

# Affordable Housing Workgroup

Prepared by Spokane Regional Health District Data Center



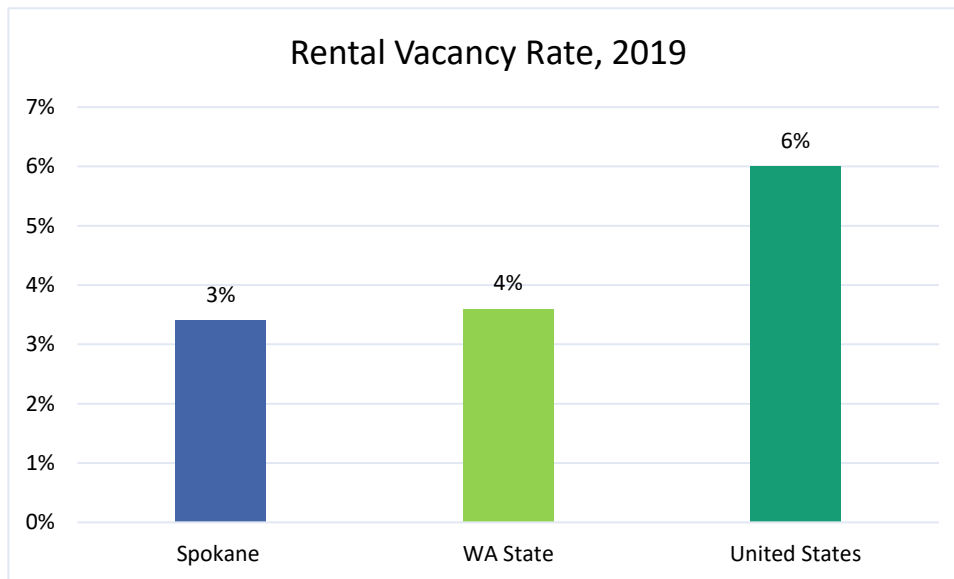
## Long-Term Goal

Increase the availability of housing for low-income families in target neighborhoods.

## Population Need

Rental vacancy rate in Spokane is at 3%, compared to 4% statewide and 6% nationally. Healthy vacancy rates are typically between 4% to 6%. Housing is particularly difficult to come by for low-income families because a low rental vacancy rate can steepen rent prices and make rental housing unobtainable. The Affordable Housing Workgroup will address housing equity by working to increase access to affordable housing, beginning with an education and outreach agenda to reach landlords and policy makers.

## Indicator



## Equity Gap

Rental vacancy rate is at 3% in Spokane, making housing difficult to obtain for low-income families due to rent increases and lower availability.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey (ACS)

## ACTIVITIES

*Develop and implement an education & outreach agenda to reach landlords and policy makers*

*Pilot a subsidized transportation program for the target population*

*Expand Responsible Renters curriculum in partnership with behavioral health providers*

## Performance Measures

*Activity One: Develop and implement an education & outreach agenda to reach landlords and policy makers*

Measure #1
<b>13</b>
<b>Letters sent to local officials</b>

### Highlights

- Although not directly related to the advocacy letter, CARES funding was released for rental assistance.

### Upcoming Work

- The workgroup will be implementing a Responsible Renters Program to train behavioral health providers who will use it with their clients.
- Work will continue on the transportation activity.

## Participating Partners

- SNAP
- Special Mobility Services
- Spokane Housing Authority
- Aging and Long-Term Care of Eastern WA
- CHAS
- CHPW
- DentistLink
- Growing Neighbors
- Tenants Union of Washington
- Unify
- Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels
- Meals on Wheels Spokane
- Partners with Families and Children
- Pioneer Human Services
- Spokane Alliance
- Spokane City Council
- Spokane Regional Health District
- Sunshine Terrace
- The Zone Project
- Volunteers of America
- YMCA