



The City and The Guardians Foundation held a public open house at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center before it opened Sept. 6 in East Spokane. A City [video](#) highlights the services of the center.

COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Sept. 15, 2022

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed Sept. 29.

Operational.

Status:

- **The Trent Resource and Assistance Center**, at 4320 E. Trent in East Spokane and operated by The Guardians Foundation, opened on Tuesday, Sept. 6. The center continues to accept guests who will be connected to wrap-around services. Nearly 100 individuals were being served at the center this week. A proposal for Revive to be the shelter's service provider will be heard by the City Council on Monday, Sept. 19, at 1:15 p.m. during the City Council's Finance and Administration Committee meeting. The meeting will also be available on the [City's website](#).
- 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's **sit-and-lie ordinance** resumed last week in the downtown area with significant capacity available in the region's shelter system. The [sit-and-lie ordinance](#) prohibits sitting or lying on a public sidewalk between 6 a.m. and midnight in an area roughly from Maple to Division streets and Interstate 90 to Spokane Falls Boulevard. The ordinance defines specific prohibitions and exceptions for enforceability, including when shelter space is unavailable. A [video](#) shows how the ordinance leads to services.
- Council President Breean Beggs and Council Member Lori Kinnear filed [a proposed ordinance](#) intended to bring the City's existing **camping code** into better alignment with the *Martin v. City*

of Boise ruling concerning the enforcement of illegal camping prohibitions. The ordinance, which is attached, is scheduled to be considered by Council on Monday, Sept. 19. Council Member Michael Cathcart plans to introduce amendments to the proposed ordinance.

- CHHS will hold a public comment period on the draft **Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)** of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan that will be posted on the [City's Website](#) and highlights initiatives to maintain housing stability and affordability. The report covers Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs during the hearing. CHHS wants to hear the public's thoughts on funding priorities for programs aimed at reducing homelessness and increasing affordable housing. Comments or questions will be accepted through Friday, Sept. 30, at spokanechhs@spokanecity.org or 509-625-6325. Paper copies of the draft plan are available upon request.
- In a letter to the Washington Department of Transportation last week, the City asked WSDOT to clear **Camp Hope** on its property near Interstate 90 and Freya Street by Oct. 14 due to health concerns, code violations, increased criminal activity, more than \$350,000 in expenses to City taxpayers and neighborhood complaints. It has been occupied by homeless campers for about 10 months.
- 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-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 continues to monitor **National Weather Service and air quality reports** around the clock on whether to activate **cooling centers** when temperatures are predicted to be at least 95 degrees for two consecutive days and the **safer air center** at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center when the air quality index is predicted to be 250 or higher, per [City code](#). There have been four cooling center activations this summer and no safe air center activations since 2020. 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 City's annual **hazard sheltering report** will be presented during the City Council's Finance and Administration Committee meeting at 1:15 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 19. The meeting will also be available on the [City's website](#).
- **Spokane Community Court**, a program of Spokane Municipal Court, returned to Central Library on Monday, Sept 12. Court is being held Mondays at 10 a.m. at Central Library, 906 W. Main Ave. in Events Room A & B.
- 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. Response deadlines for the submissions are Sept. 26.
- 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](#).
- The CHHS [story map presentation](#) that provides **context to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count** of the unhoused population is available online.
- 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**.
- 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. 23 and Oct. 7. Paint and other materials are supplied. Sign up [here](#).
- 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**'s annual retreat to discuss programs and highlights is today, 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:

- Mayor Nadine Woodward remembered **Sandy Williams**, an advocate for a diverse, equitable and inclusive community, in a [video](#). [Flags were lowered](#) and a [moment of silence](#) during Monday's City Council meeting to honor the civil rights leader, visionary and executive director of the Carl Maxey Center. She died in a floatplane crash on Sept. 4 in the Puget Sound near Seattle. The Carl Maxey Center hosted a memorial commemorating the life and legacy of Williams on Tuesday, Sept. 13, at the First Interstate Center for the Arts. She was the publisher and editor of the Black Lens, Eastern Washington's only African-American focused newspaper.
- Mayor Woodward highlighted services at the new **Trent Resource and Assistance Center** in a [video](#) during a tour.
- A [press release](#) was issued on the City's **sit-and-lie ordinance** enforcement resuming in the downtown area with significant capacity available in the region's shelter system. A CityCable 5 [video](#) shows how the sit-and-lie ordinance leads to services for individuals.
- A [press release](#) was issued on a proposed ordinance filed by Council President Breean Beggs and Council Member Lori Kinnear intended to bring the City's existing **camping code** into better alignment with the *Martin v. City of Boise* ruling concerning the enforcement of illegal camping prohibitions.
- A [press release](#) was issued on HUD's non-competitive allocation strategy and program requirements for the new **Stability Vouchers**.
- A [press release](#) on Spokane Community Court returning to Central Library was issued.
- The City Council voted 5-2 on Sept. 12 to impose an immediate **moratorium on building permits** for residential structures in the Latah/Hangman and Grandview/Thorpe neighborhoods for six months to allow the City adequate time to update the transportation impact fees and general facilities charges it assesses and collects for those areas.
- Council Member Michael Cathcart provided the [recap](#) for the Sept. 12 Council meeting, which included a moment of silence for Sandy Williams, a hearing on the interim zoning ordinance called **Building Opportunity and Choices for All** and the building permit moratorium in two neighborhoods.
- **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](#).
- 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 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