



Four libraries, including Central, Liberty Park, Shadle Park and Hillyard, have served as cooling centers this summer when temperatures are predicted by the National Weather Service to be 95 or higher for at least two consecutive days. Individuals had access to air conditioning, water, wi-fi connectivity, and restrooms during the hot temperatures.

## You are invited to an Open House for the Trent Resource and Assistance Center

4320 E. Trent Ave.

Thursday, Sept. 1

4-6 p.m.

*Hosted jointly by the Guardians Foundation and the City of Spokane, the Open House is a chance to tour the center and meet staff. The center is scheduled to open on Tuesday, Sept. 6.*



### **COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Sept. 1, 2022**

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed Sept. 15.

**Operational.**

Status:

- A safe, healthy indoor center that will have separated spaces for different demographics to stay indoors out of the elements with access to showers, restrooms, and three meals daily is expected to open on Tuesday, Sept. 6. [The Trent Resource and Assistance Center](#), located at 4320 E. Trent, will open after improvements, including insulation, ADA accessibility, fencing, fire safety equipment, and walls to create separate spaces, are completed and inspected. An Open House will be held today, Thursday, Sept. 1, from 4 to 6 p.m. The City Council [approved a \\$2.4 million agreement](#) on Monday with the Guardians Foundation to operate the center. Initial capacity is expected to be 150 individuals with separate spaces for men, women, couples, employed and LGBTQ+. Additional areas can be added based upon need. Showers will be available in a shower trailer on site and operations will begin with portable toilets.
- 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.
- 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](https://fulcrumdispute.org/?page_id=60), 509-838-2799; Volunteer Lawyers Program: <https://www.spokanevlp.org/post/facing-eviction-apply-for-assistance-through-the-vlp-s-eviction-defense-project>, 509-477-2674. Overall, the two-year program has distributed about \$33 million to more than 6,000 households.
- The City is [seeking proposals](#) to use **federal pandemic relief funding** to operate programs that offer assistance with eviction defense and enhance pre-apprenticeship opportunities for the construction fields. Funding will be awarded through a public request for proposals process that requires submission, review, and evaluation of application materials for alignment to eligibility requirements and competitiveness through the City's online portal. Information about each of the funding opportunities, including how to apply, can be found at [My.SpokaneCity.org/ARPA](https://my.spokanecity.org/ARPA). Response deadlines for the submissions are Sept. 26.
- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released [a Supplemental Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) to address unsheltered and rural homelessness. The Spokane/Spokane County Regional CoC is initiating a **request for proposals (RFP) for new CoC projects**. Potential projects eligible for funding include: permanent supportive housing; rapid re-housing; transitional housing/rapid rehousing; supportive services only, including coordinated housing access, street outreach, or other wrap-around housing services; and homeless management information system (HMI). Applications are due Sept. 12. This Supplemental NOFO is a separate competition from the annual CoC HUD funding opportunity and requires a separate application.
- With hot temperatures, **cooling centers at libraries** were [announced from Tuesday to Friday this week](#), per [City code](#). Resources and other information are posted on the [City's Hazard Sheltering web page](#). This was the fourth cooling center activation this summer.

- HUD on Aug. 23 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 today 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](#).
- The CHHS [story map presentation](#) that provides **context to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count** of the unhoused population is available online.
- Empire Health Foundation is hosting a communitywide **service provider meeting** on Thursday, Sept. 8, 5-7 p.m., at 1020 W Riverside. Contact Meagan Vincello, [Meagan@empirehealthfoundation.org](mailto:Meagan@empirehealthfoundation.org).
- A group featuring the City, providers and other partners are working on improving the **coordinated entry system** with policies and procedures.
- Work continues on the annual HUD **Notice of Funding Opportunity** (NOFO).
- Staff continue to work on **contract amendments and renewals**.
- Four Roots, in partnership with the nonprofit Reclaim Project Recovery invites the public to help find a **new warehouse space** in the Spokane County area for the organizations as they continue offering programs that address food security, economic development, and job creation in the region. Four Roots, a local woman- and veteran-owned small business in Spokane, bands together with 17 nonprofit organizations to purchase, package, and distribute more than 3,500 weekly food boxes for families facing food insecurity the Washington State Department of Agriculture's We Feed WA program. The space the group is currently working from has a lease set to expire Oct. 31, 2022. Unless a new warehouse is found, or Spokane County opts to extend our lease, the organization is at a standstill. The ideal location would offer at least 2,000 square feet of warehouse space, have a sealed concrete floor, or the option to install if one is not available; loading docks or large truck bay doors; 500-900 square feet of office space; and include three-phase power and cold storage (these are preferred, not a requirement). The group is ready and prepared to pay for use of the space at a reasonable rate. Call 509-413-6528 for more information or space options.
- Registration is open for the **Washington State Healthcare Authority and the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery's 2022 Outreach Academy** that will be on Sept. 14 from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. via Zoom. Cost is \$75. This academy is designed to help our local behavioral health and nonprofit agencies train current and future outreach professionals. These courses will assist the outreach workforce gain the necessary skills and resources to conduct outreach confidently and safely. [Scholarships](#) are available. Contact Lisa Bennett-Perry at [lisa.bennett-perry@hca.wa.gov](mailto:lisa.bennett-perry@hca.wa.gov) with questions.
- The second annual statewide **Week Without Driving** will be September 19-25. Disability Rights Washington created the event to help those who shape policy understand what their communities are like for non-drivers.

## Training and Team Building.

### Status:

- The City seeks **Graffiti Buster volunteers** to help clean up downtown on Friday mornings on Sept. 9, Sept. 23 and Oct. 7. Paint and other materials are supplied. Sign up [here](#).
- Paul Grinder will start work as a **program specialist** on Sept. 22.
- CHHS is accepting applications for an **operations manager** through Sept. 18.
- 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:

- The **CHHS Board** is planning for its annual retreat on Sept. 15.
- 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:

- A [press release](#) was issued on the **Trent Resource and Assistance Center**, which is scheduled to open on Tuesday, Sept. 6, after improvements are completed and inspected. The center was profiled in a [video](#) with Mayor Nadine Woodward. City Council President Breean Beggs recapped the [Aug. 29 Council meeting](#) that included approval of the day-to-day provider agreement for the center.
- A [press release](#) was issued on **libraries offering places for anyone to cool off** this week during hot temperatures in addition to restrooms, wi-fi connectivity, water and interactive play areas.
- A [press release](#) was issued on the City seeking proposals to use **federal pandemic relief funding** to operate programs that offer assistance with eviction defense and enhance pre-apprenticeship opportunities for the construction fields.
- A [press release](#) was issued in advance of this week's heat wave about **libraries serving as cooling spaces**. This was the fourth announcement of cooling centers this summer.
- This week's [Community Update](#) provides updates on the [Emergency Rent Assistance Program](#).
- **Follow the City of Spokane's Mayor's Office** on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), all new accounts, to stay up to date on news from the Mayor's Office.
- Citizens and organizations are invited to [subscribe](#) to the City's **Community Update newsletter**. To read the latest newsletter, click [here](#).
- A six-month report on the **Spokane Regional Stabilization Center** was given to the [Spokane City Council](#) on Monday, including patient testimonies. The center served more than 500 people through June. About 68 percent of the center's clients don't have shelter. Spokane Police provides about 60 percent of the center's referrals.
- The updated **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