

The background of the poster is a stylized, painterly illustration of a multi-story building with large windows, set against a blue sky with clouds. The style is reminiscent of a watercolor or oil painting.

The City of Spokane invites
you to a workshop on

Setting priorities for affordable housing funding

Thursday, Oct. 20
4–5:30 p.m.

West Central Community Center
1603 N. Belt St.

The City's Community, Housing, and Human Services Department seeks community feedback regarding funding priorities for the distribution of approximately \$10 million to support affordable housing activities. Community priorities will address gaps in affordable housing and set production goals that will be included in a request for proposals (RFP) issued later this winter. Funding sources to support this future RFP will include:

- Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG),
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME),
- HOME American Rescue Plan, and;
- Sales and Use Tax for Affordable and Supportive Housing.

For more information or to submit comments if you can't attend, email George Dahl at gdahl@spokanecity.org.

A smaller version of the City of Spokane logo is located at the bottom center of the poster.

COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Oct. 13, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed Oct. 27.

Operational.

Status:

- The Community, Health and Human Services Department invites the public to participate in an **affordable housing funding priority workshop** at the West Central Community Center, 1603 N. Belt St., on Thursday, Oct. 20, from 4-5:30 p.m. CHHS seeks community feedback regarding

funding priorities for the distribution of about \$10 million to support affordable housing activities. Community priorities will address gaps in affordable housing and set production goals that will be included in a request for proposals issued later this winter. Funding sources to support this future request for proposal will include: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG); HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); HOME American Rescue Plan; and Sales and Use Tax for Affordable and Supportive Housing. For more information or to submit comments if you can't attend, email George Dahl at gdahl@spokanecity.org. The [2020-2024 Consolidated Plan for CHHS](#) states affordable housing, access to supportive services and responding to the public's health and safety needs are top priorities.

- Mayor Nadine Woodward delivered her annual **Statement of Conditions and Affairs** to the City Council on Monday. Past experiences have paved the way for opportunities for regional partnerships to take on challenges such as public safety, mental health, housing and homelessness.
- The proposed service provider contract with **Revive Counseling** of Spokane for the Trent Resource and Assistance Center was discussed today, Thursday, Oct. 13 City Council Study Session to identify a possible funding source. The contract is for \$1.57 million for 15 months from October 2022 to December 2023. The ambassador team of The Guardians Foundation is offering daily rides to the Trent center from various citywide locations. Call 509-608-1475 24/7 to schedule a ride. Capacity at the center will grow to at least 250 over time.
- **The Guardians Foundation** informed the City that it filed a police report about concerns with a former employee's handling of funds within the organization. Mayor Nadine Woodward ordered an internal audit of invoices submitted to the City by the Guardians and payments made to the organization. That fact-finding inquiry is ongoing, and the City will provide any evidence of irregularities to law enforcement. Due to the nature of the potential fraud, City Council Members Lori Kinnear and Karen Stratton also called for a criminal investigation that is underway. The Guardians operates the Trent Resource and Assistance Center and the Cannon Street shelter. Updates will be provided as additional information is available.
- Mayor Nadine Woodward said in a [video](#) that the City is facilitating conversations and listening to all viewpoints regarding Camp Hope to establish expectations and a clear timeline for **moving people in need indoors before winter** and connecting them to support services to assist them in their journey out of homelessness. The Trent Resource and Assistance Center that opened last month expands the area's shelter capacity.
- City Council Member Michael Cathcart read a proclamation during the [Oct. 3 council meeting](#) (12:50 mark of meeting video) about the City joining **House America**. Housing America federal initiative in which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness are inviting mayors, city and county leaders, Tribal nation leaders, and governors into a national partnership to utilize the investments provided through the American Rescue Plan to address the homelessness crisis. Spokane's goal is to add 313 new affordable or supportive housing units and 100 spaces of transitional housing with the funds.
- The regional Continuum of Care posted its fiscal 2022 [application](#) to the U.S. Housing and Urban Development for **housing project funding** online for viewing.
- The City is waiting to hear back from the Washington State Department of Commerce on its full plan for more than \$24 million in **state funding to help those at Camp Hope** along Interstate 90 find housing.
- The City Council during the Urban Experience Committee meeting on Monday supported the renewal of the 2023 contracts for **SNAP's Essential Home Repair and Single Family**

Rehabilitation programs. SNAP is the sub-recipient of Community Development Block Grant grant funds to provide home repairs to low- and moderate-income homeowners in Spokane. The Essential Home Repair program offers grants for minor home repairs, while the Single Family Rehabilitation programs offers low-interest loans for larger repair projects. Both programs help homeowners achieve safe and healthy homes while aiding in the prevention of slums or blight in the community. Staff are working on the contract drafts with the goal to have both contracts fully executed prior to Dec. 31, 2022, pending City Council approval. The contract for the Essential Home Repair Program will be for \$500,000 for about 200 home repairs. With the Single-Family Rehabilitation Program amount is \$1.48 million for 30 home repairs. The contracts will be considered for final approval during a City Council Legislative Meeting in the near future.

- Due to a large volume of applications, **emergency rent assistance application portals** have paused accepting applications from city residents seeking rental assistance who do not have a current eviction notice. The City continues to work with the Washington State Department of Commerce to identify potential new sources of emergency rent assistance funds for Spokane city tenants and landlords, but a timeline for re-opening the portals for members of the general public (LiveStories), households with children (Family Promise of Spokane), and members of the African-American and BIPOC community (Carl Maxey Center) is unclear. City of Spokane residents with a current eviction notice still may receive assistance through the ERAP 2.0 program. In order to determine eligibility and the process for doing so, reach out to one of the City's two Dispute Resolution Centers that are managing the local Eviction Resolution Pilot Program - last name begins with A-M: Northwest Mediation Center: <https://www.nwmediationcenter.com/general-6>, 509-456-0103, ext. 1; last name begins with N-Z: Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic: https://fulcrumdispute.org/?page_id=60, 509-838-2799; 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 program has distributed about \$33 million to more than 6,500 households.
- The City continues to monitor **National Weather Service and air quality reports** around the clock on whether to activate **warming centers** when on each day during which the temperature is predicted by the NWS to be 32 degrees or lower and designated low-barrier shelter space was at 90 percent or greater during the previous night and the **safer air center** at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center when the air quality index is predicted to be 201 or higher, per City code. The City collaborates with other agencies such as the Spokane Regional Health District, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, National Weather Service, Washington Department of Ecology and others during harsh weather on messaging and potential resource needs. City libraries are also an option for individuals to escape harsh weather during the daytime during regular hours, offering wi-fi connectivity, restrooms, water, air conditioning/heating and interactive play areas. Spokane Regional Health District offers guidance for poor air quality as well as outdoor activities on its website. Additional weather-related resources and information are available through: My Spokane 311, 211, SNAP Resource Guide, Spokane Homeless Coalition, Washington Department of Ecology and the City's Hazard Sheltering page.
- HUD on Aug. 24 announced \$43 million for public housing authorities to house unsheltered individuals specifically in encampments. Housing authorities must request an allocation to HUD no later than Oct. 20.

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development published **Fair Market Rents** for Fiscal Year 2023. FMRs, published annually, are an estimate of the amount of money that would cover gross rents (rent and utility expenses) on 40 percent of the rental housing units in an area. Nationally, FMRs will increase by an average of approximately 10 percent, enabling more households with housing vouchers to access affordable, stable housing. For FY23, HUD is using private sector data to estimate changes in FMRs to address a temporary data availability challenge and to align with market conditions. HUD is required by law to set FMRs every year. FMRs, which go into effect on October 1, are used in several HUD programs, including to determine the maximum amount that a Housing Choice Voucher will cover. [Click here to view the FY23 FMRs.](#) A fact sheet on the FY23 FMRs is available [here](#).
- A group featuring the City, providers and other partners are working on improving the **coordinated entry system** with policies and procedures.
- Staff continue to work on **contract amendments and renewals**.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- 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:

- Planning has started for the annual countywide **Point-in-Time Count**, which will be conducted in late January. Watch for future information about volunteer opportunities. The CHHS [story map presentation](#) that provides **context to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count** of the unhoused population is available online.
- 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:

- When police and sheriff's deputies arrest someone for eligible offenses, they can be taken to jail or diverted to Spokane's new **Regional Stabilization Center**. The center [heals those hurt by addiction](#). Spokane County, the City of Spokane, and local leaders stood up the stabilization center last fall to assist those with drug or mental health problems.
- Mayor Nadine Woodward delivered her annual **Statement of Conditions and Affairs** on Monday to the City Council.
- Mayor Nadine Woodward during Saturday's Kraziness in the Kennel event presented Gonzaga basketball player **Rasir Bolton** a [salutation](#) for outstanding volunteer work in the community. Bolton has worked with Spokane's Quaranteam, helping serve the homeless community in Spokane.
- Mayor Nadine Woodward proposed a priority-based **2023 preliminary budget** that invests in people in our neighborhoods, who need housing and deliver services. The budget provides funds

for increased litter crews and coverage times, increased shelter space, increases the City's ability to hire officers. The final balanced budget is due Nov. 1.

- The City is facilitating conversations and listening to all viewpoints to establish expectations and a clear timeline for **moving people indoors before winter** from Camp Hope and connecting them to support services in their journey out of homelessness.
- Council Member Jonathan Bingle provided the council meeting [recap](#) for Oct. 10, which included Mayor Woodward's **Statement of Conditions and Affairs** that included housing and homelessness as priorities.
- Council Member Betsy Wilkerson provided the council meeting [recap](#) for Oct. 3, which included a proclamation for the City of Spokane joining **House America**. House America is a federal initiative in which the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) are inviting mayors, city and county leaders, Tribal nation leaders, and governors into a national partnership to utilize the historic investments provided through the American Rescue Plan to address the crisis of homelessness.
- 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.

- The Third Annual Spokane **Veterans Stand Down and Resource Fair** will be Saturday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 222 E. Indiana. The free event will give regional veterans and their families access to community resources including health care, housing solutions, employment, education, legal services, food assistance, free haircuts, mental health counseling, suicide prevention and more. [Click here](#) to learn more.
- 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.
- The Washington State Department of **Commerce seeks proposals** from firms interested in participating in an initiative to strengthen contracting relationships between its Eviction Rent Assistance lead grantees and service organizations run by Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Part of a system-wide effort to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in homeless services, the initiative provides a support mechanism for grantees by having a third party entity available to facilitate crucial conversations and assist in identifying solutions to recurring concerns. Complete background, scope of work, minimum requirements and other information are detailed in the [RFP](#). The estimated contract period runs from Dec. 22, 2022, to June 30, 2023. Proposals are due on Nov. 10, 2022 by 4 p.m. Pacific. Email Kyle Gitchell at kyle.gitchell@commerce.wa.gov with questions.

- The Washington State Department of Ecology seeks public comment on **improving air quality** in overburdened communities through Washington's newly adopted Climate Commitment Act. Ecology must identify which Washington communities are vulnerable to "criteria" air pollution, expand air quality monitoring in these areas, and later develop plans to reduce these air pollutants. The law directs Ecology to focus on improving "criteria" air pollution due to ties between these pollutants and public health. This public engagement period will focus on the method for identifying overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution. Ecology is seeking input from organizations, environmental justice advocates, Tribal governments and the general public until Nov. 10. Ecology would like your feedback on: draft indicators to identify overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution; draft factors for creating community boundaries; and data sources. Comments can be left via voice mail at 564-200-4426 or sent to Erin Torrone, Department of Ecology Air Quality Program, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600. Virtual public comment sessions that are available to register for are also planned [for Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 1 p.m.](#); [Thursday, Oct. 20, at 6 p.m.](#); [Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 1 p.m.](#); and [Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 6 p.m.](#) For more information, contact Torrone at Erin.Torrone@ecy.wa.gov or 360-628-4666.
- There is a new way to pay your fare on **Spokane Transit's Fixed Route bus and Paratransit vehicles**. Active Oct. 1, the Connect fare system is an account-based system that allows customers to not only pay their fare using a Connect smartcard or an STA mobile application on their smartphone, but also add fare value to their card at their convenience. Additional features include autoloading, ride history, and fare capping. Both [Connect cards and virtual eConnect cards](#), which are created inside the new [STA Connect mobile application](#), allow customers to register their account online, check their current balance, add value at their convenience or utilize an autoloading option to automatically add value when balance is depleted, and view ride history to track where the card has been used. Fare value can also be added in person to a Connect card at the Customer Service Counter at the STA Plaza or by calling 509-328-RIDE. Connect cards also include [fare capping](#). Fare capping only charges customers for the rides they take, without the upfront costs of buying a month or day pass where they may not utilize its full value. Occasional riders will still benefit from a Connect card by eliminating the need to have exact cash fare on hand. More details on Connect are available at www.spokanetransit.com/connect.

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