

CITY OF SPOKANE

HOUSING ACTION PLAN

HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ALL

The City of Spokane is creating a Housing Action Plan to help increase housing options that are accessible and affordable for people and families of all incomes. As Spokane grows, we are facing a gap in housing supply. The Housing Action Plan will provide a strategic approach to address current and future housing needs of the Spokane community. The outcome will be a coordinated vision that supports more residents being able to find a home that meets their needs and income level.

PROJECT APPROACH

Spokane's Housing Action Plan will encourage the construction of additional affordable and market-rate housing that meets the needs of our community. Building on previous community discussions and initiatives on housing, this plan will provide guidance for the City's housing policies, programs, and strategies. The plan will follow a data-driven, community-informed approach with a focus on equity built on inclusive outreach and engagement with residents, partners, and City leaders. The City received a grant from the Washington Department of Commerce to complete the plan, which is expected to be adopted by City Council in April 2021.



Data-Driven



Community-Informed



Focus on Equity

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
[MY.SPOKANECITY.ORG/HOUSING](https://my.spokanecity.org/housing)**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Housing Action Plan?

The Housing Action Plan will provide the City with immediate actions to help increase our housing supply and options. The Housing Action Plan will identify how much housing, and what types of housing, are needed to meet current and future housing needs for all income levels. The analysis informed with community input will highlight gaps and point to the best solutions for Spokane. The Housing Action Plan aims to ensure equitable housing for all people with choices that are diverse, high quality, affordable within their income, with access to opportunities, services, and amenities.

What does “affordable housing” mean?

A home is generally considered to be affordable if the household is paying no more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs. A healthy housing market includes a variety of housing types at different price points that are affordable to a range of different household income levels. More specifically, the term “affordable housing” is often used to describe income-restricted housing available only to qualifying low-income households. Income-restricted housing can be located in public, nonprofit, or for-profit housing developments, and can also include households using vouchers to help pay for market-rate housing.

How does this Housing Action Plan relate to other City efforts?

The Housing Action Plan will optimize existing policies, identify actions to fill gaps, and present a unified housing strategy. The plan allows Spokane to review policy options, build collaborative solutions, and provide recommendations to move forward. This plan builds on previous housing initiatives from the last few years related to infill development, housing quality, property maintenance standards, home rehabilitation, rental housing incentives, and re-housing.

How will community input be used?

We will collaborate with an inclusive and diverse group of housing experts, along with community feedback and input, to determine the best strategies and actions for the City to take. Community input will ensure the plan best meets the needs of Spokane now and in the future. In response to public health considerations for COVID-19, the process will integrate digital engagement opportunities.

Will this Housing Action Plan address homelessness?

The City of Spokane and local partners have been working together to reduce and end homelessness in our community with compassion and dignity, including the Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. The Housing Action Plan will address housing needs for all income levels, including extremely low-income households and cost-burdened households, and consider strategies to minimize displacement of low-income residents, particularly in neighborhoods with communities at high risk of displacement. We will work with affordable housing advocates and service providers to understand needs, barriers, and opportunities to address housing affordability.

How are you taking into account changes in the community caused by COVID-19?

Housing is foundational to supporting the health and well-being of all residents, and the COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for safe and quality housing in our community. The pandemic has also exasperated many of the gaps and inequities in the affordable housing challenges that Spokane and cities throughout the US have been facing. We will reflect on the current context we face as a community, and seek to understand how we can create more resilient housing, and better prepare our community for future disasters and emergencies.