

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | April 10, 2023

For more information, contact: <u>Alina Murcar</u>, Spokane Public Library Marketing & Communications Manager, 509.444.5364

Spokane Public Library hosts Community Conversation on Homelessness at Central Library in collaboration with regional government

Spokane, WA - The City of Spokane, Spokane County, the City of Spokane Valley, and Airway Heights are collaborating with Spokane Public Library to host a <u>Community</u> <u>Conversation on Homelessness</u> on Thursday, April 13 at 6:30pm at Central Library. This is a kick-off event inviting community members to share their input on how to collaboratively address this critical issue in the Spokane region.

Recently, elected officials in the City of Spokane, Spokane County, the City of Spokane Valley, and Airway Heights signed a joint statement committing to a 90-day due diligence period to research the feasibility of creating a regional collaborative system developed with a shared vision, combined finances, and coordinated resources to more effectively mitigate the impacts of homelessness in our community.

"It's critical that community stakeholders have an opportunity to ask questions, give feedback, and share their personal experiences on how homelessness has impacted their lives," said City of Spokane Manager of Housing and Homelessness Initiatives, Nicolette Ocheltree. "As someone who has personally experienced homelessness in Spokane, I look forward to being a part of this community conversation and I'm optimistic about a regional collaborative effort going forward."

As part of this process, community stakeholders, including people experiencing homelessness, service providers, local business owners and leaders, neighborhood councils, non-profits, faith-based communities, residents from across the region, and more are being invited to share their insights and experiences.

This is a free, public event and no registration is required.

About Spokane Public Library

Spokane Public Library aims to inspire a thriving city through cultural and educational opportunities. An award-winning library that spans seven locations and houses nearly half-a-million items, Spokane Public Library circulates nearly two million items and welcomes one million visitors annually. Customers can enjoy traditional library media and can also access digital downloads, databases, historical collections, art exhibits, and interesting free programming. For general information about the library, please visit spokanelibrary.org or call 509.444.5300.