

## **Camp Hope news update April 5**

### **Planning for significant fence move underway**

Contractor crews moved the fencing for a second time on Wednesday, March 29. Fencing was moved on the southern edge to the north roughly 20 feet as downsizing of Camp Hope continues.

Staff on site are beginning to prepare to move the fencing surrounding the perimeter inward for a third time – another sign of the continued effort toward downsizing and eventually closing Camp Hope. Crews are notifying residents still living at the site to begin moving structures and RV's away from fencing at both the east and west ends of the camp. Once residents have been relocated away from the fencing, contractor crews will begin shrinking the fencing inward in early April.

### **Census counts becoming more regular**

The bi-weekly counts at Camp Hope will become more regular. Contractor i2-Strategies will be conducting the census count at Camp Hope weekly beginning the week of April 3, as numbers at Camp Hope continue to shrink.

### **More Camp Hope residents transition to Catalyst program**

By the end of the day on April 3, there were 85 participants enrolled at Catalyst reflecting individuals that have moved from Camp Hope into the new Catalyst emergency supportive housing program. Seven additional move ins are scheduled this week, all currently living at Camp Hope.

People from Camp Hope who have been referred to Catalyst are being gradually moved into the building to allow for smooth transitions.

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 still a key need**

While work continues to develop housing options to close the encampment, information about all shelter/housing options – and transportation to these sites – is shared daily with Camp Hope residents. The Right of Way Safety Initiative funding requires an offer of shelter/housing that is “meaningfully better” than their current situation be made to everyone at the encampment 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.

The housing need also exceeds just the Camp Hope encampment making the housing need even more critical. 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 2022, 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.

### **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.