

10 YEAR PLAN TO END LONG TERM HOMELESSNESS IN ALASKA

5 Year Review and Path to 2019

Alaska Council on the Homeless

September 30, 2014

2014 and 2019 Goal Review

The Ten Year Plan to End Long-term Homelessness in Alaska (Plan) was established in 2009 and identifies five year and ten year goals to achieve this objective. As we conclude the first five years of this plan, it is important to review our accomplishments and evaluate the goals in place for the next five years.

In May 2014, the following review committee was formed to compile a report on the status of the goals to be achieved by 2014 and develop a strategy for the next five years.

- Carrie Collins, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Planner
- Christie Wilcheck, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Planning Officer
- Dave Kuiper, Alaska Council on the Homeless Council Member
- Mark Romick, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Planning Director
- Shannon Wilks, Alaska Council on the Homeless Council Member
- Suzi Pearson, Alaska Council on the Homeless Council Member

The review committee created the following *2009-2014: Five Year Review* which reports on the achievement of each of the 2014 goals. Throughout the review process, the committee identified the need to reformat the existing plan from one that was largely population based to one that better encompasses the objectives of *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.

The following draft of the 2014 – 2019 plan is structured around five objectives – housing development; supportive services; education and policy; prevention; and data. To develop the strategies and goals for these objectives, the review committee took the strategies and goals established in the original plan and simply shifted them to the corresponding objective in the new document.

The review committee also recognized the need to adopt a plan with broadened strategies and goals that would better encompass the work of communities throughout the state. This new structure will allow local communities the freedom to develop strategies and goals within their local plan that are appropriate for their community and will continue to coincide with the goals of this plan.

Over the next few months, the review committee will meet with additional stakeholders and community members to gather feedback on the new format and refine the 2019 goals before the final plan is presented at the May 2015 Alaska Council on the Homeless meeting.

**Alaska Council on the Homeless
Ten-Year Plan to Reduce Long Term Homelessness
2009 – 2014: Five Year Review**

F-1. Housing for Chronic & Special Needs Homeless		Baseline: 627 chronic homeless out of 3,311 total homeless (PIT) 161 Chronic Housing units out of 428 Permanent Supportive Housing inventory		
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
<p>1.Expand housing options (construction/rehab/rental assistance)</p> <p><small>*Section 811 and 202 are HUD programs that provide capital funding and rental assistance for the elderly and disabled. Funds are distributed competitively annually. HOME refers to the HOME Investment Act Partnership Program</small></p>	<p>1.a Build capacity to maximize flexible use of resources (811/202; HOME*)</p> <p>1b Develop prototype model for supportive housing</p> <p>1.c Develop a coordinated homeless fund to house more high need homeless persons</p> <p>1.d Develop intensive service-enriched housing for persons w/high needs exiting API & DOC</p>	<p>1.a List of 202/811 applicants developed for next 10 yrs</p> <p>1.b Prototypes/ models identified</p> <p>1.c Fund established</p> <p>1.d Four agencies identified through RFQ process to develop prototype</p>	<p>1.a 25 new 202 units and 25 new 811 units</p> <p>1.b, 10 new programs developed from model</p> <p>1.c&d 300 additional households assisted</p>	<p>1.a 38 new 811 units and 31 new 202 units developed</p> <p>1.b 13 new programs developed</p> <p>1.c&d 351 permanent supportive housing beds added to inventory</p>

F-1. Housing for Chronic & Special Needs Homeless Continued:				
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
2. Increase supplemental support for services not covered by Medicaid	<p>2. a Identify unmet service needs and costs</p> <p>2. b Utilize housing finance resources to cover cost of room & board for persons served by Adult Protective Services (APS)</p>	<p>2.a Funding sources identified for unmet service needs</p> <p>2.b Housing & service costs delineated</p>	<p>2.a 30% of service needs addressed</p> <p>2.b 50% of APS clients receiving housing assistance</p>	<p>2.a Difficult to track service needs as services are provided, but not required. Have seen success through legislative appropriations with the Special Needs Housing Grant (SNHG) and Partners for Progress.</p> <p>2.b At least 50% of APS clients are receiving housing assistance through assisted living homes</p>
3. Increase pool of operating support to preserve existing housing stock	<p>3.a Inventory existing projects for operating assistance needs</p> <p>3.b Issue NOFA to award project-based assistance</p>	3. 20 project-based rent assistance	3. 100 project-based rent assistance	3. 74 project based vouchers awarded

F-2. Housing for Persons Discharged from State Custody		Baseline: 8,000/yr discharged from DOC w/no identified housing 33 existing beds for transitioning youth (ANC & JNU)		
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
1. Revise discharge policies to explicitly discourage discharge to homeless shelters.	<p>1.a Review policies and identify text revisions</p> <p>1.b Establish baseline on discharges to homelessness</p>	1a. Policy revisions completed	1.b 50% reduction of discharge to shelter or streets	<p>1.b 2009 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) reported 172 individuals entered shelters after discharge from DOC and 217 in 2013 AHAR (13% increase)</p> <p>Tenant Based Rental Assistance program established in 2010 with 101 vouchers available for prisoner re-entry clients in 2014.</p>

F-2. Housing for Persons Discharged from State Custody Continued				
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
2. Increase # of units available to transitioning youth	<p>2.a Identify exact # of transitional beds needed (300 est.)</p> <p>2b. Apply for Family Unification Program (FUP)vouchers from HUD</p>	<p>2.a Needs baseline established</p> <p>2.b Vouchers awarded by HUD</p>	<p>2.a 50% of needed beds added to inventory</p> <p>2.b 100% FUP voucher utilization</p>	<p>2.a 50% achieved. Estimated 78 youth aging out of foster care in SFY14. 39 Tenant Based Rental Assistance youth vouchers available in SFY14.</p> <p>2.b Did not receive FUP vouchers from HUD</p>
3. Identify landlords and develop landlord incentives to rent to "hard to house" persons.	<p>3.a. Identify incentives and outreach (e.g. damage fund, rent-up bonus, etc)</p> <p>3.b Develop a coordinated homeless fund to house more high need homeless persons</p>	<p>3.a Incentive program developed</p> <p>3.b Fund established</p>	<p>3.a&b 50% placement success</p>	<p>3.a&b Have identified landlord concerns and conducted landlord <i>Meet and Greet</i> events and <i>Ready to Rent</i> tenant training</p>

F-2. Housing for Persons Discharged from State Custody Continued				
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
4. Increase employment/vocational opportunities for persons in transition.	4.a Identify models	4. a Model selected for implementation	Programs in every DOC & DJJ facility	DOC connected with local programs such as Partners for Progress, Alaska Native Justice Center, and Anchorage Community Mental Health Services

F-3. Permanent Housing for Households w/Children Transitioning from Homelessness		Baseline: 1,507 People (494 Families) out of 3,311 total homeless in PIT		
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
<p>1. Expand housing options (construction/rehab/rental assistance)</p> <p><small>*HOME/TBRA is a tenant based rental assistance program funded from HUD's HOME Investment Partnership Act program</small></p>	<p>1.a Build capacity to maximize use of resources (HOME/TBRA*)</p> <p>1.b Create incentives to utilize existing housing programs to address needs of low-income families</p> <p>1.c Develop s coordinated homeless fund to assist more homeless families</p>	<p>1.a Agencies identified for intensive technical assistance</p> <p>1.b GOAL policies/ priorities revised to target homeless families</p> <p>1.c Fund established</p>	<p>1.b&c 150 Units w/20% f/large families</p>	<p>1.b&c 6.3% increase in units for large families</p>
<p>2. Increase pool of operating support to preserve existing housing stock</p>	<p>2. Inventory existing projects for operating assistance needs</p>	<p>2. Inventory completed and needs identified</p>	<p>100 assisted units</p>	<p>203 assisted units</p>

F-3. Permanent Housing for Households w/Children Transitioning from Homelessness Continued				
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
3. Provide rapid re-housing services for households w/children	3.a Create incentives for central intake & assessment of family homeless needs 3.b Develop coordinated homeless fund for move-in costs.	3.a Central clearinghouse identified in each AK community 3.b Fund established	3.a & b. 50% Households re-housed within 90 days	3.a&b 57% re-housed within 90 days
4. Improve outreach & linkages to housing resources & services	4.a Build capacity among homeless school liaisons & rural school districts 4.b Expand outreach on use of AK Housing Locator 4.c Improve 211 to accurately reflect all local homeless services	4.a 25% increase in homeless school liaison participation in state housing coalition 4.b 50% increase in Locator listings 4.c 65% coverage	4.a 50% increase in homeless school liaison participation in state housing coalition 4.b 100% increase in Locator listings 4.c 80% coverage	4.a 50% increase achieved in 2013 4.b 49% increase in locator listings 4.c At least 80% coverage achieved

F-4. Short-Term Homeless Prevention / Crisis Intervention		2008 Baseline: 324 households served by HAP-funded prevention component in SFY08/ 67% housing retention rate		
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
1. Create local centralized pool of prevention resources to provide assistance with rent, mortgage & utility arrearages OR to cover housing costs for persons temporarily absent due to hospitalization, substance abuse treatment or short-term incarceration (less than 60 days).	<p>1.a Coordinate existing resources (ESG, LIHEAP, EFSP, ATAP Diversion)</p> <p>1.b Develop framework for central prevention pools</p> <p>1.b Set aside min. 30% of funding authorization for prevention activities</p> <p>1.c Develop a coordinated homeless fund to assist more households at-risk of homelessness</p>	<p>1.b Framework developed</p> <p>1.b Award funds w/priority to central pools</p> <p>1.c Fund established</p>	<p>100% increase in # of households served</p> <p>75% retention rate</p>	<p>164% increase in number of households receiving prevention assistance</p> <p>79% housing retention rate among those receiving prevention assistance</p>
2. Apply a uniform assessment tool to identify barriers to housing stability	2.a Integrate assessment tool into existing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	2.a Updated version installed	60% assessments completed on prevention cases	assessments have been completed on at least 60% of prevention assistance cases through the Basic Homeless Assistance Program

F-4. Short-Term Homeless Prevention / Crisis Intervention Continued				
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
3. Maintain and/or expand emergency lodging options as needed	3.a Identify shelter gaps in the homeless housing inventory by community and target population	3.a. Points added to HAP application for projects targeting unserved or underserved populations	No net loss to shelter inventory & 3 unserved communities add new beds	49 new shelter beds added to inventory. Underserved communities added new beds in Nome (NEST Shelter), Bethel Winter House Project, and faith based cold weather shelter programs in Anchorage and Wasilla (20 beds)

F-5. Data Collection				
Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
1. Expand HMIS coverage to all federal and state-funded homeless programs.	1.a Continue ongoing training and access project to connect all providers of shelter & transitional housing in AK (except DV)	1.a 50% bed coverage in HMIS	75% bed coverage in HMIS	73% bed coverage in HMIS
2. Coordinate prevention report from all potential funding sources	2. Develop MOU w/fund sources to coordinate report	2. Fund administrators meet & forge agreement	2. Report reflects 50% coverage	2.Coordinated prevention report has not been established.

F-6. Community Infrastructure – Local Planning Efforts to Coordinate Activities

Strategy	Action Steps	12-Month Outcome	By the Year 2014	2014 Review
<p>1. Ensure housing policy is addressed at the local level</p> <p>2. Provide operational support to local housing planning organizations to coordinate services and reporting</p>	<p>1.a Educate Alaska Municipal League & local Continuum of Cares re: housing component in comprehensive plans</p> <p>2.a Develop long-range organizational plan</p>	<p>1.a Comprehensive plan enabling legislation introduced</p> <p>2.a. Statewide organization fully staffed</p>	<p>1.a Comprehensive plan enabling legislation enacted & 30% comp plans inc. housing element</p> <p>2.a Local organizations established in 5 communities</p>	<p>1.a Comprehensive plan requires legislative change which has not been achieved</p> <p>2.a Local organizations established in at least 5 communities</p>

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10 Year Plan to Reduce Long Term Homelessness
2014 - 2019**

Housing Development	
Strategy	2014 – 2019 Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Housing Options (Construction/Rehab/Rental Assistance) • Increase Pool of Operating Support to Preserve Existing Housing Stock • Increase Number of Units Available to Priority Populations • Maintain and/or Expand Emergency Lodging Options as Needed 	

Supportive Services	
Strategy	2014 – 2019 Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Funding and Sources of Supportive Services in Underserved Areas • Increase Income and Employment Opportunities for Persons in Transition 	

Education and Policy	
Strategy	2014 – 2019 Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlord Engagement, Education, and Support • Ensure Housing Policy is Addressed at the Local Level • Provide Operational Support to Local Housing Planning Organizations to Coordinate Services and Reporting • Expand Outreach on Use of AK Housing Locator 	

Prevention	
Strategy	2014 – 2019 Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage Discharge to Homeless Shelters from State Institutions • Improve Outreach and Linkages to Housing Resources and Services • Create Centralized Pool of Prevention Resources 	

Data	
Strategy	2014 – 2019 Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand HMIS Coverage to Homeless Service Providers • Develop Strategies for Gathering Homeless Data from Organizations Not Connected to HMIS • Coordinate Community Prevention Services 	