



## **COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – June 9, 2022**

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed June 23.

### **Operational.**

#### **Status:**

- The [proposed lease and recommended operator](#) of a **possible new regional flex capacity homeless shelter with wrap-around services** at 4320 Trent Ave. in east Spokane was [briefed to the City Council](#) on Tuesday during the [Public Safety and Community Health Committee meeting agenda](#). The Guardians Foundation is the recommended day-to-day operations provider, and the proposed lease is \$26,100 per month with a five-year term. The Council is expected to consider the proposals later this month. The independent RFP Committee decided to not recommend a provider at this time as the lone proposal that met the minimum criteria was based on a more limited scope of services proposed. Last month the Council voted to [approve an emergency interim zoning ordinance](#) allowing emergency shelters in heavy industrial zones.
- A **story map presentation** of the [Point-in-Time Count homelessness population data and trends](#) will be presented to the community on July 13 at the renovated Central Library. The City is collaborating with Eastern Washington University on the presentation. Attendees will be able to view new features of the renovated library. More details to follow.
- City residents will be able to apply for funding through the **Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP 2.0)** when applications open [after the City Council confirms the providers](#) that will distribute the funds and sub-recipient contracts are finalized. The [online application process](#) for the funding is expected to start later this month. The CHHS Board's recommendation to the Council is that LiveStories, Carl Maxey Center and Family Promise of Spokane be the sub-recipients of the funding. 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. More than 2,470 households in the City have benefitted from the program that started June 1, 2021.
- CHHS is seeking proposals for about [\\$10 million from three different funding sources](#) through Friday to help address the housing crisis. 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.
- CHHS has issued a [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\) for Homeless Youth Services](#) seeking applications 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. Applications are due on June 24 at 5 p.m.

- 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.
- The City Council on Monday approved 2022 **operational funding amendments** totaling \$2.46 million for shelters and services, including YWCA, Family Promise, The Guardians, Truth Ministries, Women's Hearth and Volunteers of America. The providers had COVID-related funding that runs out at the end of June. The extension also gives more time to plan and structure additional funds for 2023 into a full RFP process that would start in September this year.
- Colton Ellingson, a summer intern in CHHS and GIS student, is using **single-family rehabilitation data** to identify trends and service gaps. An overview of his work will be presented during the City Council Study Session on June 16, 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.
- CHHS has been granted **Unified Funding Agency (UFA)** status by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) after the department applied for it on behalf of the regional Continuum of Care. The standing allows the City to perform monitoring and compliance work on behalf of HUD for sub-recipients. UFAs are allowed flexibility to move funds.

### **Training and Team Building.**

#### Status:

- Final candidate interviews for the **Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director** position were held last week. A new CHHS program manager will start work on June 20.
- Visit [VolunteerSpokane.org](https://volunteer.spokane.org) for community volunteer opportunities.
- 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 recommended day-to-day operator and proposed lease** of a possible new regional flex capacity homeless shelter with wrap-around services at 4320 Trent

Ave. in east Spokane. The video [“In Woodward’s Words: Collaborating on a large nightly shelter”](#) was also published. The operator and lease are both pending City Council approval.

- **State Tech Magazine** is planning a story and photos to feature how the City is being innovative with technology to combine data from multiple departments, including CHHS, Utilities, Police, Fire and 311, to benefit the community and develop case studies.
- A presentation on [Point-in-Time Count homeless population data and trends](#) was presented to the Spokane Homeless Coalition last week.
- Council Member Betsy Wilkerson provided a [recap of the June 6 Council meeting](#), which included approval of 2022 **operational funding amendments** for shelters and services.
- 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