



## COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – MARCH 31, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed April 14.

### **Operational.**

#### Status:

- The **CHHS Board is recruiting for three board members** to benefit the community through affordable housing and human services. The vision of the [Community, Housing, and Human Services Board](#) is to provide opportunities that enhance the quality of life for Spokane's extremely low- to moderate-income populations. Candidates in fields such as real estate, financial institutions, lived experience, K-12 education, faith, health or managed care are encouraged to apply. Youth may also serve as members. Application deadline is May 15. Submit [applications](#) to [Mayor@spokanecity.org](mailto:Mayor@spokanecity.org). Click [here](#) for more information on the vacancies.
- The City is **exploring potential partnerships to locate a new permanent shelter** outside of the downtown core. Stakeholder and neighborhood engagement would coincide with securing the site.
- The **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development** announced [\\$4,333,859 in Continuum of Care Competition Awards](#) for Spokane area homeless housing and service programs. The federal grants will provide funding to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness move into permanent housing with access to supportive services, with the goal of long-term stability.
- The new [Teen Chat and Text Line](#) at 844-814-TEEN (8336), a joint venture between Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health and Excelsior Wellness, is a free confidential safe place service available to any teen or young adult in surrounding counties. Youth will be connected to a certified peer support specialist who has lived experience as well as access to other professional providers and resources.
- A joint City-County [presentation](#) was made on the one-time **HOME-American Rescue Plan** (not to be confused with ARPA) planning funds from HUD was made to the Continuum of Care Board. The City expects to administer \$4.4 million and the County \$2.6 million. 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 [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 draft of the coordinated community plan for the **Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP)** is out for review and must be submitted by April 29 to HUD, the agency that awarded the grant last year. For more information, email [Melissa@betterhealthtogether.org](mailto:Melissa@betterhealthtogether.org). The City Council recently accepted a \$134,881 planning grant that will be used to create a YHDP plan.
- **RFPs** will be created for the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), 1590 (state/local), HOME-ARP (American Rescue Plan) and YHDP funds.
- A group featuring the City, providers and other partners are working on improving the **coordinated entry system** with policies and procedures.
- The Washington State Department of Commerce has a **new funding opportunity for multifamily rental housing projects providing permanent supportive housing (PSH)**. Awarded grants will support the operation, maintenance and service costs for housing projects that received funding from the Housing Trust Fund or other public capital funding. Applications are due April 16. For more information, visit the [Commerce website](#).
- The City is **seeking proposals from potential operators** of a **night-by-night emergency shelter** that would be activated at its discretion, including to meet weather and air quality needs. The request-for-proposal process is being run concurrent to the location search. The RFP deadline was extended to Friday, April 1. The CHHS RFP Committee is expected to review proposals early next week and the CHHS Board will consider a recommendation on Wednesday.
- **City Council has re-started in-person meetings** at City Hall due to the end of the Washington state mask mandate.
- City Council recently decided how to spend **\$12.1 million of the ARPA funds**. Amounts and purposes include: \$3.5 million, low-barrier shelter; \$1.2 million, mobile medical clinics; \$1.5 million, reimburse building permit fees for homebuyers; \$3 million, behavioral health services and resources for low-income and at-risk youth; \$2 million, projects of city-wide significance; and \$900,000, spread across three years to help reimburse costs for downtown cultural events and parades. A total of about \$25 million in such funds have been approved.
- The **Point-in-Time (PIT) Count** required by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development is in the data organization and analysis phase. The City thanks all volunteers, providers, jurisdictions and other community partners for making the countywide count a success despite cold weather and rain during a portion of the six-day survey process. The **housing inventory count (HIC)** is being conducted to complement the PIT Count.
- The latest **daily shelter capacity report** is attached.
- CHHS is applying to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for **Unified Funding Agency (UFA)** status on behalf of the regional Continuum of Care. The standing allows the City to perform monitoring and compliance work on behalf of HUD for the sub-recipients. UFAs are allowed flexibility to move funds. The submittal deadline is April 7.
- A policies and procedures document for the **single-family home rehabilitation program** is being developed.
- Existing **Emergency Rent Assistance Program funds** are being exhausted due to recent distributions and allocations. Two online application portals have been paused due to distributions and allocations. Meanwhile, The Carl Maxey Center, which prioritizes assistance to African American and BIPOC households, was rewarded additional funds that are available to apply for.
- A new **pilot system change to the coordinated entry prioritization process** for permanent supportive housing (PSH) after a work group identified a need to address PSH projects serving a

narrow age group will be analyzed over the next 18 months. All PSH referrals are now being offered to individuals in the waiting pool from the 62-and-older and 18-24 age groups until their respective unit allotments are filled or the waiting pool has no remaining eligible participants. The pilot change is already showing improved housing results compared to all of last year.

- There are **Resident Assistance programs** for emergency help to pay for City utility bills, which include charges for water, wastewater, stormwater and garbage collection. Interest-free payment plans are also available for residential and commercial customers.
- ZBA Architects was selected for the **MLK Center's roof replacement** project.
- The **North Monroe gateway neighborhood sign project**, a community development block grant (CDBG) project in coordination with the North Hill and Emerson-Garfield neighborhoods, went out to bid on Monday.

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

#### Status:

- Applications for the **Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director** position are under review. There were 17 total applications. Interviews will be scheduled in the near future.
- Two **HMIS** employees will be sought through the Civil Service.
- The CHHS Program Professional for Youth and Young Adult Homelessness Services will transition out of that role and become the **COVID-19 Program Manager**. The move will create a program professional opening. An offer was made and verbally accepted for a COVID-19 Program Specialist position.
- The search continues for the **CHHS housing and human services program manager** positions.
- CHHS has hired a college intern to conduct a limited scope data analysis of the **SNAP Single-Family Rehab Program**. The intern will collect data from past housing rehab projects and develop a mapping tool for more targeted outreach efforts. The intern will work from May 31 through Aug. 12.
- New CHHS Board nominee **Barbara Lee** was interviewed by the City's Public Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainability Committee and City Council on Monday.
- **Shannon Boniface** and **Judge Mary Logan** were named new Continuum of Care board members.
- 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 our partners. It has two projects underway, Monthly Daily Quality Report and Rental Assistance, with the goal to improve stability, consistency, reporting capability, and lower the time spent on manual data manipulation.
- Regarding the **Built for Zero Initiative** under the United Way of Spokane County, case conferencing meetings with providers continue. Single adults case conferencing meets every two weeks with CMIS-participating providers to discuss clients who are in one of two priority areas, chronic unsheltered and chronic sheltered, and steps to move them toward housing. A similar meeting occurs for veterans on the opposite weeks of the month and for youth every Thursday. United Way has formed new lived experience advisory group similar for youth to advise Built for Zero.
- NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101 will offer a free training called "**Trauma and Resilience in Tribal Communities and Practicing with Cultural Humility**" on May 17 at the West Central Community Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Register: <https://bit.ly/3IOn9in>

## Policy and Planning.

### Status:

- Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC), in partnership with Spokane Transit, is working on the 2022 update to the **Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP)** for Spokane County. The planning process is evaluating special public transportation needs in the Spokane County planning area and will take place through early fall 2022. A [CPT-HSTP Project Page](#) has been established for public transportation users, service providers, and community members. A [survey](#) for public input is open through June. For more information, email [contact.srtc@srtc.org](mailto:contact.srtc@srtc.org) or call 509-343-6370.
- Empire Health Foundation will lead a two-month **funding prioritization process for housing and human services needs**. The first planning meeting is April 13. The funding prioritization process comes after several agencies attended a planning retreat organized by the CoC in February to start the six-month process of updating the community's five-year plan on homelessness.
- The Spokane Regional Health District continues to watch new **COVID-19 variant trends**.

## Communication.

### Status:

- A [press release](#) on the **HUD grant announcement** for the Spokane area was issued. TV and newspaper media coverage followed.
- The March CHHS Board meeting is posted [online](#).
- Mayor Nadine Woodward's [State of the City address](#) is April 27 at the Spokane Convention Center's Centennial Ballroom from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meanwhile, the first **State of Downtown** will be May 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the Riverfront Park pavilion.
- 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** that lists shelters, drop-in day centers, general resources, mental health contacts and free meal sites has been updated, is posted on multiple City websites and can be shared.
- **Communications** team is planning housing success stories pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant, HOME and Head Start to Construction Trades programs.
- 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