



COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – June 23, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed July 7.

Operational.

Status:

- The **Eviction Rent Assistance Program (ERAP 2.0)** sub-recipient funding plan was approved by the City Council last week. LiveStories, Carl Maxey Center and Family Promise of Spokane will process rent assistance applications. Contracts with those sub-recipients are being finalized. The online application process is expected to re-open in the near future. 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.
- The **proposed contract and operator for the possible shelter** on Trent Avenue will be considered by the City Council on Monday, June 27. The Guardians Foundation is the recommended day-to-day operations provider. The independent RFP Committee earlier this month decided to not recommend a services provider at that time as the lone proposal that met the minimum criteria was based on a more limited scope of services proposed. The services provider search process continues. Last month the Council voted to approve an emergency interim zoning ordinance allowing emergency shelters in heavy industrial zones.
- The CHHS Board is reviewing 15 total proposals totaling about \$25 million for about \$10 million from three different funding sources to help address the housing crisis. A recommendation is expected to be forwarded to the City Council in July. 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 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 Friday, June 24 at 5 p.m.
- Staff gave a **PIT Count presentation** on Spokane County's homeless population in a story map format to Mayor's Advisory Council on Downtown Environment last week and the regional Continuum of Care Board on Wednesday.
- 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. For more information on the presentation, email sdeitz@spokanelibrary.org.

- 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 the City Council Study Session last week, and his findings will be presented in August.
- 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.
- 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.
- Spokane County commissioners met with Spokane Regional Health District on Tuesday and decided to extend The Salvation Army Isolation Facility contract. The extension will be at least through July 31 with the possibility of extending through Sept. 30. This timeline is dependent on whether FEMA reimbursement will be extended, which should be known by the end of this month.
- As of Wednesday, there were eight shelters on COVID-19 outbreak status.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- **Barry Barfield** resigned from the CHHS Board on Wednesday – per the City’s Code of Ethics - because he accepted a position with Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington. He served on the board since March 2020 and was chair this year. CHHS thanks Barry for his service.
- Four applicants for **CHHS Board openings** will be considered by Mayor Nadine Woodward and the City Council.
- Ramona Pinto, a **new CHHS program manager**, started work on Tuesday.
- CHHS is seeking applications for a **program specialist** through July 11.
- Final candidate interviews for the **Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director** position were recently held.
- 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:

- Mayor Nadine Woodward previewed Monday's City Council meeting that will include housing items aimed at increasing access and affordability along with a proposed lease and recommended operator for a possible new night-by-night shelter on Trent Avenue.
- Woodward joined mayors across the country at the **U.S. Conference of Mayors and the invitation-only Yale Mayors College and CEO Summit** discussing similar challenges such as homelessness, housing costs and inventory and mental health. She championed resolutions on behalf of Spokane that won unanimous support from mayors across the country in backing additional federal funding for community policing, expanding supports for mental health, and giving federal law enforcement and local police the resources they need to address the fentanyl crisis.
- Mayor Woodward included housing and homeless services among her **ARPA funding priorities** during the City Council study session on June 16.
- A CityCable 5 video and blog profiles the **graffiti cleanup effort** and partnership between the City and Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS).
- City Council Member Jonathan Bingle recapped the June 13 Spokane City Council meeting that included **approval of sub-recipient organizations of Eviction Rent Assistance Program funds** from the Washington State Department of Commerce. There was no City Council meeting this week due to the Juneteenth federal holiday.
- The City released its Water Quality Report. For 2021, as in previous years, the City met or exceeded all federal and state **drinking water standards**.
- A press release was issued on the City Council scheduled to hear an updated presentation from the City Administration regarding **the lease agreement for a proposed homeless shelter** at 4320 E. Trent Ave. during the 3:30 p.m. Council Briefing Session on Monday, June 27.
- 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.
- 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