

## **Camp Hope news update Jan. 26**

### **Work continues to shrink the site of Camp Hope encampment**

An in-person count is taking place this week with a new update expected next week on how many people remain at the site as more residents are offered housing/shelter options. Planning is also underway to physically shrink the site sometime next week by moving fencing to reflect cleared sites that are vacant after previous residents moved. No date has been set yet.

### **Needs assessments and evaluation continue as part of work to close encampment**

More work lies ahead to ensure residents get the support and best chance to be successful moving inside. Some of the more easily placed residents have already moved off site or found other lodging options, while some of those remaining may have multiple challenges or barriers to permanent housing. Outreach groups are doing intensive work with individuals onsite to determine their needs and find the best options among the available housing for these high acuity individuals.

### **Catalyst program update**

By the end of the day on Jan. 26, there will be 51 participants enrolled at Catalyst reflecting individuals that have moved from Camp Hope into the new Catalyst emergency supportive housing program. More intakes are being scheduled each week.

People from Camp Hope who have been referred to Catalyst are being gradually moved into the building to allow for smooth transitions; the project can house at least 100 people at full capacity. Participant move-ins were slowed slightly due to construction on the first two floors; one floor remains under construction while the other has been completed and is beginning intakes.

In addition to emergency housing, Catalyst participants receive meal and laundry services, case management, employment and behavioral health services, all aimed at creating pathways to stable housing after their stay at Catalyst. Medical providers are on-site weekly helping participants address emergent health needs, and project staff are working with participants to plan for longer range wellness. Recovery groups and addiction education sessions are also being facilitated on-site each week, in addition to provision of outpatient substance use disorder treatment services.

Catalyst is run by Catholic Charities Eastern Washington and was funded with \$15 million in state Right of Way Safety Initiative dollars as part of efforts to close the

encampment site, which funded site acquisition, building rehab, and year 1 program operations.

## **Many types of housing options needed to address encampment – and overall city – needs**

The state [Right of Way Safety Initiative](#) funding requires that people living on an included right of way be offered shelter/housing that is “meaningfully better” than their current situation as part of the work to close the site. The most successful housing and homelessness efforts – nationally and elsewhere in Washington – include the availability of different housing options. A variety of available housing options is ideal for moving a large encampment because of mental health, domestic violence security, privacy and other concerns that prevent some residents from functioning in a congregate shelter and can lead to them moving to another outside location instead.

The Spokane housing need also exceeds just the Camp Hope encampment making the housing development even more important. The most recent point-in-time count by the city of Spokane counted 1,757 people experiencing homelessness throughout Spokane County on a single night in February, with 823 individuals living outside. A nationally recognized supplemental state system that cross matches homeless data from multiple assistance programs finds a comprehensive count of more than 5,200 people experiencing homelessness (living in a shelter or unsheltered) in Spokane County.

While work continues to develop more housing options for people at Camp Hope, information about all existing shelter/housing options – and transportation to these sites – is shared daily with Camp Hope residents.

## **Sign-up for future email updates**

If you would like to receive regular communication about what’s happening at Camp Hope, please sign up for our email

listserv: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WADOT\\_706](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=WADOT_706)

## **Camp Hope and the State Right of Way Safety Initiative**

As part of continued work to close the Camp Hope encampment, WSDOT and its state, local and nonprofit partners continue to make visible progress stabilizing Camp Hope as part of the state [Right of Way Safety Initiative](#). This joint effort includes work from WSDOT, the state Department of Commerce, the Washington State Patrol and on-the-ground resource provider Empire Health Foundation (working under a contract with

Commerce) and other partners, who are all working toward the shared community goal of closing the encampment.