



## **COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – May 12, 2022**

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed May 26.

### **Operational.**

#### **Status:**

- The annual **Point-in-Time Count**, a snapshot of Spokane County's homeless population required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, revealed a [two-year increase](#) of 13 percent across all populations. A total of 1,757 people from 1,513 households were counted this year compared to the 1,559 people in 1,244 households counted in 2020, the last time a complete count was conducted due to public health limitations related to the global pandemic. Other PIT Count data highlights included: the sheltered population total was 934 and unsheltered 823; the sheltered count was a 6 percent decrease from 2021; the unsheltered count was a 52 percent increase from 2020; 82 percent of those counted this year were 25 years of age or older; 48 percent (or 495) of adults reported having a serious mental illness; and 9 percent (or 157) of adults reported being a survivor of domestic violence. The PIT Count report has been submitted to HUD.
- Upcoming **PIT Count presentations** to community groups will leverage experts in technology and analysis from the City of Spokane's Innovation Technology and Services Division, as well as input from community experts into a story map format that will incorporate local housing affordability data, geographic information and other information on regional conditions to provide context to this year's count.
- The City has [re-started the process](#) to select one or multiple providers to operate a **possible new regional flex capacity homeless shelter** with wrap-around services at 4320 E. Trent Ave. in east Spokane. A [new Request for Proposals](#) seeks submittals for two separate project types – shelter operations and services – that help adult men and women escape homelessness. Providers may submit applications for one or both project types. Proposals are being accepted through 5 p.m. on May 19.
- The City continues to negotiate a possible lease for a **proposed future low-barrier shelter** at 4320 E. Trent Ave. An interim zoning ordinance, which is needed to operate an emergency shelter in an industrial zone, was reintroduced to the City Council this week during the Urban Experience Committee meeting.
- The City Council approved a budget ordinance on new funding for the **Emergency Rent Assistance Program**. City residents, estimated starting this summer, will be able to apply for [\\$5.59 million in new Emergency Rent Assistance Program funds](#) awarded by the Washington State Department of Commerce. The application process will start after the City Council confirms sub-recipient providers that will distribute the funds. 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](#) 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.
- The **Daily Shelter Capacity Report** was released and is attached.
- The Spokane Regional Health District is tracking gradual increases of Spokane **COVID-19 cases**. Subvariants are being tracked around the country clustering but the transmission hadn't been seen in Washington as of Monday. Precautions are still applicable. Masking is recommended when appropriate and necessary. Epidemiologists say COVID-19 cases are slowly increasing in congregate settings as there were outbreaks at House of Charity and Cannon as of Monday. A recent pertussis case was reported at Cannon.
- Spokane Regional Health District Environmental Public Health recently visited **Camp Hope** to do an informal walk-through. The main concern was sanitization and RV dirty water disposal issues. There is a need for a hand-washing station. Sixteen toilets funded by Empire Health were added.
- 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.
- The application process for a three-year **Department of Health grant** from American Rescue Plan funds for the detection and mitigation of COVID-19 in congregate shelter settings is underway. Applications will be accepted in May and the distribution of funds will be in June and July. For more information, contact Kira Lewis at Spokane Regional Health District at [klewis@srhd.org](mailto:klewis@srhd.org).
- The Washington State Department Commerce and the Washington State Department of Health have released the **Washington state five-year consolidated plan** that determines priorities, establishes goals, and allocates resources for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds. HUD programs in the plans are administered by Commerce and the Department of Health and include: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) and National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). Public input on the plan is sought through [email](#) by 5 p.m. on May 17.
- The Department of Commerce has a new funding opportunity for affordable multifamily/rental housing projects. The funding is intended for applicants at risk of losing affordability due to expiration of use restrictions that otherwise require affordability for low-income households. The legislature appropriated \$10 million to the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) during the 2021-23

legislative session ([SHB 1080 § 1072](#)) to preserve affordability. The [Notice of Funding Availability](#) (NOFA) outlines specific information regarding eligibility, funding requirements and priorities, the process for submission and dates of significance. The application period opened May 12. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis until all funds are exhausted.

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

#### Status:

- Applications for [Project Manager](#) will be accepted through May 16. The manager performs standard professional project management work on small to medium projects, develops and maintains project metrics and internal processes, and administers project management software and tools.
- Applications for attorney assistant will be reviewed soon. Openings for a housing program finance officer, senior program manager and two business analysts will be posted.
- Final interviews for the **Neighborhoods, Housing and Human Services Director** position are being scheduled.
- 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.
- Visit [VolunteerSpokane.org](#) for community volunteer opportunities, including clean-up and beautification efforts and more.
- 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.
- 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:

- Mayor Nadine Woodward announced [a Homelessness Plan 2.0](#), the next evolution of a plan she announced in July 2020.
- 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 is leading a two-month **funding prioritization process for housing and human services needs**. The first planning meeting was 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.

## Communication.

### Status:

- Kris Brewer, a Spokane man who was homeless for about three years and found **housing stability through the region's bridge housing program**, was profiled in a CityCable 5 [video](#) called "Hurdling the Barriers of Homelessness" and honored by Mayor Woodward during her State of the City Address.
- A [press release](#) on this year's **PIT Count highlights** was released.
- A [press release](#) on the **re-start of the shelter operator RFP process** was issued.
- A [press release](#) was distributed on the **Request for Proposals for housing and housing-related supportive services** that combines about \$10 million 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.
- A [press release](#) on **new Emergency Rent Assistance Program funding** from the Washington State Department of Commerce was issued.
- The **State of the City Address** can be viewed [here](#). [Woodward emphasized collaboration](#) as critical to recent successes and how the City will overcome its current challenges to reinvigorate the region's economic engine coming out of the pandemic. She added mental health and operational sustainability to her initiative areas of public safety, housing, homelessness, and economic development.
- Citizens and organizations are invited to [subscribe](#) to the City's **Community Update newsletter**. To read the latest newsletter, click [here](#).
- The Journal of Business will host a free webcast called "**Business' Role in Addressing Homelessness**" on May 19 from 4-5 p.m. on Zoom. The speaker will be Chris Patterson, Community Solutions Advisor at Hello for Good. Register [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