other community partners at an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony last week of Community Frameworks' **new Sinto Commons affordable housing apartments**. The U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) federal block grant administered by the City contributed \$780,000 to support the construction of 11 units within the structure. The 47-unit complex, has studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom units affordable to households at or below 30%, 40% and 60% of area median income. It is close to downtown with excellent transit access, good walkability, and services nearby. Personal testimonies of Sinto Commons residents can be viewed [here](#).
- Woodward [proposed revisions](#) to **ordinances protecting public land, property, and sidewalks** that strike a compromise between differing versions proposed by councilmembers and clarifies **enforcement of the City's camping and sit-and-lie laws**. Changes to the camping ordinance would prohibit camping at all times: in and within 100 feet of downtown railroad viaducts; in all City parks and on all City-owned park property; within 35 feet of the Spokane River and Latah Creek; within the downtown police precinct and Business Improvement District boundaries; and within a half-mile of City-supported congregate shelter.

- CHHS opened the public comment period for the [draft 2022 Annual Action Plan](#) and the [Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report](#) (CAPER). Comments are being accepted at [spokanechhs@spokanecity.org](mailto:spokanechhs@spokanecity.org) or 509-625-6325 for the Annual Action Plan through Aug. 7 and for the CAPER through July 22.
- [Multiple proposals](#) aimed at bolstering **housing and homeless services** will be considered during [Monday's City Council meeting](#) at 6 p.m. A public hearing will be held on an **interim zoning ordinance** that allows shelters to be operated in heavy industrial areas citywide. A resolution requiring all future City-funded homeless service provider contracts include a **Good Neighbor Agreement** will also be considered along with shelter-related funding amendments.
- The community is invited to a presentation called ["Homelessness and Housing: An Analysis and Discussion of the 2022 Point-in-Time Count in Spokane County"](#) from 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, at the Central Library, 906 W. Main Ave. Speakers include City Data Scientist Daniel Ramos, Library Community Data Coordinator Shiloh Deitz and Eastern Washington University Researcher Matt Anderson. A story map presentation of the [Point-in-Time Count homelessness population data and trends](#) will be presented. Attendees will also be able to view features of the renovated library. The presentation will posted at <https://m.youtube.com/c/SpokanePublicLibrary1891/videos>. For more information on the presentation, email [sdeitz@spokanelibrary.org](mailto:sdeitz@spokanelibrary.org). Staff gave similar recent presentations to Mayor's Advisory Council on Downtown Environment, the Homeless Coalition, the county and the regional Continuum of Care Board.
- The City Council [approved the lease](#) for the **future homeless shelter** on Trent Avenue in East Spokane. The shelter is expected to be ready for occupancy around the beginning of August and will serve as a low-barrier shelter occupying 150-250 unhoused individuals.
- The [online application process](#) for the **Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP 2.0)** will open soon after sub-contractor agreements are finalized. 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.
- Mayor Nadine Woodward, Council President Breean Beggs and Council Member Michael Cathcart [proposed a pilot program to accelerate housing](#) and modify residential zoning. The **Building Opportunity and Choices for All pilot program** would allow more housing options to be built within the next year and is sponsored by Councilmembers Cathcart and Betsy Wilkerson. This [strategy](#) was identified in the housing emergency declaration, as well as Council's action items included in the Housing Action Plan. The one-year pilot program includes: allowing duplexes and townhouses in all residential neighborhoods; allowing triplexes and fourplexes in targeted areas near transit lines and busier commercial areas; requiring development to fit the context of neighborhoods by matching the scale of its surroundings; and basic design standards that will be familiar for developers who have done work in the city. The City will engage with Neighborhood Councils, housing advocates, other stakeholders, and the general public over the next few months to hear feedback and have a public hearing in September.
- The CHHS Board considered 15 total proposals totaling about \$25 million for about [\\$10 million from three different funding sources](#) to help address the housing crisis. Recommendations are being forwarded to the City Council this month. The [Request for Proposals](#) for **housing and housing-related supportive services** combines 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.

- Applications for a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Homeless Youth Services are being reviewed. Applications are from **organizations willing to partner with youth and young adults** who have directly experienced homelessness to design and implement projects approved by the Youth Action Board and the Continuum of Care. A total of \$2.4 million will be made available through the NOFA.
- The latest **Shelter Capacity Report** is attached.
- 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.
- 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 overview of his work was presented during a recent City Council Study Session, and his findings will be presented in August.
- 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:

- The City Council last week confirmed Mayor Nadine Woodward's appointment of **John E. Hall** as the next Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director. Hall will start work on Monday. **Eric Finch** has served as Interim Director for the past several months. Hall has background building housing programs in several government jurisdictions. His background includes: Indianapolis Housing Agency, Executive Director; Wichita Housing Authority, Executive Director; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C., Deputy Director, Field Office Director and Financial Transaction Manager; and Government of the District of Columbia, Department of Housing and Community Development, Director.
- Four applicants for **CHHS Board openings** will be considered by Mayor Nadine Woodward and the City Council. Adriane Leithauser has been named interim chair of the board through at least October after Barry Barfield resigned last month per the City's Code of Ethics after accepting a position with Catholic Charities.
- The **CHHS Board** is planning for its annual retreat on Sept. 15.
- CHHS is seeking applications for a **program specialist** through July 11.
- Consider volunteering for a urban heat map project this summer. Gonzaga's Center for Climate, Society, and the Environment has launched Spokane Beat the Heat, which is a multi-year program that seeks **to increase Spokane's understanding of and readiness for extreme heat events**. Volunteers will be mapping Urban Heat Islands in the City of Spokane to better understand where our heat vulnerabilities are. Volunteers will drive routes and collect crucial

temperature data with technology from the Climate Center's partners at CAPA Strategies and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

- 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:

- A [press release](#) was issued on the PIT Count presentation from 3-5 p.m. at the Central Library on Wednesday, July 13.
- A [press release](#) was issued on multiple CHHS-related items before the City Council on Monday, including a hearing on an interim zoning ordinance allowing shelters to operate in heavy industrial zones, a resolution on Good Neighbor Agreements for shelters and shelter funding amendments.
- The HOME Investment Partnerships Program is a federal block grant to state and local governments, including the City, to create affordable housing for low-income households. See how the new **Sinto Commons apartments**, funded partially through the grant, are offering a new outlook on lives:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHyEE1TbyWAuobAgjGAXlGRYSI18DqiRy>. All four of the individuals videos in one 12-minute take are at <https://youtu.be/LUUIJWeWfi3w>.
- A proposed **pilot program aimed at accelerating housing** was featured in a [video](#) and [press release](#).
- City Council President Breean Beggs [recapped the June 27 Council meeting](#), which included approval of the lease for the future shelter on Trent Avenue, the confirmation of John Hall as Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director and changing housing regulations for affordability. There was no meeting on Monday due to the Fourth of July holiday.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:spokanechhs@spokanecity.org) for assistance.

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

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

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

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

For CMIS/HMIS related questions: CHHS CMIS ([cmis@spokanecity.org](mailto: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