

# Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness

Alaska Council on the Homeless  
Adopted October 13, 2015

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## Vision

Every Alaskan will have access to safe, affordable, and accommodating housing and no man, woman, or child should be forced to sleep on the streets, in the woods, or in a shelter. Ending homelessness is a statewide priority.

As stated in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, ending homelessness is an ambitious goal, however, “we believe it is important to set goals, even if aspirational, for true progress to be made.” It is critical that, as a state, we work together to provide the most vulnerable members of our society with access to the housing, services, and income supports they need.

Addressing homelessness must come from the local community. Each community is unique in how homelessness impacts them, the types of resources they have access to, and their ability to engage partners and the public to address homelessness. This plan is a framework for communities to build upon through collaboration with local constituent groups: shelters, housing providers, service providers, state and local agencies, foundations, education entities, businesses, faith-based organizations and private citizens. Communities know what they need in terms of resources, housing units, and services in order to successfully intervene in the lives of those who are homeless. With this information they can work with other local, state, and federal government agencies as well as private and nonprofit sources to address the needs of their community. These local efforts are instrumental to the success of this Plan.

This Plan is for the State of Alaska to identify responsibility and accountability within its systems to address and end homelessness. In developing this Plan, the State identified agencies to take the lead in strengthening existing partnerships and exploring new collaborations in order to achieve overall success. State funding is consistently in a state of flux and, as such, the State recognizes possibilities and limitations to providing support annually. It is at this stage that lead partners (state agencies) can identify collaborations within and between other state agencies and non-governmental organizations and agencies. This Plan is intended to gather information from local communities and, using data and knowledge, prepare a report to be presented annually during the Fall meeting of the Alaska Council on the Homeless.

## History

On April 30, 2004, Governor Frank H. Murkowski signed an executive order establishing the Alaska Council on the Homeless as a cabinet-level interagency task force comprised of state commissioners and the executive directors of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. This order tasked the Council with developing a plan to combat homelessness in Alaska.

In October 2005, the Council released the report *Keeping Alaskans Out of the Cold* which contained key recommendations for addressing homelessness throughout the state. In May 2007, Governor Sarah Palin reauthorized the Council and expanded its membership to include representatives from local government, Native Housing Authorities, homeless advocates, and members of the public-at-large. The Council was then charged with building on the strategies

established in the 2005 report, developing a statewide homeless action plan, and monitoring progress during the implementation of the plan. This resulted in the creation of the *10 Year Plan to End Long Term Homelessness in Alaska* which was adopted in May 2009.

## Council Structure

Chaired by the executive director of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, the Council meets biannually with council membership appointed by the governor. The Council is responsible for reporting to the Governor on progress made throughout Alaska to reduce and end homelessness and recommends future action to achieve this goal.

To encourage cross departmental collaboration on issues addressing homelessness, the Alaska Council on the Homeless is comprised of four (4) commissioners from the following State departments.

- Department of Corrections
- Department of Education
- Department of Health and Social Services
- Department of Public Safety

Eight (8) additional members comprise the remaining seats on the Council. Members include:

- Executive Director of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Executive Director of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Representative of Municipal Government
- Representative of a Regional Housing Authority
- Public Members

The Council may also invite non-voting representatives from federal and local government agencies, the business community, providers of services to the homeless, philanthropic agencies, faith-based organizations, homeless advocacy organizations, homeless persons, and community leaders to participate in meetings. Historically, representatives from the Office of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development have participated in this capacity.

## Accomplishments

Alaska has made significant progress in achieving the goals adopted in the *10 Year Plan to End Long Term Homelessness*. Some Plan accomplishments from 2009 – 2014 include:

- Point-in-Time Count data reports a 56% decrease in unsheltered homeless persons, 25% decrease in veterans experiencing homelessness, and 44% decrease in persons experiencing chronic homelessness.
- More than thirteen new supportive housing programs were developed throughout the state which resulted in the creation of over 350 new permanent supportive housing beds through the Special Needs Housing Grant program.
- Development of the Tenant Based Rental Assistance program with over 140 vouchers available for youth aging out of foster care and prisoner re-entry clients.

- Increased collaboration between the Department of Corrections and homeless housing and service providers to develop strategies to increase the number of individuals exiting incarceration into stable housing.
- The Alaska Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) reports that 57% of households with children experiencing homelessness were rehoused within 90 days.
- Creation of a coordinated homeless fund through the Basic Homeless Assistance Program (BHAP) to support households at risk of homelessness through rent, mortgage, and utility arrearage assistance. BHAP reporting indicates that this resulted in an increase of 164% among the number of households receiving prevention assistance with 79% maintaining stable housing.
- Creation of the Empowering Choice Housing Program to provide housing assistance to 250 families displaced due to domestic violence and sexual assault throughout Alaska.
- An additional 156 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers were made available throughout the state.
- Increased service provider participation in the HMIS.

## Alaska's Homeless

Alaska's homeless housing and service providers collect and report data on homeless persons through various methods. Annually, the two Alaska Continuum of Care (CoC) recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are required to participate in a Point-in-Time Count (PIT) of homeless persons. During this effort, both CoC's work with state partners and homeless housing and service providers to conduct a count of all persons experiencing homelessness on one night in January. The PIT report captures sheltered persons staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing in addition to unsheltered persons sleeping in places not meant for human habitation; such as on the street, in a car, or in the woods.

Housing and service providers connected to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) submit PIT data through that system. Services which are not connected to the HMIS system are reported through paper forms. Service providers may coordinate street outreach efforts to coincide with the PIT count to capture data for those individuals who do not access homeless services the night of the count. In addition, some communities conduct a Project Homeless Connect event which is a one-stop-shop for persons experiencing homelessness to connect with housing and service providers in their community. Data collected through street outreach and Project Homeless Connect events are also included in the PIT data collection process.

Data collected through the HMIS, paper forms, street outreach, and project homeless connect efforts are combined and reviewed to ensure that information is unduplicated and individuals are only included once in the final PIT report. The HMIS system is further described in Appendix D.

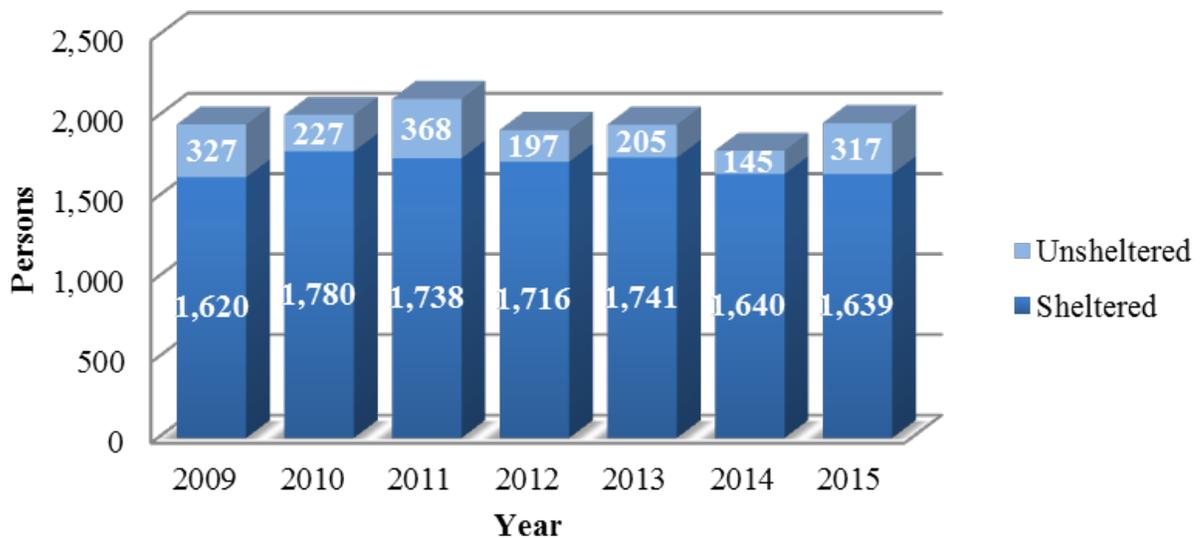
The PIT report includes data for a number of homeless subpopulations. These subpopulations include veterans, individuals under age 18 who are not accompanied by an adult, victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault, families with children which includes at least one adult and one child under the age of 18, and chronic homeless. The definition of chronic homeless for

the PIT count is defined by HUD as “an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition or a family with at least one adult who has a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years.”

Persons experiencing a disability are another notable subpopulation among the homeless. However, PIT disability data is limited to adults with a serious mental illness and adults with a substance use disorder. This limited reporting only captures a portion of the population who experience a disability. As a result, disability is not included as a subpopulation in this report.

The 2015 PIT Count of homeless persons reports a total of 1,956 Alaskan’s experiencing homelessness on one night in January. This is a 3% decrease in unsheltered persons and 1% increase in sheltered persons compared to the 2009 count. The gender, age, race, and ethnicity characteristics of homeless persons from the 2015 report can be found in Appendix A.

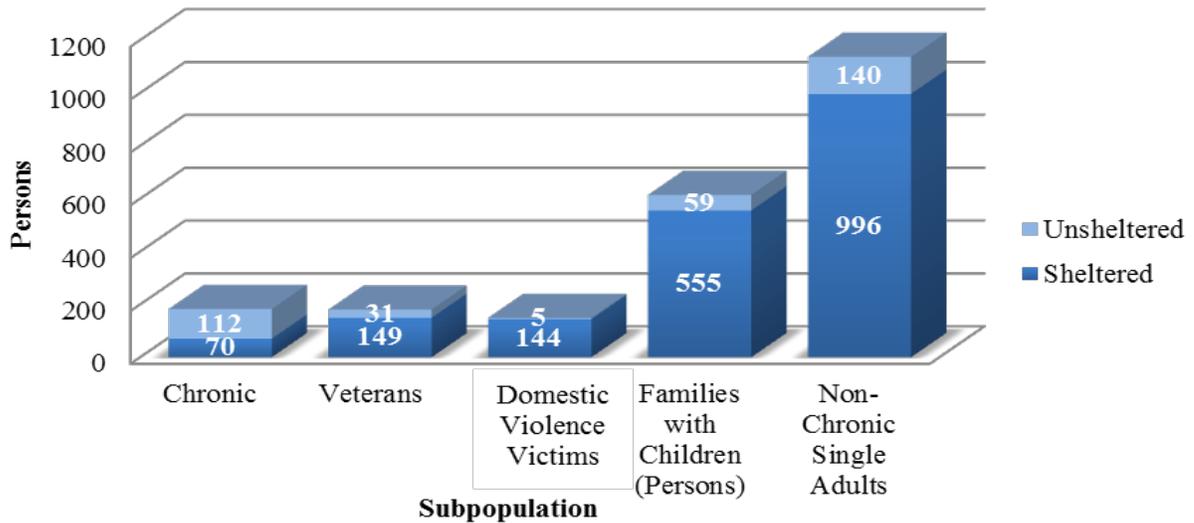
### PIT Homeless Persons\*



\* Point-in-Time Count data from one day in January.

Of the 1,956 homeless Alaskan’s reported in the 2015 Point-in-Time Count, 180 (9%) were veterans, 182 (9%) were chronic homeless, 614 (31%) were families with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18, and 1,136 (58%) were non-chronically homeless single adults without children.

### 2015 PIT Homeless Subpopulations\*



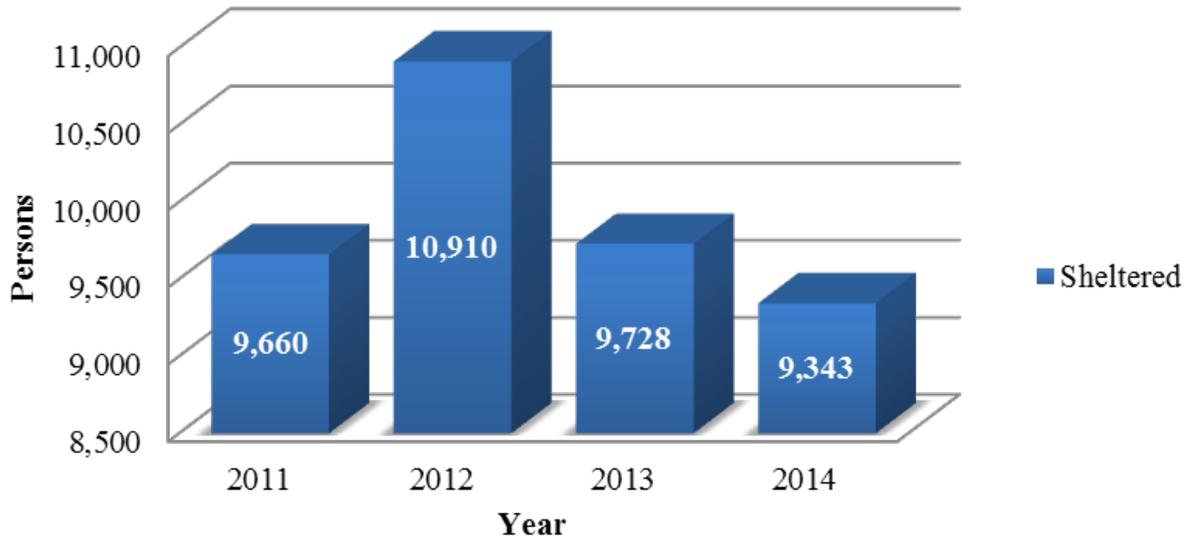
\*Point-in-Time Count data from one day in January. Excludes unaccompanied youth subpopulation (under age 18) with 18 sheltered and 6 unsheltered for a total of 24 homeless.

A comparison of subpopulation reporting from 2009 - 2015 indicates a decrease in chronic homelessness of 43%, decrease in veteran homelessness of 24%, 40% decrease in homelessness among victims of domestic violence, decrease in homelessness for families with children of 18%, and increase in homelessness among non-chronically homeless single adults of 30%. Individual subpopulation data from the 2009 – 2015 Point-in-Time Count reports can be found in Appendix B.

In addition to the Point-in-Time Count, HUD produces an Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) that captures unduplicated data drawn from the HMIS during four points-in-time throughout the year. The AHAR incorporates a method of data extrapolation to estimate the number of homeless persons not captured in the HMIS system. Unlike the Point-in-Time Count report, the AHAR does not include data for unsheltered persons. The result, is a report that estimates the total number of Alaskans receiving services through an emergency shelter or transitional housing program throughout the year. AHAR analysis within this document is limited to the 2011 – 2014 reports as consistent data was not available prior to 2011.

The most recent Alaska AHAR report, 2014, estimates that 9,343 persons slept in an emergency shelter or transitional housing during the twelve month reporting period. This is a 3.2% decrease compared to 2011.

## AHAR Homeless Persons\*



\* One year estimate of homeless persons in emergency shelter and transitional housing.

The 2014 AHAR report estimates that there were 920 (9.8%) homeless veterans and 1,552 (16.6%) homeless persons in families with at least one adult and one child under the age of 18 who stayed in an emergency shelter or transitional housing. Compared to 2011, this is a decrease of 48% for homeless veterans and 2.8% for families. Individual subpopulation data from the 2011 – 2014 AHAR reports can be found in Appendix C.

### Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness

Capturing the successes of local community efforts to end homelessness is an integral part to tracking statewide performance in achieving the strategies outlined in this Plan. In an effort to better inform the statewide homeless conversation, the Plan is designed as a framework for communities to utilize in their local planning efforts. Annually, communities will be encouraged to share those efforts with the Council which will be included in a yearly Plan progress report.

This framework is organized around the five priorities of *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*: housing development, supportive services, education, engagement and policy, prevention, and data.

Council membership representing state agencies and departments have been identified as central and lead partners to represent and direct the priorities and strategies outlined in the Plan. The central and lead partners will support community and state partners to facilitate the strategies and report annually on the Plan's progress. Supporting partners have been identified, however, this does not encompass a full list of collaborators and partners who help address homelessness in Alaska.

In addition to the efforts of local communities, the Council on the Homeless has committed to

the following actions to address the priorities and strategies outlined in this Plan.

- Identify and review central and lead partners to assist with the strategies outlined in the plan.
- Develop a structure to support lead agencies to identify strategies and ensure follow through.
- Develop a structure for local coalitions to report homeless efforts to the Council.
- Request that the Governor appoint a representative from the Office of Veterans Affairs and Department of Labor and Workforce Development to the Council.
- Engage tribal housing authorities and encourage coordination with local coalitions.

## Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness Alaska Council on the Homeless

### Priority 1: Housing Development

**Central Partner: AHFC**

Every Alaskan should have access to an affordable, accommodating, and safe place to call home.

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Supporting Partners</b>
a. Expand Housing Options (Construction/Rehab/Rental Assistance)	AHFC	Regional Housing Authorities
b. Increase Pool of Operating Support to Preserve Existing Housing Stock	AHFC, DHSS, AMHTA	
c. Increase Number of Units Available to Priority Populations	DHSS, AHFC	Volunteers of America, RurAL CAP, Neighborworks

### Priority 2: Supportive Services

**Central Partner: DHSS/AMHTA/DOC**

Individuals and families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness should have access to all eligible services and supports.

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Supporting Partners</b>
a. Increase Funding and Sources of Supportive Services in Underserved Areas	DHSS, AMHTA, DOC	
b. Increase Income and Employment Opportunities for Persons in Transition	DHSS, DOL, VA, AMHTA, DOC	
c. Increase Outreach Services	DHSS, AMHTA, DOC	ACMHS, RurAL CAP, Re-Entry and Youth Providers
d. Maintain and/or Expand Emergency Lodging Options as Needed	AHFC, DHSS	Emergency Cold Weather Plan, Faith Based Groups, Anchorage Emergency Shelter Providers Group

**Priority 3: Education, Engagement, and Policy****Central Partner: AHFC**

Community and statewide education, engagement, and policy efforts among stakeholders and interested parties is central to addressing issues of homelessness.

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Supporting Partners</b>
a. Landlord Engagement, Education, and Support	AHFC, AMHTA	AKCH2, ACEH
b. Encourage Housing Policy at the Local Level	AML	AKCH2, ACEH, Homeless Coalitions
c. Support Local Housing Organizations to Coordinate Planning Services and Reporting		AKCH2, ACEH, Homeless Coalitions
d. Expand Outreach on Use of Alaska Housing Locator	AHFC	

**Priority 4: Prevention****Central Partner: DHSS/AHFC**

Prevention support is essential to mitigating episodes of homelessness.

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Supporting Partners</b>
a. Eliminate Discharge to Homeless Shelters and the Streets from State Institutions	DOC, DHSS	
b. Improve Outreach and Linkages to Housing Resources and Services	DHSS, DOC, DEED	2-1-1, AKCH2, ACEH
c. Maintain Centralized Pool of Prevention Resources	AHFC	Homeless Coalitions

**Priority 5: Data****Central Partner: AHFC**

Timely and accurate data is essential to making housing and homeless policy decisions.

<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Supporting Partners</b>
a. Expand Homeless Service Provider HMIS Coverage	AHFC	AKCH2, ACEH, AKHMIS,
b. Develop Strategies for Gathering Homeless Data from Organizations Not Connected to HMIS	AHFC, DOC, DEED	AKCH2, ACEH, AKHMIS
c. Coordinate Community Prevention Services	AHFC	AKCH2, ACEH, Homeless Coalitions

## Appendix A – 2015 Point-in-Time Count Characteristics of Homeless Persons

2015 Point-In-Time Count Characteristics of Homeless Persons\*

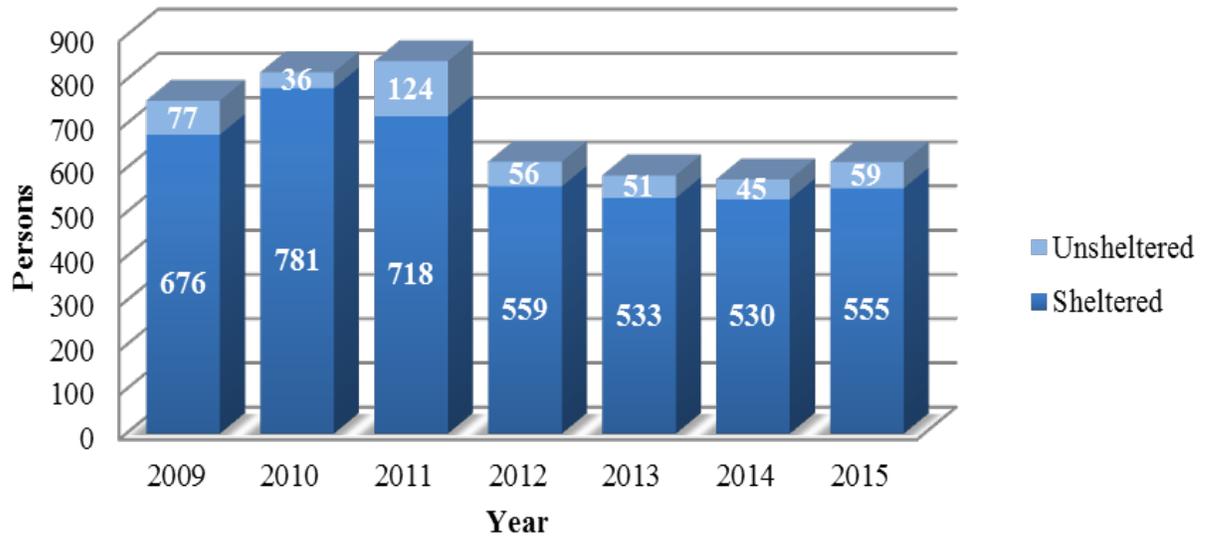
Client Characteristics		Families with Children** (Persons)	Unaccompanied Youth (Under Age 18)	Single Adults (Age 18+)	Total Homeless
Total		614	24	1,318	1,956
Gender	Female	61.6%	50.0%	29.1%	39.5%
	Male	38.4%	50.0%	70.8%	60.4%
	Transgender Male to Female	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
	Transgender Female to Male	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Age	Age 0-17	63.0%	100.0%	0.0%	21.0%
	Age 18-24	6.8%	0.0%	11.8%	10.1%
	Over Age 24	30.1%	0.0%	88.2%	68.9%
Race	White	31.8%	29.2%	41.2%	38.1%
	Black or African American	7.0%	16.7%	7.4%	7.4%
	Asian	0.5%	0.0%	1.1%	0.9%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	43.6%	50.0%	45.8%	45.1%
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	8.0%	4.2%	0.9%	3.2%
	Multiple Races	9.1%	0.0%	3.6%	5.3%
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	91.2%	100.0%	97.0%	95.2%
	Hispanic/Latino	8.8%	0.0%	3.0%	4.8%

\*Point-in-Time Count of homeless persons in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and unsheltered during one day in January.

\*\* Families include at least one adult and one child under age 18.

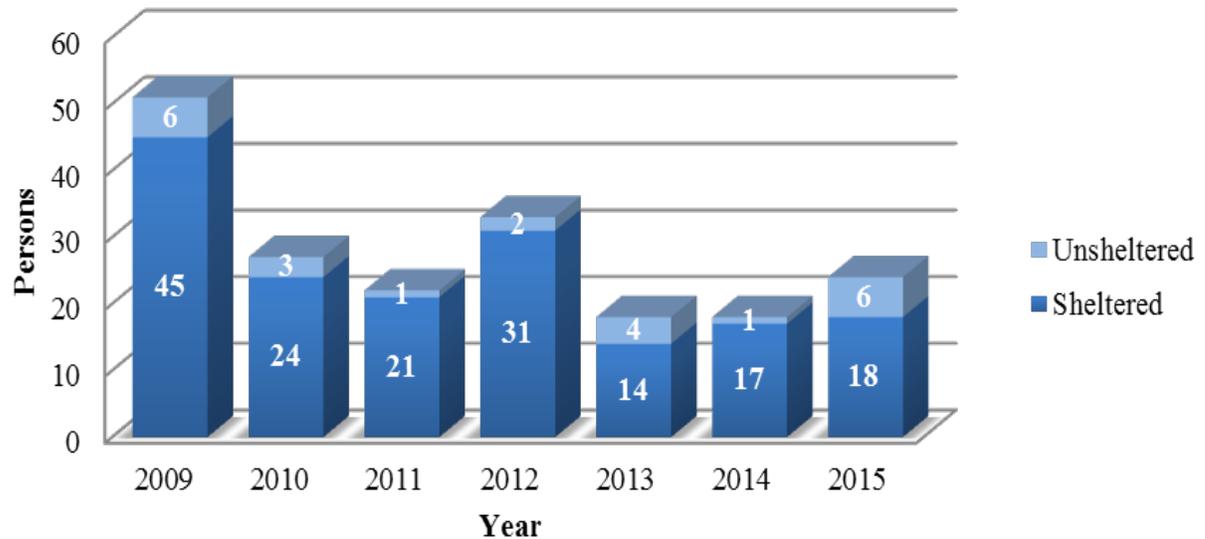
Appendix B – Point-In-Time Count Subpopulation Trends 2009 – 2015

**PIT Families with Children (Persons)\***



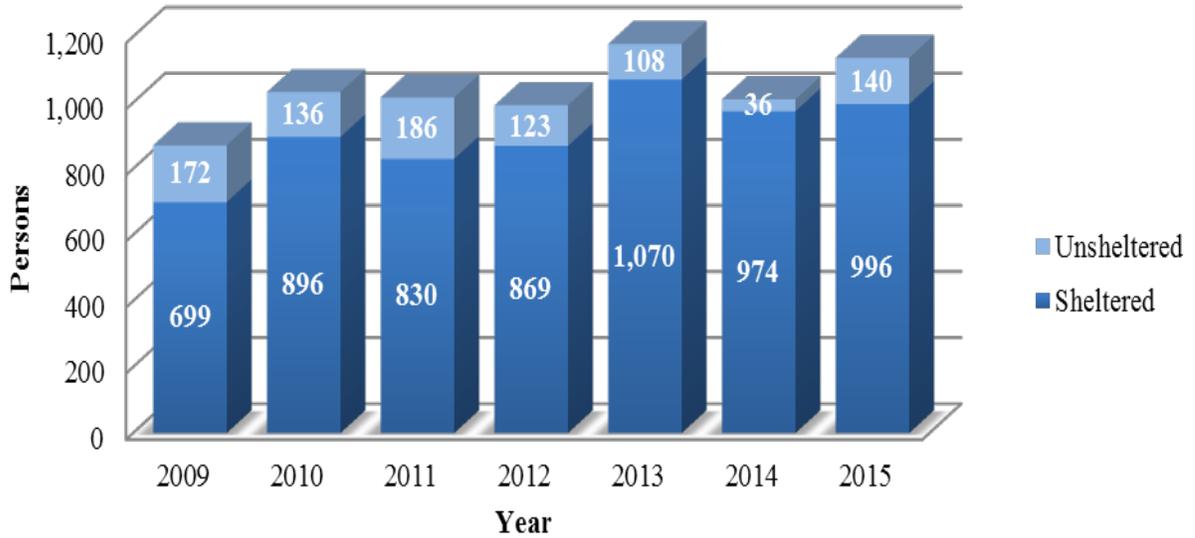
\* Point-in-Time Count data from one day in January. Families include at least one adult and one child under age 18.

**PIT Unaccompanied Youth (Under Age 18)\***



\* Point-in-Time Count data from one day in January.

### PIT Non-Chronic Homeless Single Adults\*



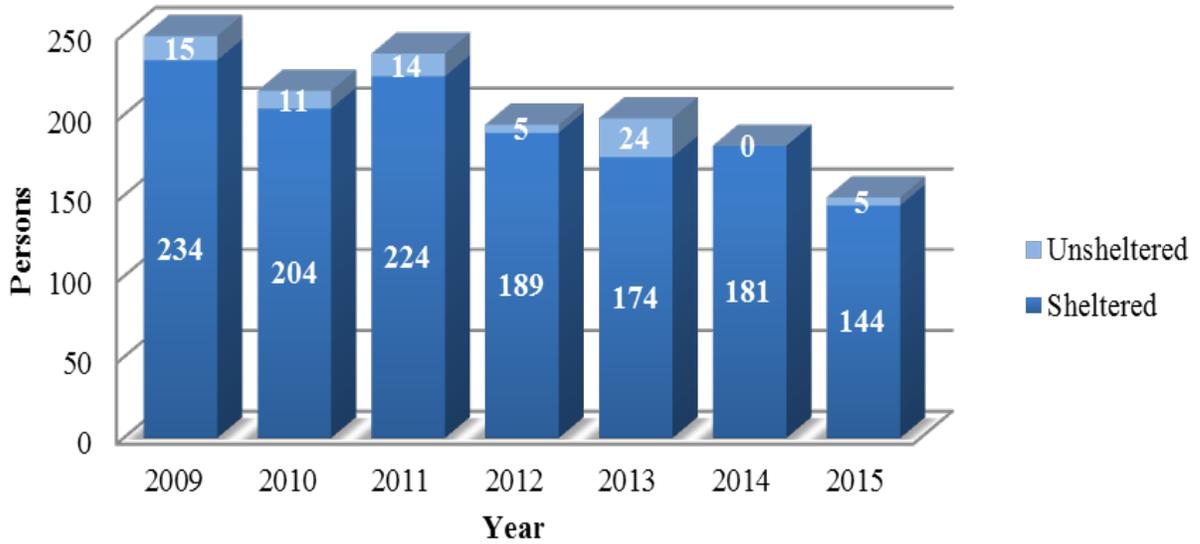
\* Point-in-Time Count data from one day in January.

### PIT Homeless Veterans\*



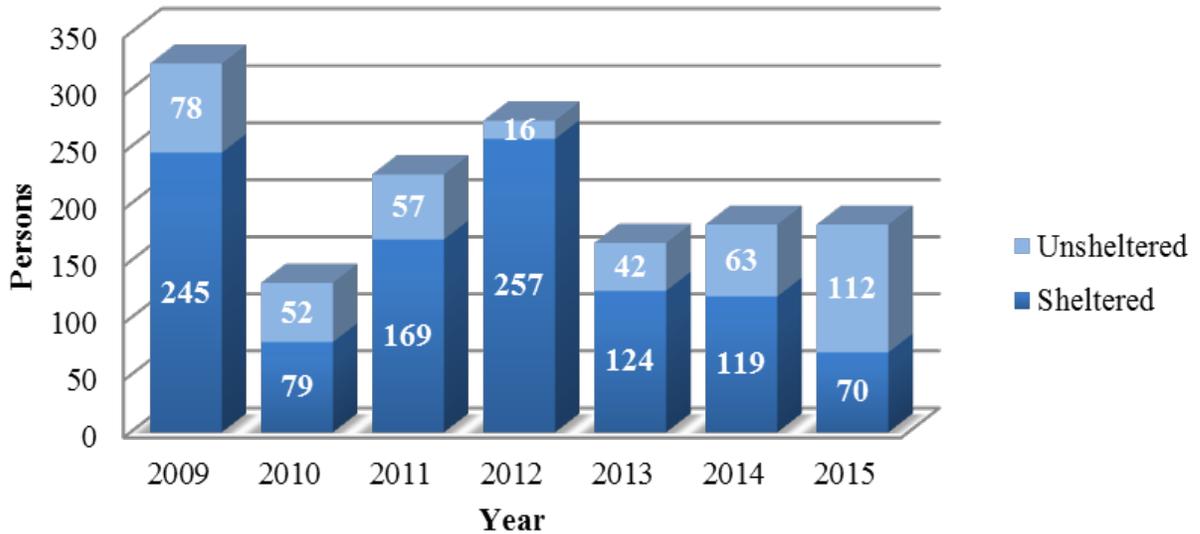
\* Point-in-Time Count data from one day in January.

### PIT Victims of Domestic Violence\*



\* Point-in-Time Count data from one day in January.

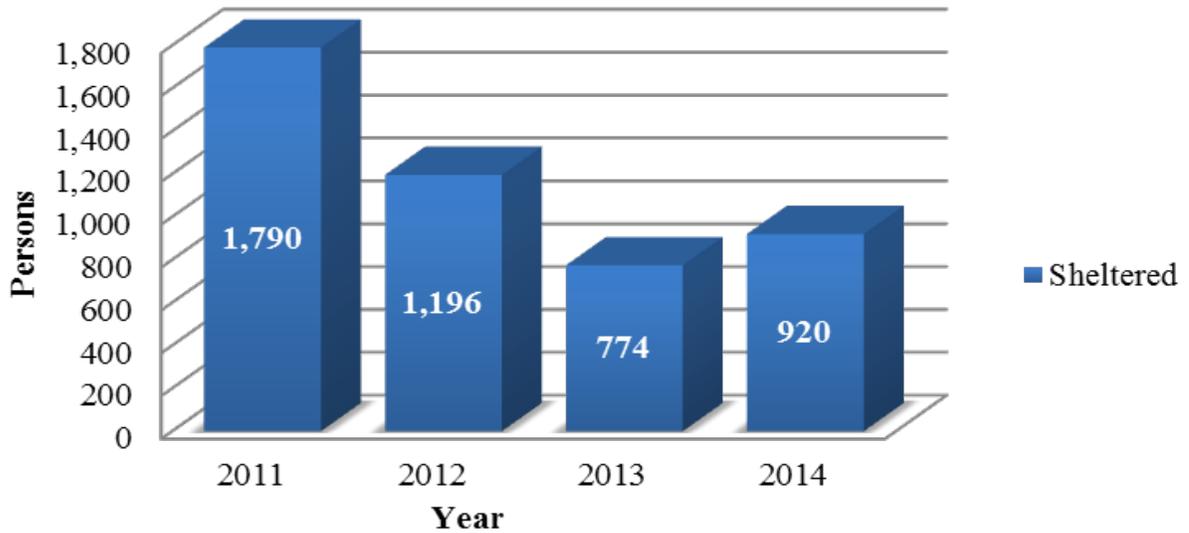
### PIT Chronic Homeless\*



\* Point-in-Time Count data from one day in January.

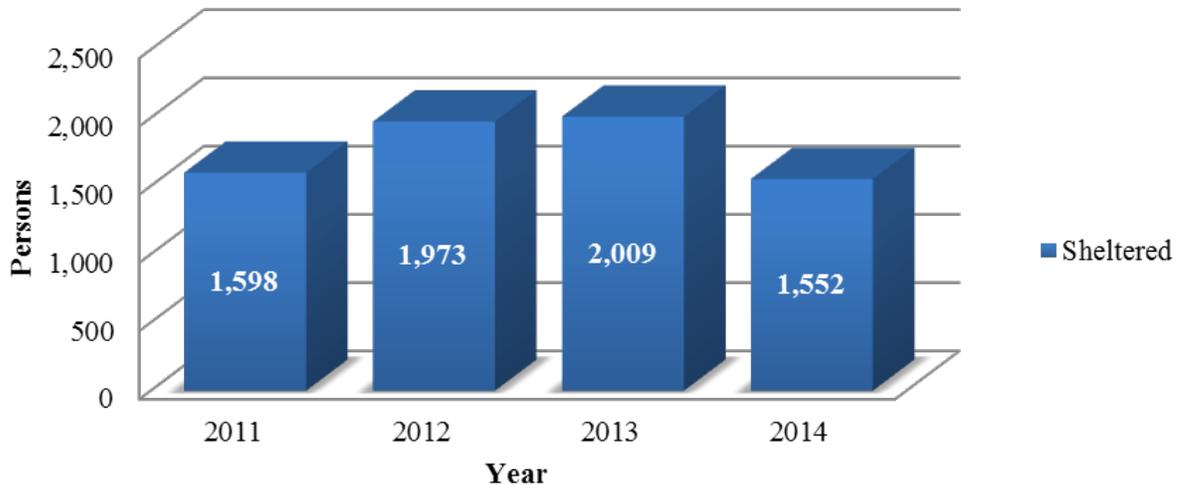
Appendix C – Annual Homeless Assessment Report Subpopulation Trends  
2011 - 2014

**AHAR Homeless Veterans\***



\* One year estimate of homeless persons in emergency shelter and transitional housing.

**AHAR Families with Children (Persons)\***



\* One year estimate of homeless persons in emergency shelter and transitional housing. Families include at least one adult and one child under age 18.

## Appendix D – Definitions, Acronyms, Statewide Programs and Funding Sources

**Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (AKCH2):** A statewide organization working to develop strategies to increase the availability of affordable housing and eliminate homelessness. AKCH2 is the lead agency for the Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) and, as such, responsible for management and oversight of the Homeless Management Information system in conjunction with the Anchorage CoC.

**Alaska Council on the Homeless:** Established by Governor Frank H. Murkowski in 2004 and reauthorized by Governor Palin in 2007, the role of the Alaska Council on the Homeless is to provide a public policy forum for recommendations on the use of state and federal resources to address homelessness. Council membership includes the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska State Departments of Education, Public Safety, Corrections and Health and Social Services, six public members from the homeless provider community, rural housing authorities, local government and the real estate industry and is chaired by AHFC.

**Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS):** The mission of DHSS is to promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans. This is accomplished through grants to providers; certification and licensing of providers; emergency preparedness planning with partner agencies statewide; supporting and promoting child and family safety and wellness through educational campaigns and interventions; providing financial, medical and nutritional safety nets and self-sufficiency support for our most vulnerable residents; health care workforce development; and research and demonstration projects to improve and strengthen the overall health care system in Alaska.

**Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC):** AHFC's mission is to provide Alaskans access to safe, quality, affordable housing. This is accomplished by providing affordable loans, public housing programs, energy efficiency and weatherization programs, senior housing programs, programs for low-income Alaskans, and programs for homeless and near homeless individuals and families.

**Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust):** The Trust is dedicated to assisting those who experience mental illness, developmental disabilities, chronic alcoholism, and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. The Trust funds nonprofits, state agencies, projects and activities that promote long-term system change, including capacity building, demonstration projects, funding partnerships, and other activities to assist Trust beneficiaries.

**Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH):** One of the two Continuums of Care in Alaska as designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. As the Anchorage Continuum of Care lead agency, ACEH is one of the entities responsible for management and oversight of the Homeless Management Information system within Alaska.

**Balance of State (BoS):** All Alaska communities outside of Anchorage.

**Basic Homeless Assistance Program (BHAP):** The BHAP program provides funding to non-profit organizations providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and

homeless prevention services to homeless individuals or those threatened by homelessness. Administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, this program is supported by State General Funds and Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority funds.

**Chronic Homeless Definition:** As defined by HUD, “an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition OR a family with at least one adult who has a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) episodes of homelessness in the past three (3) years”.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** Works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, engage neighborhoods in long-term community development planning, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of business. This program is supported by federal funds and managed by the Municipality of Anchorage for the Anchorage community and the Division of Community and Regional Affairs Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development for all other communities.

**Continuum of Care Program (CoC):** A federal program designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. There are two CoC’s in Alaska designated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; one for Anchorage and one for the Balance of State which supports all other communities.

**Emergency Shelter (ES):** A facility whose primary purpose is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless for a period of 90 days or less. Supportive services may be provided in addition to the provision of shelter.

**Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program:** The ESG program awards funding to non-profit organizations providing emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, and homeless prevention services. This federally funded program is administered within Anchorage by the Municipality of Anchorage and by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for all other communities.

**Empowering Choice Housing Program:** This federally funded program is a referral-based, transitional rental assistance program to assist families displaced due to domestic violence and sexual assault. Participants must be referred to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation through a program approved by the Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and are required to pay a portion of their income to rent.

**Foraker Group:** A nonprofit organization that provides a wide range of services, training, and educational opportunities to help assure the success of Alaska’s nonprofit organizations. Opportunities include organizational development, strategic planning, pre-development training, financial management, and fundraising and grant writing.

**Grant Match Program (GMC):** This program awards grants to organizations to meet match requirements of federal, state, or private foundation grant programs which provide affordable housing or supportive services for homeless, special needs, or other persons who are unable to achieve self-sufficiency. Supported by State General Funds and administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

**Greater Opportunities for Affordable Living (GOAL) Program:** The GOAL program provides a single application round for statewide rental development proposals to access three capital funding resources to build housing for low-income and senior Alaskans. Program funding includes federal **low-income housing tax credits**, state and corporate grants for senior housing through the **Senior Citizen Housing Development Fund** and federal grants for low-income housing through the **HOME Investment Partnership Act**. This program is administered through Alaska Housing Finance Corporation with HOME funds restricted to communities outside of Anchorage. The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) manages HOME funds for that community and proposals for the use of HOME funds in Anchorage should be directed to the MOA.

**HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME):** Federal funding available to develop new affordable rental housing through new construction, rehabilitation or acquisition. The Municipality of Anchorage administers this program for Anchorage and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation administers the program for all other communities through the GOAL program.

**Homeless Definition:** As defined by HUD.

(1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

(i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;

(ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or

(iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

(2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

(i) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;

(ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and

(iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, needed to obtain other permanent housing;

(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- (i) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)) or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
  - (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
  - (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or
- (4) Any individual or family who:
- (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
  - (ii) Has no other residence; and
  - (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.

**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS):** The HMIS is an electronic database used to collect information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless individuals. This program is used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to define the extent of homelessness throughout Alaska. Programs receiving federal funding to support homeless persons are required to enter data into the HMIS. This program is supported by state and federal funds and administered by the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

**Homeless Prevention Services:** Used to help individuals and families at-risk of homelessness maintain their existing housing or transition to new permanent housing through housing relocation and stabilization services and/or short-and medium-term rental assistance.

**Homeownership Development Program (HDP):** Funding to support real property acquisition and site improvements for new construction of permanent, single-family housing. This program is supported with federal funding, administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and available in all communities outside of Anchorage.

**Home Opportunity Program (HOP):** Provides down payment and closing cost assistance to low-income individuals and families who are trying to purchase a home. This program is supported through federal funding and administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation in coordination with nonprofit intermediaries.

**Housing Choice Vouchers:** This program helps eligible low-income Alaskans lease privately owned rental units from participating landlords. Families whose income is at or below 50% of the area median income are eligible to apply for this program. Tenants pay 30% of their income directly towards rent. This program is administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and supported through federal funding.

**Housing First Model:** An approach to ending homelessness that centers on providing individuals experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible and then providing services as needed. Income, sobriety, and/or participation in treatment or other services are not a required condition for entering or retaining housing and all services are voluntary. This is a permanent housing model with no time limit for program participants.

**Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA):** This is a program for nonprofit AIDS assistance organizations which provides supportive services and housing assistance so that persons with AIDS can find and maintain safe, affordable and decent housing. This program is supported by federal funding and administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

**Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC):** This program provides federal tax incentives to for-profit or nonprofit organizations to develop affordable rental housing for low and very low-income households through new construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation. This program is funded through federal support and administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation through the GOAL program.

**Moving Home Program:** Provides rental assistance for low-income, disabled individuals who are eligible for community-based, long-term services. This is a federally funded program administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Division of Behavioral Health.

**Municipality of Anchorage (MOA):** Manages the Emergency Solution Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Act, and Community Development Block Grant funds for Anchorage.

**Operating Expense Assistance Program (OEA):** Provides direct operating expense funding to nonprofit organizations that are certified by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). This program is supported with federal funding and administered by AHFC in communities outside of Anchorage.

**Permanent Housing:** Community-based housing without a designated length of stay in which formerly homeless individuals and families live as independently as possible. As defined by HUD, there are two forms of permanent housing.

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Indefinite leasing or rental assistance

paired with supportive services designed to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability.

- **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH):** Emphasizes housing search and relocation services and short-and medium-term rental assistance to move homeless persons and families (with or without a disability) as rapidly as possible into permanent housing.

**Point-in-Time Count (PIT):** Conducted within the last ten (10) days of January, this annual count of homeless persons provides a snapshot of the number of persons accessing homeless services that night. Homeless housing and service providers gather information on the individuals served and report it through the Homeless Management Information system for communication to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This process includes street outreach activities to connect with individuals who are not engaged in homeless services the night of the count. This is a HUD mandated reporting process and one of the main sources of homeless data collection and reporting for Alaska.

**Public Housing:** Families whose income is at or below 80% of the area median income are eligible for this program which provides affordable rental units to families who pay a portion of their monthly income in rent. These units are owned and managed by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and supported through federal funds.

**Rasmuson Foundation:** A private foundation that supports Alaskan non-profit organizations in the pursuit of their goals with emphasis on organizations that demonstrate strong leadership, clarity of purpose, and cautious use of resources. This is accomplished through grants for capital projects, technology updates, capacity building, and program expansion.

**Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (811 PRA):** This program provides rental assistance and supportive services to individuals with disabilities in assisted living facilities who are appropriate candidates for independent supportive housing. This program allows for transition from assisted living facilities to independent living with the individuals contributing a portion of their income to the monthly rent. This program is supported by State General Relief funds and federal funds and administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and the Department of Health and Social Services.

**Senior Access Program (SAP):** Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) provides funds to allow senior citizens (those over 55 years of age) to make accessibility modifications to their homes. Eligible properties include single-family homes up to fourplexes and should be the senior's primary residence. This program is supported with AHFC Corporate Receipts and State General funds and administered by AHFC.

**Senior Citizens Housing Development Fund (SCHDF):** Provides housing for Alaska's senior citizens so that they may remain in their home communities as they age. This funding is distributed under Alaska Housing Finance's (AHFC) GOAL program and can be used for acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction of senior housing. This program is funded with support from AHFC Corporate Receipts and State General funds and administered by AHFC.

**Sheltered Homeless Persons:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines sheltered persons as those residing in emergency shelter and transitional housing facilities.

**Special Needs Housing Grant (SNHG) Program:** The SNHG program provides a one-stop-shop for capital, operating and supportive service grants to expand long term housing for special needs persons with intensive supportive service requirements. Funding to support new rounds and renew existing grants is comprised of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) Corporate Receipts, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority grants and State General funds. This program is administered by AHFC.

**Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance (SRA) Program:** The SRA program is a federally funded program that provides rental assistance to homeless individuals with disabilities throughout Alaska. It is designed to fund non-profit agencies that provide or procure the provision of housing and supportive services for the homeless population. This program is administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

**Street Outreach:** Activities designed to meet the immediate needs of unsheltered homeless persons by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, and/or critical health services.

**Supplemental Housing Development Grant Program:** Provides funding to Regional Housing Authorities to supplement housing projects approved for development under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Housing Development Programs. Supported by State General funds and administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

**Supportive Services:** Services such as case management, medical or psychological counseling and supervision, childcare, transportation and job training provided for the purpose of facilitating independence and self-sufficiency.

**Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF):** Federally funded program through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. Services include outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits. This program also includes time-limited rental and utility assistance to help veteran families stay in or acquire permanent housing.

**Teacher, Health Professional and Public Safety Housing Program (THHP):** Funds the development of teacher, health professional and public safety housing through the rehabilitation, construction or acquisition of rural housing projects. This program is administered by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and supported through State General funds and the Rasmuson Foundation.

**Technical Assistance Program:** Funds are used to sponsor training workshops, direct technical assistance and training scholarships for grantees and potential grantees under the Supportive Housing or HOME Investment Partnership Programs and for Community Housing Development Organizations. Supported by State General funds and administered by Alaska Housing Finance

Corporation.

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA):** The TBRA program provides eligible low-income families with 12 - 24 months of financial assistance to obtain affordable housing. Eligible applicants include persons who will remain under the Department of Corrections community supervision for the term of TBRA and youth aging out of foster care. This program is supported by federal funds and administered through AHFC.

**Transitional Housing (TH):** Designed to provide homeless individuals and families with the interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. Most programs cover the costs of up to 24 months of housing and accompanying supportive services.

**Unsheltered Persons:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines unsheltered persons as those residing on the streets or other places not meant for human habitation (e.g., car, park bench, abandoned building).

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD provides federal funding for a number of programs throughout Alaska including HOME Partnership Investment Act, Emergency Solutions Grant, Sponsor Based Rental Assistance, Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids, Continuum of Care, Public Housing, Supportive Services for Veterans Families, and Section 811 Project Rental Assistance.

**U.S. Interagency Council on the Homeless (USICH):** The mission of the USICH is to coordinate the Federal response to homelessness and to create a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the Federal Government in contributing to the end of homelessness. USICH is the author of *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* which identifies four key goals to ending homelessness throughout the nation.

**Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH):** This is a referral-based, rental assistance program for homeless veterans and their families. Program participants are referred to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) through the Alaska Veterans Affairs Healthcare System and contribute a portion of their income to rent. This program is supported through federal funding and administered by AHFC.

**Weatherization and Energy Rebate Programs:** Provides support for improving energy efficiency of low-income homes. Funding is provided through State General funds, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and the U.S. Department of Energy. This program is administered through Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.