

This is the Moment. Let's Do it **Right Together.**

Experience Matters



We can fundamentally change this region's approach to helping our houseless community.

A regional authority might be the answer, but only if it meets the specific needs of this region.

Let's take the time to ensure this structure is built correctly.



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For the purposes of this presentation, we will provide **comparisons to Houston**, a model that has worked extremely well, although in a market that is vastly different from Spokane and was the focus of the creators of the Spokane RHA proposal.



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Fundamental Differences

THE HOUSTON MODEL – non-profit organization



Housing and Help Solution incorporates immediate help and resources coupled with rapid navigation into housing.



Navigation Center Model services for every person who walks through the doors with daily services, civil legal aid, counseling, mentoring and housing case management.

THE SPOKANE MODEL – interlocal agreement



Lacks commitment to housing as priority, proposing “shifts from congregant housing to distributed housing.”



Does not include restructure for a true navigation center (TRAC lacks appropriate services to be considered a true navigation center, example: counseling services at contracted at 175 persons, despite nightly occupancy averages well over that number, no laundry services, inadequate food provisions, lack of running water, etc).

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Fundamental Differences

THE HOUSTON MODEL – non-profit organization



Detention is not part of the model in any format: services, not criminalization.



Designed with in-depth input from community members, stakeholders and lived experience including various community meetings and an intensive 3 day symposium for community member input.

THE SPOKANE MODEL – interlocal agreement



Detention is a priority. Despite data indicating it will not prevent people from being houseless and it is more expensive to jail persons than it is to provide housing.
Source: Urban Institute, National Center for Homeless Education, and others.



Proposal was created by a three member group that did not include lived experience. Limited community input was gathered, and at no time were community members included with conversations held with electeds.

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Governance Comparison

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT HOUSTON DOES AND SPOKANE IS PRESENTING

Houston Board



Regional Authority is a non-profit.



Comprised almost entirely of housing professionals and does not incorporate politics.



Includes a provider representative.



Two positions for lived experiences.



A youth representative position (not necessarily a minor, but someone who represents this population).

Spokane proposal is for Public Development Authority via interlocal agreement.

Includes 5 political positions, including possibility of Mayor on the board.

Spokane does not include a provider.

Spokane offers only one.

Spokane does not include a professional who works specifically with youth.

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Governance Comparison

HOUSTON STEERING COMMITTEE (BOARD)

Fixed Positions are Representatives from:

- City Development
- County Development
- County Housing Authority
- Housing & Community Development
- County Community Development

At Large:

- Philanthropy
- Housing Collaborative
- Veteran Affairs
- Health
- Provider Representative
- Lived Experience
- Lived Experience
- Youth Representative

SPOKANE REGIONAL AUTHORITY BOARD

Fixed Positions are Representatives from:

- Spokane Mayor or Designee
- Spokane City Council
- County Commissioner
- Valley City Council
- Small Cities Representative

At Large:

- Philanthropy
- Housing Public
- Housing Private
- Medical
- Behavioral Health
- Public Safety
- Lived Experience
- Business

What's Happening on the West Side?

Spokane is constantly being threatened that we will become too much like Seattle.
What are they doing wrong? What are they doing right?

How does that compare to the Spokane Regional Homeless Authority proposal?



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Governance Comparison

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT SEATTLE DOES AND SPOKANE IS PRESENTING



Interlocal agreement.



Comprised of Government positions and volunteers, allowing for politics. Advisory Board is the COC and makes decisions without the Governance Board approval regarding HUD funding.

Seattle Board



Includes two provider representatives.



Two positions for lived experiences.



Two positions for youth representation.

Spokane proposal is for Public Development Authority via interlocal agreement.

Includes 5 political positions, including possibility of Mayor on the board.

Spokane does not include a provider.

Spokane offers only one.

Spokane does not include a professional who works specifically with youth.

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Governance Comparison

SEATTLE STRUCTURE (3 BOARDS)

Governance Board:

County Executive

2 Members of King County Council

Seattle Mayor

2 members of Seattle City Council

3 elected officials from cities other than Seattle

3 members with lived experience

Implementation Board (Volunteer Run):

2 - Lived Experience

Equity Implementation

Fiscal Oversight

Business Operations or Strategy

Affordable Housing Finance or Development

Physical or Behavioral Health

Labor Unions and Workforce

Advisory Board (CoC)

Federal Continuum of Care Service Provider

Homeless Service Progression

Academic Research or Data Performance

Criminal Justice

Child Welfare System

Youth Services

SPOKANE REGIONAL AUTHORITY BOARD

Fixed Positions are Representatives from:

Spokane Mayor or Designee

Spokane City Council

County Commissioner

Valley City Council

Small Cities Representative

At Large:

Philanthropy

Housing Public

Housing Private

Medical

Behavioral Health

Public Safety

Lived Experience

Business

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Fundamental Differences

THE SEATTLE MODEL AND SPOKANE RHA PROPOSAL ARE INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENTS AND BOTH



Lack commitment to housing as priority, proposing “shifts from congregant housing to distributed housing.”



Does not include a true navigation center.

Seattle: Accommodates only 74 people at a time.

Spokane: TRAC lacks appropriate services to be considered a true navigation center.
Example: counseling services contracted at 175 persons despite nightly occupancy averages well over that number, no laundry services, inadequate food provisions, lack of running water, etc.

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Fundamental Differences

THE SEATTLE MODEL – interlocal agreement



Detention is not part of the model in any format: services, not criminalization.



Designed with in-depth input from the community members, stakeholders and lived experience, including 100's of hours of focus groups and meetings.

THE SPOKANE MODEL – interlocal agreement



Detention is priority (despite data indicating it will not prevent people from being houseless and it is more expensive to jail persons than it is to provide housing – source: Urban Institute, National Center for Homeless Education, and others).



Proposal was created by a three member group that did not include lived experience. Limited community input was gathered, and at no time were community members included with conversations held with electeds.

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Spokane RHA's final paragraph is titled "Next Steps". It opens with

"With support from the community, the region's elected officials will take legislative action to establish a new regional entity..."

The community hasn't been involved at an adequate level to provide clear support.

You can correct that.



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Follow the guidelines of Spokane City Resolution 2023 – 0075 that provides for a comprehensive approach to developing the RHA and includes the following:

Regional authority will be on a temporary basis for the first year

Development of a detailed budget

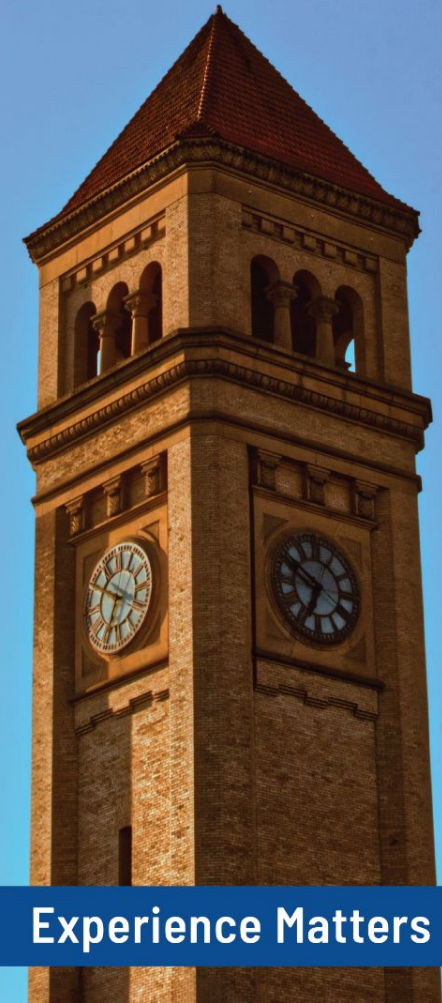
Confine the primary scope of the regional authority to housing and homelessness issues, and to limit its interest in public safety and criminal detention

Non-elected board members will be elected based on nominations from the non-elected sector

Lived experience and service providers must have a seat at the table in all discussions NOW.

We will help connect jurisdictions to persons and organizations who are willing to provide input and participate in the development of a regional authority that will serve our houseless neighbors and entire region the most efficiently and effective way possible.

Without these voices, the most valuable input is being left out.



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**This is the Moment.
Extend Review Period to Four Months.**

Listen to Community.

Don't Rush the Future of Spokane.