

SNAP's Equity Journey Shifts from Jog to Sprint

"SNAP is on an equity journey," is something you'll often hear said by SNAP's CEO, Julie Honekamp. Community Action's work started officially in the 1960s, spurred by the War on Poverty and the Civil Rights Movement. Today's recommitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) began with SNAP's Board of Directors in 2016 and was added as a priority to the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. Later in 2019, SNAP staff took a health equity assessment hosted by Better Health Together (BHT) to obtain baseline data about our equity journey. In 2020, SNAP cemented equity as an ongoing value by establishing a **staff-led EDI Council**.

In the past two years, SNAP's Board of Directors also **created its own EDI Committee** and worked on its EDI footprint beyond the agency's borders. For example, in 2022, SNAP Financial Access **partnered with the Carl Maxey Center** to support its burgeoning entrepreneurship programs. Rather than have Carl Maxey Center spend precious bandwidth creating business workshops from scratch, SNAP assisted by providing workshops and institutional expertise to welcome in new Black-owned businesses.

Last year, SNAP's Board of Directors codified SNAP's commitment to its EDI journey by adding Equity as an agency value. At the end of 2022, staff re-took the BHT health equity survey to track the agency's progress. The results were phenomenal. SNAP improved in every metric, and in 16 categories, the agency moved into the 'green,' indicating that the SNAP likely observes that trait as a cultural norm. SNAP's equity journey is ongoing, but partnerships within the community have proven the focus on EDI is paying off, as the agency races toward results.

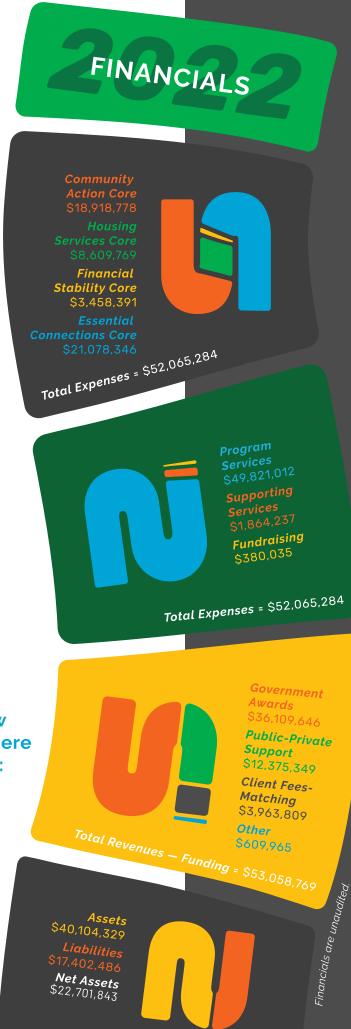


Looking forward: 2022 initiated new opportunities for meeting SNAP's mission. Here are some aspects we are looking forward to:

Centralized Outreach Efforts — SNAP will be making a concerted effort to spread the word about our work and reach new communities and clients to increase access to services. The more we can reach the more we can help.

Strengthening partnerships — SNAP has long worked with valuable community partners spanning a variety of services. We intend to strategically approach ongoing critical partnership to increase our joint impact.

Housing Development — Affordable housing remains at critical levels in the Spokane area. SNAP intends to meet the need by developing a senior housing property in Spokane Valley, with construction beginning in 2023.



We are grateful for the members of our Board of Directors who served during the 2022 year.

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I was happy to rejoin the SNAP Board of Directors as the Chair in 2021, and my first year of serving in this role solidified the respect and trust I have in the work carried out by the agency. While 2020 and 2021 presented world-stopping disruption, 2022 proved challenging in ways that could be considered as unpredictable. Unsettled markets, inflation on prices for basic needs, housing prices and lack of affordable housing inventory, and various other factors affected SNAP clientele. Retention and recruitment challenges, cessation of funding and fundraising competition, and fatigue all played a part for the SNAP teams. The year coming out of the pandemic was by no means simpler.

However, the effort and heart of SNAP persevered. New programs and partnerships were borne out of necessity, and staff continued to take on new challenges. Clients continued to reach out with needs and put in the work to help carve out their own successes. The Board and the agency continued to invest effort into making SNAP a just and fair agency that is committed to helping all of our neighbors. The numbers on this page speak for themselves. SNAP continues to show up to help our neighbors thrive, and I am honored to be any part of that commitment.

Gayle Ekins - Board President

Thank you to all of those who supported SNAP during our Power of Connection and Dad's Day Dash! The Dad's Day Dash was made possible thanks to Presenting Sponsor, JP Morgan Chase. Power of Connection was made possible by our Presenting Sponsors, Avista, First Interstate Bank, and Inland Power and Light.

SNAP MISSION

Increasing the human potential of our community by providing opportunities for people in need.





SNAP is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization

509-456-SNAP

EIN # 91-1311127

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