



COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – July 21, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed Aug. 4.

Operational.

Status:



- More than 100 people attended a community [story map presentation](#) called [“Homelessness and Housing: An Analysis and Discussion of the 2022 Point-in-Time Count in Spokane County”](#) last week at the renovated Central Library. Speakers included City Data Scientist Daniel Ramos, Library Community Data Coordinator Shiloh Deitz and Eastern Washington University Researcher Matt Anderson. The presentation will posted at <https://m.youtube.com/c/SpokanePublicLibrary1891/videos> in the near future. 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, the City of Spokane Valley and Spokane County have [applied for \\$24.3 million in funding](#) from the Washington State Department of Commerce to find housing options for homeless people. The funding is part of \$144 million offered to five counties through **the state’s initiative to move homeless people out of rights of way**, including Camp Hope along Interstate 90 in Spokane, and into better living situations. See [press release](#) for more information on the collaboration plan of regional governments and service partners.
- **Cooling centers** and other services are expected to be available next week during the predicted **heat wave**. The Spokane Municipal Code activation criteria for the ordinance that triggers cooling centers is here: <https://my.spokanecity.org/smc/?Section=18.05.020>. If you know of a company or organization that will offer assistance to residents during the heat wave, email all the details to bbwalker@spokanecity.org so those efforts can be shared in the community. Spokane Parks and Recreation splash pads and pools are great places to cool down for free. [Splash pads](#) are operational from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 19 parks, and six [pools](#) are open Mondays –

Saturdays at varied hours. Next week, Riverfront Park will have water **misters** on the Numerica Skate Ribbon for those out enjoying their wheels, and a water bottle filling station will be in the park. The public amenities in the park can offer indoor places to cool down while visiting; for daily hours, visit the [Riverfront calendar](#). More efforts will be announced next week as more details become available.

- A contract with The Guardians Foundation to **operate the shelter on Trent Avenue** that is expected to open in August will be considered. An interim zoning ordinance allowing shelters to operate in industrial areas citywide and a lease for the shelter have been approved. Tenant improvements are underway.
- The Community Housing and Human Services Board is recommending to the City Council \$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 Council is expected to give final approval of the recommendations on Aug. 1. The funding recommendations 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 City Council on Monday approved a one-year [pilot program to modify residential zoning](#) to **accelerate more housing in neighborhoods**. The [Building Opportunity and Choices for All](#) program includes: allowing duplexes and townhouses in all residential neighborhoods; allowing triplexes and fourplexes in targeted areas near transit lines and busier commercial areas; continuing to require development to fit the context of neighborhoods by matching the scale of its surrounding; and basic design standards that will be familiar for developers who have done work in the city before. The proposal was presented and discussed from the 52-minute mark to 1:40 in a [video](#) on the meeting.
- The City Council on Monday passed a resolution a 4-3 vote directing City Administration to pursue the possibility of **purchasing the shelter site** on Trent Avenue that is slated to open in August.
- The City Council on Monday approved a budget amendment with Catholic Charities to increase funding from the **Emergency Solutions Grant** provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for House of Charity Emergency Shelter by \$481,652 for a total contract amount of \$1,033,610.
- The [City Council on July 11](#) voted to pass a resolution requiring **Good Neighbor Agreements** (1:11 in the linked video) when shelters renew contracts. It also voted to ratify previous findings and continue an interim zoning ordinance (1:20) **allowing shelters to operate in industrial areas** after holding a public hearing on the topic.
- CHHS **continues to accept comments** for the [draft 2022 Annual Action Plan](#) and the [Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report](#) (CAPER). Comments are being accepted at spokanechhs@spokanecity.org or 509-625-6325 for the Annual Action Plan through Aug. 7 and for the CAPER through July 22.
- 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.

- 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 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**.
- The Washington State Department of Commerce is hosting two training sessions for organizations interested in applying for the current multifamily rental affordable housing funding opportunity. If your organization is planning to seek capital funding from the state **Housing Trust Fund (HTF) program**, register for an introduction to the application process and receive technical assistance. Join one of the two-hour sessions with Commerce staff on Zoom - 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 27, Register; or 10 a.m. to noon Friday, July 29, Register. A question and answer period will be provided for attendees to ask questions. Attendees may also pre-submit questions when registering. Questions should be restricted to the application process, application documents, or otherwise be generally applicable. Project-specific questions will not be answered at this time. If you have questions about these sessions or how to register, send inquiries to htfapp@commerce.wa.gov.
- As of Monday, 10 shelters in Spokane were in COVID-19 outbreak status. Isolation facilities were busy or full.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- **John E. Hall** started work last week as the next Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director. **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.
- The **CHHS Board** is planning for its annual retreat on Sept. 15.
- CHHS is seeking applications for a [program specialist](#) through Aug. 8.
- 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. For more information, email ClimateCenter@gonzaga.edu.
- 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:

- Spokane Transit is hosting an [online survey](#) about its 10-year strategic plan through July 31. As part of this planning effort, **STA wants to know what matters most to you** for the future of transit in the region.
- 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:

- The City is collaborating with the Washington State Department of Commerce, the City of Spokane Valley, and Spokane County on [applying for state funds](#) aimed at placing homeless people living on state rights of way such as along Interstate 90 into shelters and housing and connecting them to services. A [press release](#) was distributed on the local application.
- The [new pilot program aimed at accelerating housing](#) was featured in this week's "In Woodward's Words" video.
- Woodward spoke on finding homeless people the services they need in last week's ["In Woodward's Words"](#) video.
- Council Member Michael Cathcart recapped the [July 18 City council meeting](#), which included a resolution that was passed on a 4-3 vote directing City Administration to pursue the possibility of purchasing the shelter site on Trent Avenue that is slated to open in August.
- Council Member Betsy Wilkerson recapped the [July 11 City Council meeting](#), which included an introduction of **John Hall** as the new Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director, a resolution requiring Good Neighbor Agreements when shelter contracts are renewed and ratifying previous findings of an **interim zoning ordinance** allowing shelters to operate in industrial areas. The ordinance is allowed to continue after a public hearing was held.
- 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