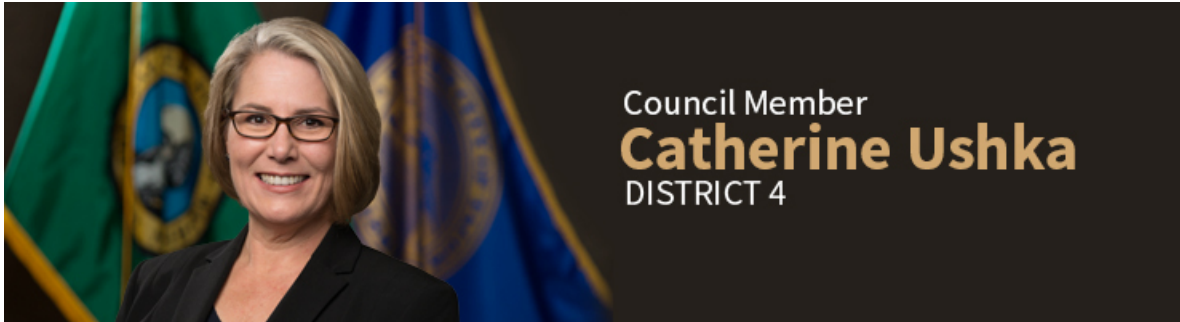




City of Tacoma
WASHINGTON

CM Ushka Summer Update: Tools towards recovery – lets stick together!

City of Tacoma Washington sent this bulletin at 08/12/2021 11:50 AM PDT



Dear District 4 Residents,

What I love about Tacoma is that in the face of hardships, our community bands together and supports one another. This e-newsletter focuses on ways the City of Tacoma and nonprofit organizations are supporting folks in Tacoma – and of course on how you can get involved and help our community thrive.

Each of us has the power to impact the lives of our friends, families and neighbors - as well as our neighborhoods - every day. Do you have a story of a community member leading with compassion? [Share your story](#), and they may be recognized by the mayor as part of the Compassionate Tacoma initiative!

Sincerely,
Catherine Ushka
District 4 City Council Member

Topics in this e-newsletter:

- [Cooling and Air Quality Relief Center Open During Excessive Heat](#)
 - [The Growing Resilience In Tacoma \(GRIT\) Guaranteed Income demonstration application is open](#)
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Excessive heat warning.

Cooling and Air Quality Relief Center Open During Excessive Heat

Our region has an excessive heat warning in effect. The risk of heat-related illness increases when temperatures are very high. Take extra steps to stay cool and safe.

The City of Tacoma Lighthouse Activity Center will open a cooling center on days the weather is forecast over 85 degrees or air quality levels are designated as "unhealthy for sensitive groups." Guests will be required to wear masks and follow designated COVID-19 safety protocols.

During inclement weather the Lighthouse Activity Center is available 8:30 AM to 5 PM on weekdays and 1 PM to 6 PM on weekends to people needing relief from severe summer weather and reduced air quality events.

Lighthouse Activity Center
5016 A Street
Tacoma, WA 98408
(253) 426-1282

Those seeking relief from the heat can also visit [Tacoma Public Library locations](#) during normal operating hours.

You can find a list of cooling center locations throughout Pierce County and other resources at tpchd.org/keepcool. Need transportation to or from a cooling center? Pierce Transit is offering [free rides](#).

The Growing Resilience In Tacoma (GRIT) Guaranteed Income demonstration application is open

GRIT is a local effort that's part of a national project to test guaranteed incomes as a tool to eradicate poverty in our city. Participants will receive \$500 a month for 12 months as a supplement to their income and public benefits. No taxpayer dollars are being used. These are grant funded dollars that will be added to our economy once distributed to those qualified.

You may be eligible for this program! Those eligible include:

- City of Tacoma residents currently living in the Eastside (98404), the South End (98408), Hilltop (98405), and South Tacoma (98409)
- Single parent or guardian households with children living in the home up to age 17, children with disabilities up to age 21
- Those meeting the ALICE definition: Asset Limited, Income Constrained while Employed (ALICE households are between 100 and 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.)

If you would like to apply, one person, who must be 18 years of age or older, from each household should fill out the online application by 11:59 PM on **Monday, August 16, 2021**. It is up to each household to decide who fills out the application.

Want to learn more? [Please](#) visit this page.



Thank you to WeLoveU Foundation's volunteers

I am blown away by the WeLoveU Foundation's generosity and cannot adequately express my gratitude to the 130 volunteers who visited East Tacoma to participate in the volunteer clean-up event.

Our neighborhood has historically faced underinvestment and a lack of resources, so it truly means the world that volunteers would travel from Portland, Seattle, and even as far as Yakima to lend a hand in our pandemic recovery.

The WeLoveU cleanup sends a meaningful message to my neighbors in the McKinley area. Their volunteerism says that folks in the Eastside of Tacoma deserve to be in a beautiful place no matter who they are. I always say that everybody has a right to feel honored and respected wherever they are, and their work brought that to our community.

I am inspired by the work WeLoveU does around the world, and it is an honor that the City of Tacoma was able to partner in their efforts to restore public places and ecosystems neglected during the pandemic, while contributing to the global organization's long-standing commitment to environmental protection.

To everyone who was able to join us in Tacoma for this clean up, your work mattered. You made a difference. Thank you so, so much for being willing to give your time and energy to this WeLoveU event and the Eastside community in Tacoma!

Tacoma Firearms and Ammunition Tax Survey and Focus Group

The Tacoma City Council passed a Firearm and Ammunition Tax Ordinance in November 2019. The ordinance called for two things to occur prior to implementation: research into best practices related to reducing gun violence and focus groups with community stakeholders to solicit feedback. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed this work, but now is the time for you to contribute to this important community dialogue.

We need your thoughts, comments, concerns and other feedback on the Firearms and Ammunition Tax as well as other gun violence issues. The feedback will be used to better inform the City Council on:

- The implementation of the Firearm and Ammunition Tax
- Gun violence and gun violence prevention
- Gun education on safe and responsible gun ownership
- Other issues related to guns, gun violence and gun violence prevention

The underlying ordinance sets these tax rates for sales within the City of Tacoma:

- \$25 per firearm sold
- 2 cents per round of ammunition for .22 caliber or less
- 5 cents per round of ammunition for calibers above .22

Please take the [Tacoma Firearms and Ammunition Tax Survey](#). At the end of the survey, you can indicate your interest in participating in a focus group.

Do you know anyone who has questions about the COVID-19 vaccines?

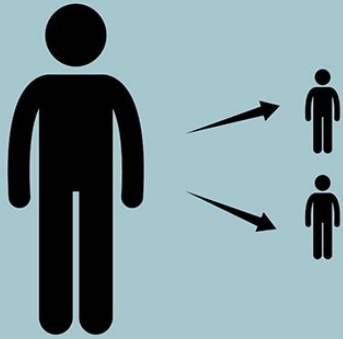
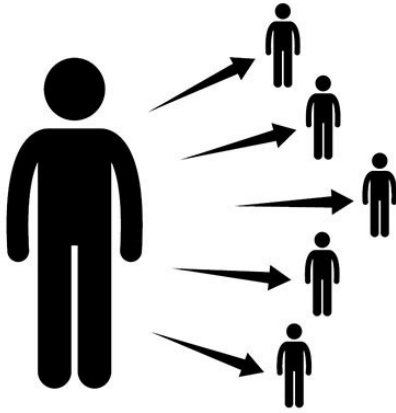
If you know anyone who has questions about the COVID-19 vaccines, please encourage them to talk to their healthcare provider to learn as much as possible. You might also encourage them to talk to a trusted friend, pastor or community leader about why they chose to get vaccinated, or read stories and watch videos from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department's [trusted messengers](#).

Want some ideas about how to talk to others about get vaccinated? Read [I helped a friend decide to get vaccinated. You can do the same](#) for one approach. Look for more blogs from Tacoma-Pierce


County Health Department when you sign up at tpchd.org/notify.

Additional information on where to get a vaccine is available at tpchd.org/vaxtothefuture. It's free and everyone 12 and older is eligible. Those interested can register online or just drop in at any clinic and get vaccinated without an appointment. For those who need a ride to an appointment or can't easily leave their home, help is available! They can call Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department at (253) 649-1412, 8 AM to 4:30 PM, seven days a week.

The Delta variant is more contagious than previous strains—it may cause more than **2x as many infections**

ORIGINAL COVID-19 STRAIN	DELTA VARIANT
	

Vaccines protect you from hospitalization, severe infections, and death



cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS 322041-AA 08/02/2021

COVID assistance

Washington state is reopening, but we understand that this pandemic has impacted every family different and community support is still needed to help families recover. Below are financial resources you may qualify for.

Rental assistance

Pierce County Human Services and the City of Tacoma have received funding for rental and utility assistance for tenants impacted by COVID-19 and are behind on rent. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7142/Rental-Assistance>

Eviction moratorium

An eviction moratorium is still in place for Washington. The [Governor’s housing stability “bridge” proclamation](#) states that eviction for non-payment of past due rent is not permitted. The [CDC has also issued a new order](#) providing temporary protection from evictions in counties with heightened levels of community transmission in order to respond to recent, unexpected developments related to the rise of the Delta variant.

Mortgage Assistance

The program provides foreclosure prevention counseling and up to 4 months of mortgage assistance (\$6,000 cap) paid directly to the loan servicer, bank or mortgage company of **households who live in the city limits of Tacoma**, have experienced loss of employment or reduction in wages due to COVID-19, and have an income at or below 80 percent Area Median Income for Pierce County. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.piercecountywa.gov/4701/Housing-Assistance-and-Programs>

TPU Bill Assistance

Whether you are facing a short-term financial issue or are on a limited or fixed income, we understand paying your bills can be challenging at times. To help make your bills more manageable, and to prevent service interruptions, we offer a variety of payment options and assistance programs. Learn more at mytpu.org/payment-billing/payment-information/payment-assistance

As the situation evolves, general information about the City’s response to COVID-19 will be posted [on the “What’s Going On” section of the City’s website](#). Information about COVID-19 is available at TPCHD.org/coronavirus.



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