



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Nov. 23, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services Department update. The next update will be distributed Dec. 8.

Operational.

Status:

- Volunteers are needed for the **2023 Point-In-Time Count** as surveys of the homeless population throughout Spokane County will be conducted Jan. 25-29. Sign up to be a volunteer online. Volunteers work in teams to survey individuals, youth and families using an app on their phone. Volunteers must participate in at least one one-hour virtual training session on dates to be determined in January prior to the count. For more information, visit the City's website. If you have questions, contact Kimberly Babb at kbabb@spokanecity.org. A story map presentation provides context to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count. Homeless Connect, a communitywide resource fair and a site for the PIT Count, will be Jan. 25 at the Spokane Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Spokane County authorized an additional \$500,000 to secure **additional offices, shower units, and beds** at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center (TRAC) to accommodate the needs of individuals to be transitioned from the homeless encampment on state property. Two portable office trailers will be used to address privacy considerations for individual appointments and assessment needs associated with service provision. Four large storage containers and 600 individual storage containers were added to the navigation center to provide secure places to keep individual belongings. TRAC allows individuals a warm, indoor space with meals while housing is found and relieves the East Central neighborhood and businesses from crime by campers. The City Council also approved a \$117,500 contract with Architects West to design the addition of restrooms, showers, laundry facilities and two-bed sleeping pods at the TRAC. People staying at the navigation center have been utilizing a temporary shower trailer.
- The City Council will hold a **public hearings** on Monday, Nov. 28, and Monday, Dec. 5, both at 6 p.m., on Mayor Nadine Woodward's proposed City budget. A final budget memo from the City Council will be enacted as an amendment to the budget proposal no later than Dec. 12. Mayor Woodward's proposed budget includes strategies to give families relief and meet homelessness needs.
- The City Council approved **two positions** to the Community, Health and Human Services Department, including a program specialist to assist with contracts and a Community Development Block Grant program professional. These positions are not a cost to the General Fund as they are already funded through existing grants. CHHS previously had two grants analyst positions. Finance acquired them for the Grants Department, but CHHS still has the need for contract support. One position was given back to CHHS by Finance which the department



reclassified to a program specialist. For the Program Professional, the CDBG program does not spend out all the administration and, at the recommendation of HUD, and that of CHHS, some of these dollars should be used to support this program and the associated workload.

- The cities of Spokane and Spokane Valley, Spokane County and Spokane Regional Health District launched <https://sheltermespokane.org>, the **new online reporting dashboard for shelters** regionwide to post their availability each night. The **new website** allows the community to view updated homeless shelter occupancy rates on a nightly basis. The dashboard has timely data provided directly from regional shelter providers to inform homeless individuals, other shelters, case managers, police officers and others about: bed availability; location; contact information; time of the last report; check-in times; population(s) served; weather forecast; and whether it is an emergency (low-barrier) shelter that doesn't require criminal background and credit checks, program participation, sobriety or identification. Shelter point-of-contacts who are updating their portion of the portal are urged to contact the City at amartinez@spokanecity.org with questions or website assistance.
- The City Council passed a resolution to prioritize **funding for current shelter providers** in the City's 2023 budget prior to funding new shelter beds with the goal of keeping existing shelter doors open. The City Council intends to utilize funding from the \$3.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds it set aside for homeless capital and operational needs via an ordinance in March. The resolution also requests that the Administration work with Council to develop a Request for Proposals or similar instrument to review specific funding options to supplement the use of those ARPA dollars for existing providers before considering funding for new shelter operators.
- **Emergency rent assistance application portals** remain paused from accepting applications from city residents seeking rental assistance who do not have a current eviction notice. A timeline for re-opening the portals, or if they will due to applications seeking previous funds still in the cue, hasn't been determined. Meanwhile, City of Spokane residents with a current eviction notice still may receive assistance. To determine eligibility and the process for doing so, reach out to one of the City's two Dispute Resolution Centers managing the local Eviction Resolution Pilot Program. If your last name begins with A-M, contact Northwest Mediation Center, <https://www.nwmediationcenter.com/general-6>, 509-456-0103, ext. 1. If your last name begins with N-Z, contact Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic, https://fulcrumdispute.org/?page_id=60, 509-838-2799, or Volunteer Lawyers Program, <https://www.spokanevlp.org/post/facing-eviction-apply-forassistance-through-the-vlp-s-eviction-defense-project>, 509-477-2674. Overall, the two-year emergency rent assistance program has distributed about \$33 million to more than 6,500 households.
- In observance of the [Thanksgiving holiday](#), **City Hall** will be closed on Thursday and Friday this week.



Training and Team Building.

Status:

- The Community, Housing, and Human Services Board, which provides opportunities that enhance the quality of life for Spokane's extremely low- to moderate-income populations, **seeks board members**. The Board strives to include representatives from LGBTQIA+ communities, communities of color, Indigenous communities, and peoples with the experience of low income

and/or homelessness. 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. An average of 5 to 10 hours per month are required by attending meetings, networking and researching issues our community faces. Board positions are three-year terms. Application deadline is Friday, Jan. 6, 2023. Submit [applications](mailto:Mayor@spokanecity.org) to Mayor@spokanecity.org.

Policy and Planning.

Status:

- During last week's [Study Session](#) (from 49:24 of the meeting video to 1:59:18), the City Council heard viewpoints from those who attended the recent trip to Houston to learn about the **model homelessness program and navigation center** there similar to the Trent Resource and Assistance Center and how that example can be applied here through regional collaboration.

Communication.

Status:

- The City and County [updated media](#) on Tuesday on the status of [resource enhancements](#) to meet the needs of individuals transitioning from Camp Hope on state property to indoor spaces while they await housing. The Trent Resource and Assistance Center is being used as a central resource navigation center in support of the regional collaboration of the **Emergency Operations Center**.
- A [press release](#) was distributed on the new public website called ShelterMeSpokane.org that allows the community to view updated **homeless shelter occupancy rates** on a nightly basis. The dashboard displays timely data inputted directly by regional shelter providers and includes a time stamp as to when the provider last updated the information along with the weather forecast.
- The City and The Salvation Army teamed up to host a **media availability event** at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center on Monday to outline the nonprofit's vision for TRAC and how the navigational center will integrate with the Cannon Street shelter and The Way Out Center, both also operated by The Salvation Army. The event showcased [multiple recent improvements](#) at the site.
- Mayor Woodward [spoke](#) about how her **proposed budget** aims to meet the needs homelessness needs and why she vetoed the City Council's proposed 1% property tax increase.
- A CityCable 5 [video](#) shares how businesses and neighbors around Camp Hope are **combating crime**.
- Council Member Zack Zappone provided the [recap](#) of the **Nov. 21 City Council meeting**, which included a resolution related to funding existing shelters and an amendment to the comprehensive plan aimed at increasing housing.
- Council Member Michael Cathcart provided the [recap](#) of the **Nov. 14 City Council meeting**, which included the approval of two positions in CHHS.
- The **Pocket Resource Guide** that lists emergency shelters, meal sites, resources and drop-in centers has been updated.
- Citizens and organizations are invited to [subscribe](#) to the City's **Community Update newsletter**. To read the latest newsletter, click [here](#).
- These **CHHS updates** are archived and posted on the City's [website](#).

Regional Programs/General.

- The Salvation Army Spokane will host a free community **Thanksgiving Day meal** on Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 222 E. Indiana Ave. in Spokane. It is open to those who don't have a place to enjoy a hot Thanksgiving meal. Information: 509-325-6810
- A virtual **disaster preparedness resource workshop** called "Supporting the Homeless through Community Resiliency and Service Coordination" for public sector agencies, housing providers and governments organized by the Seattle HUD Field Office will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 10-11: 30 a.m. The workshop will look at jurisdictional risk (earthquakes, fires, flooding, etc.), ways to prepare for those risks, and post disaster resources. Representatives from FEMA, Small Business Administration, HUD Housing Counseling, HUD Multi-Family, Continuums of Care and more will present at the session. RSVP to Thomas.R.Langehaug@hud.gov.
- The ZoNE at Northeast Community Center through Monday, Nov. 28 is conducting a survey on community **housing stability** in Spokane County. The survey is intended to explore the needs of tenants across the county. You will not be asked for your name and all responses will be confidential. As a part of rental assistance funds the City secured for its residents, outreach efforts are required to assure equity in the distribution of the funds. For more information, call 509-487-1603.
- The Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington's Community Living Connections (CLC) program offers a help line at 509-960-7281 in which seniors in need and individuals with disabilities in the Spokane area can call to get connected to a resource that can assist with **snow removal on driveways or sidewalks**. CLC itself does not provide the snow removal service, but maintains a list of volunteer community groups willing to help at no charge. CLC is not liable for injuries to volunteers and can't guarantee the timeliness or the service itself, but will try its best to connect citizens to resources. The agency is seeking community groups willing to volunteer for this program. Call the help line at 509-960-7281 or email action@altcew.org for more information or if your group is interested in volunteering for snow removal.

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