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AGENDA

Alaska Council on the Homeless
October 23, 2017

1:30 – 4:30 PM, Westmark Hotel and Conference Center
813 Noble Street, Fairbanks

1:30 - 1:35 Welcome by Council Chair: Bryan Butcher

1:35 – 2:05 Public Comments

2:05 – 2:50 Homeless Coalition Updates

- Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness: Brian Wilson
- Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness: Kristi Duff
- Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness: Mandy Cole
- Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition: Mike Sanders
- Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness: Dave Rose
- Kenai Peninsula Continuum of Care Coalition: Catherine DeLacee
- Seward Peninsula Housing Coalition: Sue Steinacher
- Kodiak Homeless Coalition: Dana Meyers
- Kotzebue: Shawn Gilman

2:50 – 3:10 Association of Alaska Housing Authorities: Colleen Dushkin

3:10 – 3:20 Break

3:20 – 3:50 Alaska Supportive Housing Plan: Resolution 2017-1
Carrie Collins and Susan Musante

3:50 – 4:00 Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness: Suzi Pearson
and Dave Kuiper

4:00 – 4:30 State Agency Updates

- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Alaska Department of Corrections
- Alaska Department of Education and Early Development
- Alaska Department of Public Safety

Opportunity begins with a home

Homeless Coalition Updates

Memo

17 October 2017

To: Alaska Council on the Homeless

From: Kristi Duff, ACEH Director

Re: Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness Report to the Alaska Council on the Homeless

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Anchorage Continuum of Care (CoC) continues to work with community partners to plan and coordinate the annual Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) process in order to bring funding to Anchorage. The consolidated NOFA application was submitted to HUD on 27 September 2017. Since late 2016, the Anchorage CoC has also worked to develop and implement its Coordinated Entry (CE) System with the support and collaboration of community housing and supportive service providers. We are working to find solutions to house the large number of single adults, families, and transition-age-youth experiencing homelessness. Programs include emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing.

CHALLENGES

A lack of alcohol and drug treatment programs, mental health programs, and case management present challenges when attempting to house Anchorage's most vulnerable clients experiencing homelessness. Anchorage Community Mental Health (ACMHS) no longer provides housing or outreach services in the community. Substance abuse treatment programs generally have waitlists and a limited number of beds in each program. There is also a need for meals, laundry facilities, showers and employment and education services. Increasing criminal activity is leading to public fear. There is no evidence to support the increase in crime with increased homelessness despite public perception that the two are linked.

The Assembly Committee on Homelessness meets the third Wednesday of each month. Nancy Burke presents highlights of the work that is being done in our effort to reduce and end homelessness, and the Assembly provides direction to concerns that they would like her to pursue. Over the last two months there has been specific concern by the public to the visibility of the homeless, the number of homeless camps that are popping up in or next to neighborhoods, causing neighborhood residents to feel threatened or unsafe. The City Police and the Fire Departments spoke to the dangerous environment at the Brother Francis Shelter, publicly announcing that they do not respond to calls at the BFS without back-up because of the threatening environment that has resulted in damage to vehicles and theft of supplies.

There is a lack of funding to provide overflow emergency shelter in the winter months. The Municipality is working to find resources and has met with shelter providers to develop strategies that will prevent households experiencing homelessness to sleep unsheltered between October and May. As of this report, resources have not been identified to provide overflow shelter. Fortunately, Anchorage has an emergency cold weather shelter (ECWS) plan for homeless

families. Nine congregations provide shelter for up to 24 individuals on rotating nights between October and May to prevent families from sleeping unsheltered. The ECWS program partners with the Anchorage School District Child in Transition program to provide transportation to school for children who sleep in the churches.

COORDINATED ENTRY

The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) has funding for a CE Program Manager and three Transition Coordinators (TC) to support CE development and implementation. The TCs manage the CE “by-name” lists of households experiencing homelessness (single adults, families, and transition-age-youth [TAY]). The lists use assessment data to prioritize homeless families and individuals for available housing interventions. The TCs manage these lists in order to make housing referrals to transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing programs. Households experiencing homelessness as administered a housing assessment at a community access point. Through the assessments, clients are added to the by-name lists for their respective subpopulation category (i.e., homeless youth are referred to the TAY housing list, etc.). When a participating housing provider has an opening, the next client prioritized on this list that meets eligibility criteria for that opening receives a referral for housing placement.

The transitions coordinators track the referral process to verify clients complete the application process and are successfully placed into housing. Once homeless individuals or families are placed in housing, their referral is removed from the coordinated entry list. TCs are not case managers but sometimes provide light case management due to the limited availability of those resources. TCs can make supportive services recommendations as needed and encouraging clients to comply with any treatment plans that they may have. As part of HUD’s Housing First philosophy, Continuum of Care funded programs cannot require case management or recovery from substance abuse, however, case managers who are available to support clients housed in these programs should actively engage with clients and use tools such as motivational interviewing to encourage clients to utilize supportive services. Between January and September 2017, the CE System has tracked 316 households as housed (183 families, 99 individuals and 34 TAY). These clients were housed through the CE referral process, other housing interventions, relocation, or methods of self-resolve.

Funding for TC staff comes from the generous donation Providence Health Care made to the community of Anchorage, through United Way. Catholic Social Services (CSS) is the fiscal agent for both the single adult and family TCs while the youth TC fiscal agent is Covenant House. NeighborWorks Alaska was the CE Program Manager fiscal agent until October 2017. ACEH now houses that position as well as the Director.

The CE Oversight Committee is reviewing lessons learned since January 2017 and improving policy so that CE is better tailored to meet community needs as well as HUD program compliance.

ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS

The Assembly Committee on Homelessness meets the third Wednesday of each month. Nancy Burke presents highlights of the work that is being done in our effort to reduce and end

homelessness, and the Assembly provides direction to concerns that they would like her to pursue. Over the last two months there has been specific concern by the public to the visibility of the homeless, the number of homeless camps that are popping up in or next to neighborhoods, causing neighborhood residents to feel threatened or unsafe. The City Police and the Fire Departments spoke to the dangerous environment at the Brother Francis Shelter, publicly announcing that they do not respond to calls at the BFS without back-up because of the threatening environment that has resulted in damage to vehicles and theft of supplies. The assembly has requested that a mapping of low income and multi-family housing by census district, overlaid with a mapping that shows where services and service providers are located. The purpose is to show if resources or the lack of resources are matched with need, both with the intent of informing decisions that would spread the resources across the city, thereby removing the concentration from the primarily one district. The Assembly and ACEH formed a combined data committee to identify critical data and data points that will be tracked to show need and progress in addressing those needs, again to inform decisions.

Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (JCHH)
Report to Governor's Council, October 2017
Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

During FY17, JCHH saw substantial progress in some areas of our community's response to homelessness, as well as some missteps and gaps in service.

Likely our greatest achievement was the construction of Juneau's Housing First facility. This 32 unit permanent supportive housing project has been 5 years in the making, and welcomed its first residents in September 2017. In order to prepare and complete the project, the community of Juneau:

- Worked together to form a collaborative board with members of the community, shelter and housing organizations, supportive service agencies, legal expertise, hospital, and municipal representation.
- Accessed SNHG funding from AHFC, funding from the City and Borough of Juneau, AMHTA, Rasmuson Foundation, Juneau Community Foundation, and other local sources.
- Obtained community support for the model by educating the public at community meetings, municipal meetings and task force meetings about Harm Reduction and Housing First philosophies.
- Established the first primary care clinic (with behavioral health and case management support) in a Housing First project in Alaska. Juneau Alliance for Mental Health Inc. (JAMHI) provides these services.
- Partnered with other member agencies in the JCHH to fill operation funding gaps, and was part of the first collaborative funding request to the Juneau Community Foundation (which was funded) in 2017.
- Worked with local service organizations and faith-based groups to furnish/supply apartments.

Juneau also added several transitional housing beds, specifically for sober support for those exiting treatment, at Gastineau Human services.

Volunteers of America constructed Phase II of the Terraces at Lawson Creek project, adding additional market rate and low-income rentals.

JCHH members worked collaboratively to submit funding applications for ESG/BHAP, Juneau Community Foundation funding, and CoC funding.

JCHH was represented in the Balance of State Coordinated Entry workgroup, and participated in outlining policies that would work for our diverse state.

The City and Borough of Juneau established a temporary Homelessness Task Force, in partnership with JCHH. The program ideas generated by JCHH guided Task Force recommendations for the City Assembly, including funding for a winter warming center (2017/18).

While Juneau made significant strides, our community also encountered significant barriers.

- Based on concerns from local business owners, the CBJ Assembly passed an ordinance prohibiting "camping" in a specific downtown corridor during nighttime hours. This ordinance

passed in spite of vigorous protests by JCHH member agencies, the public, our homeless citizens and state and local housing advocates.

- The funding package for Juneau Housing First collaborative was difficult to put together, and we still encountered shortfalls near the end of the project. Housing projects, and ultimately all persons experiencing homelessness, would benefit from the creation of a high level intra-agency funding collaborative. Unfortunately, funding these projects still feels dependent on who you know, and experience is valued more highly than innovation. The idea of a funding collaborative is outlined in the Statewide Strategic Supportive Housing Plan; JCHH advocates more emphasis placed on moving this forward. Tangential to this idea is a statewide Housing Trust Fund, which could be used as a focal point for project funding across the state.
- At JCHH, we also notice a silo effect where statewide supportive services, homeless services, housing developers and funders may not all be on the same page. We advocate the creation of a legislative committee on housing and homelessness, to help bring structure and coordination to efforts across the state.
- JCHH also wants to draw attention to some of the inherent contradictions in grant funding and reporting of progress. HUD and state funders prioritize moving individuals out of emergency shelter into permanent housing. All providers want success for their residents, and work toward the goal of permanent housing. However, congregate emergency shelters are often staffed with a high ratio of residents to employees. For example, AWARE is staffed for 2 out of 3 shifts at 1 staff person to ~30 residents. This staffing pattern works to maximize efficiency while maintaining stability in the shelter, however, it is not generally organized to prioritize case management (which relies on smaller staff to participant ratios). In addition, individuals and families who use shelter for multiple stays require higher levels of service beyond housing advocacy, often needing intensive behavioral health and substance use interventions. Shelter staff are now faced with increased demand across several domains, including:
 - Greater emphasis on street outreach
 - Higher level case management with specialized expertise, and
 - Increased administrative burden to document these services and their outcomes

These demands are not simply an issue of additional funding to provide additional services, rather, a fundamental question of whether to locate case management or support services within the shelter or rely on partnerships to do so. Whether supportive services (case management) are in house or from partners, those services must be coordinated with shelter and housing providers, funded and expanded.

- JCHH has also had multiple discussions this year about new ways to attract energetic, trauma-informed workers to the field who want to commit to our programming. Many of us experience a high level of turn-over, and are unable to offer truly competitive wages and benefits.

For more information or questions regarding this report, please contact JCHH Co-Chair Mandy Cole @ 586-6623.



Fairbanks Housing & Homeless Coalition

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Fairbanks Update

The City of Fairbanks is honored to have the Alaska Council on the Homeless meeting in our community. Thank you very much for holding your meeting in Fairbanks and extending invitations for updates to the various homeless coalitions around the state. Since the May meeting in Anchorage, there has been a fair amount happening in Fairbanks. The local agencies have been busy with numerous projects and events. The Fairbanks Housing & Homeless Coalition (FHHC) is going strong. Our meetings have continued to draw large crowds, but more important than the number of people in attendance, is the positive attitude and willingness to collaborate of the participants. Examples of this include serving 140 people during an August Project Homeless Connect without the need for any grants, the establishment of a mobile foot care clinic, and the housing of a pregnant teen.

Coordinated Entry System (CES) is no longer seen as a threat by most organizations. All mandatory HMIS agencies have signed the data sharing agreement and the agency that has not signed couldn't do so because their program grant was changing organizations. Now that they are established in their new parent organization it is likely they will sign in the upcoming weeks. Fairbanks has basically caught up with the rest of the Balance of State (BoS) in CES. The Fairbanks Rescue Mission (FRM) conducted a trial run of several assessment tools for the BoS with the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) proving to be the most user friendly and produced more accurate results than other tools. Additionally the VI-SPDAT is used by the Anchorage Continuum of Care (CoC) and many Fairbanks agencies would like to see statewide data sharing, so it is our recommendation that the BoS use the VI-SPDAT. Along those lines the Release of Information (ROI) agreed upon in Fairbanks closely resembles the Anchorage ROI. Over the coming months Fairbanks will establish referral, case conferencing, and move-up strategies and policies.

The FHHC in association with the North Star Community Foundation will be co-hosting the Fairbanks Symposium on Homelessness with the Fairbanks Native Association on December 6th in the Westmark Fairbanks Hotel & Conference Center. The theme of the event is "This is What Success Looks Like" and the objective of the symposium is to generate more Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) programs in Fairbanks by following the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan. The Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) wrote the plan and has agreed to facilitate the symposium and an executive session the following day. The intent is for the symposium to be a work session for increasing RRH and PSH in Fairbanks. Registration for the symposium is free until November first and \$25 between November 1-21. You can register from Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fairbanks-symposium-on-homelessness-tickets-37074287191?aff=ehomecard> or from the FHHC website: <http://www.fairbankshomeless.org/> or from the FHHC Facebook: www.facebook.com/fairbankshhc/



Fairbanks Housing & Homeless Coalition

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The FHHC has also explored the potential for a day shelter in Fairbanks. It is undisputed that Fairbanks could benefit from such a program and we were close with a couple different concepts to being able to establish a day shelter, but ultimately we have been unable to establish a day shelter program. The FHHC had won the vote to apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for a day shelter, but the first building we looked at, was nearly destroyed by a fire and we ran into an unsurmountable logistics obstacle with our back up plan. With a growing number of roadblocks we decided to temporarily shelf the idea. While this was not the result we expected, it was not a waste either. It gave the FHHC board a trial run on project mobilization, generated enormous amounts of day shelter related research, and let the community know we are looking for viable solutions to help end homelessness.

Thank you,

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Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
Alaska State Coalition on Housing and Homelessness Annual Conference
Alaska Council on the Homeless

MSCHH Report on FY17 Activities

OUR VISION

The Mat-Su Borough is “Alaska’s most livable community” – it is healthy, connected, with dependable, reliable transit and affordable housing – people want to live and work here.

CORE PURPOSE

Community Action for Housing and Homelessness Solutions

CORE VALUES

Sustainable | Credible | Collaborative | Informed | Data | Proactive | Approachable

LONG-TERM GOAL (2020)

Developing integrated, community-informed and community-supported homelessness prevention is a community value.

Vivid Description for the Long-Term Goal:

The impact of the coalition is in ensuring that everyone who wants to live here can, which is in turn a function of the coalition as a strong and active “voice” supporting development of an integrated system of homelessness prevention in the Mat-Su Borough. By broadening stakeholder interest and involvement, the coalition will continue to support forums that facilitate productive community conversations about homelessness prevention, as well as educating and informing the public and key stakeholders influencing housing and homeless solutions, i.e., housing-related nonprofits, developers, contractors, business leaders, and policy makers.

ANNUAL OPERATING PRIORITIES (2016-2017)

General Coalition Priorities

Coalition Priority: Determine what a new, integrated system of homeless prevention looks like, and based on that develop an Integrated Homelessness Prevention Plan.

Coalition Priority: As part of an Integrated Homelessness Prevention Plan, develop and implement a Community Outreach Plan focused on educating & informing the public and key stakeholders influencing housing and homelessness solutions.

Issue-Area Priorities

Senior Housing: Foster a community dialogue that constitutes the first steps leading to the development of sustainable senior housing in the Mat-Su Borough

Prisoner Re-Entry: Assist the new Prisoner Re-Entry Coalition in establishing a strong community foundation for programs aimed at prisoner re-entry

Homeless Youth: Create a plan for Start-up Emergency Housing for Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth

Affordable Low-Income Housing: Actively encourage the growth and development of affordable housing stock in the Valley

Special Needs Housing: Actively encourage the growth and development of special needs housing stock in the Valley

Homelessness Precursors: Identify solutions to homelessness pre-cursors

Ongoing Priority

Coordinating completion of “**Point-in-Time**” Counts and “**Homeless Connect**”

MSCHH ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN with STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (2016-2017)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Coalition to develop a “Theory of Change” for the Coalition

- Identify and articulate the “Greater Good” that will come from the coalition’s work
- How do we envision making a difference in the community?
- What particular activities/outcomes constitute the building blocks in the Theory of Change?

Examples:

1. We monitor and collect data related to the State of Housing and Homelessness in the Mat-Su Borough, so that...
2. We reflect on and identify the precursors of homelessness, so that...
3. We are able to facilitate community-wide discourse on the issues, so that...
4. We can help build awareness of the general issue and sub-issues among the community, stakeholders and policy makers, so that...
5. We can develop and implement a Homelessness Prevention Plan, so that...

6. We are making progress in achieving the vision that the Mat-Su Borough is “Alaska’s most livable community” – it is healthy, connected, with dependable, reliable transit and affordable housing – people want to live and work here.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Establish three sub-committees to work on specific tasks necessary to move forward, developing a Job Description for each

- **Progress Subcommittee**
 - o Keeping track of issue area priorities as a whole
 - o Identify successes with respect to issue-area priorities
 - o Ensure compliance the directives of the coalition.
- **Data Subcommittee**
 - o Identify existing and new data sources for good decision-making
 - o Ensure collection of relevant data
 - o Analyze data to provide information to the coalition
- **Outreach Subcommittee**
 - o Outreach and Engagement Strategy
 - o How people can get involved – they want to know
 - o People want to know how they can get involved

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Based on the Theory of Change, develop a meaningful and descriptive graphic with the Coalition serving as a “Hub”

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Develop a “One-Pager” information and advocacy document to share with policy makers and other key stakeholders

- The purpose of the coalition
- Membership
- Long-term Direction
- Short-Term Priorities
- Call to Action

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Develop an Integrated Homelessness Prevention Plan, to be completed by December 2016

- Clarify what we mean by homelessness prevention
- What are the unique prevention issues for the subgroups

- Develop outcomes/successes for each issue area
- Incorporate a Community Outreach Plan as part of the final Homelessness Prevention Plan

When asked to identify our work over FY17 we responded with the following:

Priority 1: Housing Development

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

a. Expand Housing Options (Construction/Rehab/Rental Assistance)

Valley Residential Services (VRS), is a major player in expanding affordable housing options in the Mat-Su valley. They have recently added projects in Palmer and Wasilla. Vista Rose, Whispering Winds, and Aspen are three that are currently in the planning and financing stages. VRS is active in the development of new projects as well.

Cook Inlet Housing Authority has plans to build affordable housing units in Wasilla on Yenlo Avenue. The plan is on hold until roadway plans are finalized by the City of Wasilla. CIHA has not indicated how many units will be in the final plans.

Representative Don Young – While in Washington DC Representative Young mentioned the idea of using Container Homes. I agreed to research this possibility with another AKCH2 board member. In talking with Alaska Custom Containers of Big Lake, a simple 20 foot conex, with a door, one window, a small oil heater and basic insulation, would cost approximately \$25,000. This would include shipping. Elaine Dahlgren – Volunteers of America – Alaska, shared with me numerous websites showing many creative Container Home ideas. Further I contacted Jack Hebert, CEO of the Alaska Cold Climate Housing Research Center in Fairbanks for his ideas and data on research. He agreed to provide data on fuel costs related to various areas of the State in heating a Container Home with various insulation packages. He mentioned that this is a vital area of research in that we will need to replace close to 10,000 homes in rural Alaska in the near future. Together we have plans to place a proposal before Representative Don Young for funding.

b. Increase Pool of Operating Support to Preserve Existing Housing Stock

Valley Residential Services, VRS, is a major player in preserving existing affordable housing options in the Mat-Su valley. VRS manages 240 units of housing throughout the Mat-Su Valley. Affordable housing for individuals, families and seniors, people experiencing behavioral health, developmental disabilities and guidance for those who are homeless.

c. Increase Number of Units Available to Priority Populations

Blood-N-Fire Ministries - Knik House has been our latest addition to housing options for homeless individuals. This past year they have added 23 units for men and 11 for women. Also, a Sober Living program with 4 beds for women and 4 beds for men.

In meeting the needs of youth and young adults MY House has added two housing units with room for 7 men and 5 women.

Priority 2: Supportive Services

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

a. Increase Funding and Sources of Supportive Services in Underserved Areas

The Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (MSCHH) has worked extensively on seeking funding through Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, including Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant funds (ESG), and Continuum of Care funds (CoC).

Valley Residential Services (VRS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing quality, affordable housing for people with special needs. People with special needs is defined as individuals with mental or physical disabilities, homeless, experiencing low-income levels, or of advanced age. They were recognized as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) on February 4, 2000.

It is the goal of VRS to provide quality, safe and affordable housing to the residents of the Mat-Su Valley. During 2017 VRS managed and maintained over 240 housing units for individuals and families in underserved areas.

Specifically, they managed 67 units for individuals experiencing mental health issues, 14 housing units for persons living with behavioral health challenges, and 21 units helping residents working with developmental disabilities. VRS also manages and maintains 89 affordable housing units on six properties through-out the Valley. VRS maintains and manages two Senior Housing properties, both HUD properties; Mid-Valley Manor and Cranberry Ridge.

This coming year VRS will take over management of the Phase I of Whispering Winds, 44 units, in Palmer, this will be affordable Senior Housing and in 2019 they hope to expand that number to 88 with Phase II of Whispering Winds being completed.

Alaska Family Services, provides case management and behavioral health services to our low-income individuals and families. They also provide services to individuals and families experiencing domestic violence.

Working with the Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF) we have sought funds to help with coordination of services and funding for prisoner reentry. MSHF has been generous in support of seeking a path to sustainable housing for low income and returning citizens. With these funds MSRC has hired a full time case manager who will provide outreach into correctional facilities and walk returning citizens through reentry.

MSHF has also generously support the part-time position of Coalition Coordinator and our Project Homeless Connect (PHC). A summary of PHC 2017 has been included further in this document.

b. Increase Income and Employment Opportunities for Persons in Transition

MSCHH has worked closely with the Mat-Su Job Center (MSJC) and its staff in preparing persons for employment and then assisting them in finding work. MSJC offers classes in interviewing skills, resume writing, employment after incarceration, and they have identified a trained staff member to meet our clients at the door with a warm handshake and welcome.

c. Increase Outreach Services

MSRC has hired a full-time case manager to reach out to citizens returning to our community from incarceration. As a partner offering case management services, Daybreak team members work with the Department of Corrections to identify and meet with those men and women appropriate for the Valley Reentry Program.

Working with Prisoner Reentry our Mat-Su Reentry Coalition (MSRC) has added a case manager to assist men and women in finding affordable housing through local landlords. They work closely with returning citizens to find employment, meet health needs, and meet probation and parole requirements; all of which lead to more stable housing. Our partner organization, Daybreak, Inc provides case management and access to behavioral health services.

d. Maintain and/or Expand Emergency Lodging Options as Needed

Family Promise, our community response to families without housing, mobilizes community resources and local faith congregations to provide compassionate care through shelter, meals, and case management, to families without housing. During 2017 Family Promise provided transitional shelter to 46 individuals as a part of 15 families. They provide meals as well as overnight housing and friendship through their cooperative system of churches in the Mat-Su Valley.

Salvation Army, our partner in Palmer, provides emergency housing through the use of hotel vouchers and then caring case management. Their goal is to transition individuals and families into stable housing as quickly as possible. Careful use of the HAP grant funds have made this possible.

Priority 3: Education, Engagement, and Policy

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

a. Landlord Engagement, Education, and Support

During FY17 MSCHH hosted a Landlord Appreciation luncheon. Over 24 local private landlords were invited to a luncheon in Palmer at the new Salvation Army ministry center. A

time of thanks, information, and Q and A were enjoyed by all. Many concerns were expressed and addressed by the HAP partners. All present left with a clearer understanding of HAP requirements and ways we can work together to help prevent homelessness and rapidly rehouse those who are/become homeless. Having landlords know who to call before a problem gets to large is especially helpful in saving time, stress and expense with individuals and families.

b. Encourage Housing Policy at the Local Level

MSCHH has met with and coordinated with the local AHFC office. We have established a good working relationship with the staff there and seek assistance as needed.

We have also worked closely with our local governmental officials. Testifying at Palmer Planning Commission meeting in support of Sr Housing projects, planning PHC events at the Wasilla Council Chamber, and coordinating the PHC with Mayor Bert Cottle of Wasilla.

Affordable Housing Tour – On August 22nd MSCHH sponsored a tour of Mat-Su Affordable housing programs and projects. John Weaver of VRS planned and implemented the tour and invited our local Federal political offices and the Governor’s office. We were pleased to visit numerous sites across the Valley and finished with lunch sponsored by Richard Porter CEO of Knik Tribal Council. Many good questions were asked and answered and many needs demonstrated for future consideration.

Trinity Lutheran Church – Affordable Housing Forum – On August 7th MSCHH participated in this forum, we provided testimony regarding the need for affordable housing in the Valley and shared our positive experiences working with AHFC.

Faith Based Leadership Presentations – This fall we held two meetings with our local pastor’s prayer group. Pastors, Lay Pastors, and church deacons all attended. We shared our outreach efforts, housing options, interview strategies, problem solving options and resources. We hope to expand contacts and introduce more leaders in the Mat-Su to our services and resources.

c. Support Local Housing Organizations to Coordinate Planning Services and Reporting

This is the core purpose of MSCHH; “A community voice for sustainable housing and solutions to homelessness”.

Please refer to the full Strategic Plan as presented at the start of this document.

Most recently we have developed a Challenges/Solutions/Action Work Sheet that summarizes all the projects and work we have in the pipeline. I hope to have copies of a summary of this Action Worksheet for distribution at the Annual Conference in Fairbanks.

d. Expand Outreach on Use of Alaska Housing Locator

We have trained our HAP group, currently 8 participating agencies, to use the AKHFC Housing Locator tool in assisting clients. This have been effective in guiding clients to resources. We hope to expand the awareness of using this tool by sharing it with the Pastor’s Prayer Network team as well.

Priority 4: Prevention

Prevention support is essential to mitigating episodes of homelessness.

a. Eliminate Discharge to Homeless Shelters and the Streets from State Institutions

At MSCHH this is our primary strategy in helping clients. Using the funds provided by the HAP grant in FY17 we helped 2,480 clients remain in housing or find new housing. Many of these clients faced homelessness due to lack of employment and low income (694), health and safety concerns (436), or relationship issues (260); including domestic violence (90). As shared earlier our most common intervention services were rent payment assistance (463), and utility service payment assistance (355). We also assisted with transportation money (42), utility deposit assistance (42), rental deposit assistance (39), heating fuel payments (34) and assistance with basic needs (51).

b. Improve Outreach and Linkages to Housing Resources and Services

Project Homeless Connect 2017 was able to assist 208 people. 117 women and 91 men. 112 were in households with adults and children, 94 were adult only households. The majority were in rental housing units (71) and 24 had experienced eviction in the past year. 16 had experienced some form of domestic violence in 2016.

Community Awareness raised by this event is outstanding. This is demonstrated by the over 150 volunteers and vendors who choose to participate each year. Also by the continuing support of the City of Wasilla, Mayor Bert Cottle and the Mat-Su Health Foundation, CEO Elizabeth Ripley. Both have been integral in the continued success of this event. AHFC and AMHTA have also be very supportive with grants and ideas.

Our website, MSCHH.org, has been a continued source of getting the base information out to our Valley. While it is a challenge to keep it up to date the help of Laurie Kari at Family Promise has eased the burden. Laurie Kari also helps keep our Facebook page current.

c. Maintain Centralized Pool of Prevention Resources

HAP and ESG grants are crucial in our efforts at preventing homelessness. Seven agencies; Alaska Family Services, Blood-N-Fire Ministries, Daybreak, Inc, Family Promise Mat-Su, MY House, Salvation Army of Mat-Su, and Valley Charities, Inc share the responsibility of serving clients with the HAP grant funds. They offer many service along with homeless prevention. One of our strengths as a Coalition is providing an opportunity for cooperative collaboration in grant writing and in sharing resources.

Our collaborative HAP grant group, during FY2017, was able to help 2,387 clients with an average assist of \$442.68. The most popular service with 444 clients served was Rent Payment Assistance. The second most common service was Utility Service Payment with 338 clients receiving this help. Both were homeless prevention services. Males made up 49% of those served and females 51%. Most, 78.5% identified as white, 15.2% as Alaska Native or American

Indian. This closely matches the census identified demographics of the Mat-Su Valley. The majority of those served, 38% were minors; 27% were between 18 – 34 years of age and 29% were 35-59 years of age. The remaining 5% were 60+.

Having policies of “no wrong door” and a “common application” and agreed upon “policy and procedures” this working group is a force to be reckoned with. Due to the large geographic nature of the Mat-Su Valley it has been especially helpful to have agencies stretch from Palmer to Talkeetna. This enables clients to save on gas costs in accessing services, often cutting down travel distances by over 95 miles.

Priority 5: Data

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

a. Expand Homeless Service Provider HMIS Coverage

HAP, ESG, and COC grants, and client services, are all input into AKHMIS. This a source of current and accurate data that we all rely on. All of our collaborative partners have trained staff to enter data as clients are served.

We are slowly working on adding Faith Based organizations and other community agencies to the AKHMIS access team. We trained and encourage the Mat-Su School District – Families in Transition Coordinator to use AKHMIS to maximize services to homeless students and families under the McKinney-Vento Act of Congress.

Wasilla Homeless Committee is another group in the Valley who uses AKHMIS. They regularly enter services for clients they assist with clothing, food, rent and other services.

b. Develop Strategies for Gathering Homeless Data from Organizations Not Connected to HMIS

We are currently presenting to the Valley Pastors Prayer Network and exploring their possible participation in AKHMIS.

c. Coordinate Community Prevention Services

The use of AKHMIS has greatly reduced the stress of “limited community resources”. By having an opportunity to share resources and easily track the services an individual or family have received the equitable sharing of resources is made possible.

211 Alaska is used by all our collaborative partners and has helped a great deal in helping our community contact those with resources.

Further, the collaborative partners are able to meet so many additional needs as clients make them known. Referrals to partner strengths happen every week and clients are better served and often become even more sustainable.

Project Homeless Connect, PHC, is our most valuable community awareness event. It serves to connect people in need with organizations and agencies with resources.

We were able to capture many more children in the families this year and once we have a full report from AKHMIS, we will have many more details to share.

As a Connect 2017 we were able to distribute over \$8,000 worth of clothing, \$1,500 food items, provided over 75 haircuts, 15 foot massages, 300 Goodie Bags, a hot luncheon for 200 and many more items.

We had several of our 150+ vendors talk about helping more clients that in years past and overwhelmingly asking to be a part of next year's Connect 2018. A Vendor/Volunteer evaluation survey is being administered by United Way of Mat-Su and results will be shared with all.

Special thanks to Job Corp of Alaska for providing Culinary Arts and Security and Protective Services. Their students were professional, courteous, and hardworking.

MSCHH wants to also thanks our Community Tri-Coordinators; Staci Manier at United Way, Beth Westland at MS Senior Services, and Katie Rose at Families In Transition at MSBSD.

And thanks to our funders the Mat-Su Health Foundation, United Way of Mat-Su, and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. Also, thank-yous to the many community members who volunteered their time, talent and money.

In Conclusion:

As a Coalition we are dedicated to helping End Homelessness. As caring individuals in a close-knit, yet wide-spread community we are ready for the long haul. At a recent Community Health Needs Assessment meeting a Mat-Su Planner stated: "Health is everyone's issue. Housing is everyone's issue. Housing is a big issue in the Valley. If you talk to seniors is is all about Senior Housing. Talk to those in nonprofits, it is homelessness. For others, it is prisoner re-entry, veterans or addiction and abuse. We need to retain the 18 – 34 year olds. If not, you are left with those that are retiring, and the borough has a different tax bracket and we cannot offer services. It is a domino effect. Diversified housing stock is the secret."

Our target population includes agencies, organizations, and individuals who wish to learn more about meeting the needs of; homeless children, youth, students, single adults, seniors, and families of the Mat-Su Borough. We hope to serve those Mat-Su Borough residents with no permanent, adequate or regular night-time residence.

We welcome participation from all corners of the Mat-Su Borough. From Trapper Creek to Glacier View and the population, agencies, organizations in between.

We also hold monthly meetings at a central location in Mat-Su. These meetings; on Unaccompanied Youth, a Prisoner Re-Entry, a Rapid Re-Housing, MSCHH Community

meetings and Operating Board meetings are attended by CEO's, Non-Profit Coordinators, Program Leaders, private citizens from all over our Valley. Our leadership group includes members from Palmer, Sutton, Wasilla, Meadow Lakes, Knik Goose Bay, The Lakes, and Hatcher's Pass communities.

Serving this community is often a challenge, and as often very rewarding. Numerous times we have members and first time attendees thrilled to find someone who has a similar need and a possible resource to share. Collaboration and partnership building are ongoing in our Coalition. We help create new cooperative agreements monthly, often reaching miles from agency to organization.

As an example we have had representatives from as far away as Trapper Creek and Sutton join in our efforts. We are able to connect folks through telephone referrals, email contacts, and/or in-person interviews. We are currently excited to have an itinerant case manager, working with the Housing Assistance Program, traveling to the northern reaches of the Susitna Valley and offering office hours. This is helping establish a caring, support offering, face to folks who may have had no contact with housing assistance in quite some time. All of this is improving access to services for the homeless, one of our Valleys' most underserved populations.

Kenai Peninsula Continuum of Care Coalition

Kenai Peninsula Continuum of Care Coalition covers the entire Kenai Peninsula Borough – Tyonek, Nanwalek, Homer, Anchor Point, Happy Valley, Ninilchik, Clam Gulch, Kenai, Soldotna, Cooper Landing, Sunrise, Hope, Moose Pass and Seward. The Kenai Peninsula incorporates 24,752 sq. miles or roughly 1 million acres with 58,000 residents. Per the Alaska Department of Labor, the Kenai's unemployment rate for 2016 closed at 8.2%. We opened 2017 with a rate of 8.9/9.5 but managed to climb back to a 6.8% unemployment by end of summer, August 2017, with no seasonal adjustment. The oilfield layoffs have had a profound effect on the Kenai Peninsula, and related successive decreased spending for all Peninsula businesses. The effect on fixed income, low-income families has been devastating. Job losses and working hours cut coinciding with increased rents has resulted in evictions and displacements. There is a shortage of affordable housing anywhere in Alaska and the Kenai is not exempt.

But, we have not been without successes. The Continuum of Care is now preparing for our eighth (8) Project Homeless Connect. Each year there has been more awareness and involvement with the homeless at the event. With the growing community involvement, there has been a substantial growth in the agency participation in the Continuum of Care. This increased interest has resulted in some very needed facilities for defined homeless or at risk individuals, particularly those in recovery:

SUCSESSES

AHFC – Basic Homeless Assistance Programs (BHAP)

With continued access to these AHFC BHAP funds, Love INC of the Kenai Peninsula, Haven House of Homer and the Leeshore Center have been able to assist residents who are in immediate need for housing. Love INC has used these funds to provide for its' housing and utilities programs for 8 years. From October 2016 to September 30, 2017 Love INC was able to assist 632 persons in 160 households with housing placement and eviction prevention, utilities and licensing and training for employment. Leeshore Center uses BHAP funds for its' TLC – Transitional Living Center and Haven House also uses funds for transitional living. Love INC filed a Coordinated BHAP Application 2018 coordinating Leeshore and Haven House applications.

Freedom House (9 Beds) May 2017

Freedom House is a women's faith-based recovery residence in Soldotna, Alaska. The majority of women accepted into Freedom House will be coming from prisons and rehab facilities, in need of a safe place to live to stay sober and to become productive members of society. Since inception in September 2016, Freedom House has attained 75% of their acquisition and renovation funding from extraordinary community support through finances and volunteer hours to bring the building up to code. Upon the May 2017 opening, Freedom House has 9 beds, a classroom, kitchen, office, laundry room and 2.5 baths, and rentable office space.

Indigo House (10 Beds) September 2017

Opened September 2017 Indigo House provides 10 beds, men are housed upstairs and females' downstairs and Indigo House facilitates child/parent reunifications. Tenants are not excluded due to lack of income but Indigo House is sustained through rents and donations. They have

10 beds dependent upon individuals' announcement of wishing to be clean. Zero tolerance. Self-sufficiency life plans required – up to 2 years. The facility has peer support administration and requires active participation by applicants. They are funded through tenant rents and public donations.

Care Transitions of CPGH Behavioral Health (6 Beds) August 2017

Withdrawal management services has long been one of the greatest recognized service gaps in our community. While there are in-house treatment options, clients must be detoxed prior to entry. This missing piece in a puzzle that can help stabilize individuals and communities was hard to come by and often had to be sought off the Peninsula. Many chronically homeless individuals and families are in grave need of these services.

Nuk'it'un (4 beds) Spring 2016

Transitional housing, employment assistance, transportation and structured sober living for men transitioning out of corrections, rehabilitation centers or working an outpatient drug and alcohol program. Funded by donations.

Continued Successes

These new facilities join established Kenai Peninsula Agencies assisting the homeless.

Friendship Mission 2004 (10 beds)

Founded in 2004, men's' Christian rescue mission supported by donations and volunteer hours. The Mission goal is for homeless men and recently released male inmates to get a 40-hour-a-week job and get out in the community and be a good citizen.

Calvary Fellowship (34 beds) 1971 -

Christian cooperative living, encouraging 'family members' /housing applicants to participate as they are able whether they be behaviorally health affected, physically disabled persons, those pursuing addiction recovery, or fleeing domestic violence. Regardless of why, homeless persons or persons at risk are accepted in housing without time restriction. They are supported by donations from clients and staff and churches.

Transitional Living Center 1985 (25 beds)

Support Services for Central Peninsula families who are victims of domestic violence and sexual assault since 1985.

Haven House (10 beds) 1987

Homer's Haven House exists to support and empower people experiencing immediate domestic violence and sexual assault abuse, as well as survivors of past trauma.

STRUGGLES

As a second-class borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough has no social services provision. The most immediate struggle involves safety and protection for the homeless, there are no Emergency Shelters on the Kenai Peninsula.

FUTURE EFFORTS and COMMUNITY NEEDS

Continuum of Care members continue to pursue establishing housing for the homeless. There is also interest in establishing some sort of warming centers or weather-activated emergency shelters, by churches and agencies.

Report from the newly forming Seward Peninsula Housing Coalition (SPHC)

We are the newest housing coalition to form, and are still struggling to understand just how we can best support one another, and collectively address the myriad of housing needs we have in the Bering Strait Region of the Seward Peninsula.

Successes

Coalition forming

We have recognized that even in rural Alaska we have the tendency to function in silos, and that village housing challenges are interwoven with housing and homelessness challenges in Nome. Therefore, we are pulling together local non-profits with the regional housing authority, the local tribes and the regional non-profit to tackle our housing issue collaboratively. To that end we have representatives of all these organizations attending this year's AKCH2 conference.

Applying for a LIHTC

NEST brought a representative from BlueLine Development to Nome to meet with all community leaders to explain how the LIHTC process works. Since that time NEST, the local tribe and the regional housing authority have worked collaboratively to engage in the LIHTC application process.

Expanding AKCH2's Reach

In April of 2017, Brian Wilson spent three days visiting Nome and Savoonga, where he met with service providers whose programs are negatively impacted by the housing crisis, to invitations into numerous homes where people were eager for him to see first-hand the conditions they are living in, from severe overcrowding, to homes unsuitable for human habitation. This has led to a rural plenary panel and a rural track at the AKCH2 conference, and to HUD reconsidering what constitutes homeless in the Point-In-Time count. This will have a dramatic effect on Alaska's numbers.

PSH continued

NEST has received a Tier 1 CoC grant to continue with their efforts to provide housing to Behavioral Health clients coming out of homelessness and seeking treatment.

Struggles

Increase of public homelessness and inebriation

The City of Nome has called emergency meetings to discuss how to deal with the increasing numbers of homeless and inebriates on Nome's Front Street; a situation they feel has been steadily increasing. NEST has offered to form a task force.

Shelter numbers unsustainable

Every year the NEST shelter has seen their numbers increase until they have become unsafe to clients and staff, and are unsustainable.

Nome Housing report

The following is from a housing report first compiled in Jan 2016, and updated October 2017

Why Nome has a housing shortage

It costs more to build than buildings will appraise for, so the banks won't loan and there is no economic incentive to build. Therefore, Nome's housing needs are not a problem private enterprise can solve.

- **High cost of shipping to Nome with barge rates nearly equal to air freight**
- **High cost of living makes the cost of supporting a construction work force high**
- **High costs have curtailed needed infrastructure development**
 - Bringing in sewer, water and power is prohibitively expensive
 - Limited roads and gravel pads
 - Limited privately owned land = High priced limited lots
- **Renovation, weatherization & maintenance costs are prohibitive for same reasons.**
- **Additional problems caused by:**
 - Houses dating back 100+ years
 - No clear title and houses fall into disrepair
 - Lots very small and with old surveys
 - Some homes are not built fully on their own lots.
 - Some so close to lot lines that cannot rebuild because of required setback.

The need for affordable rentals is clear

Latest data shows 44% of Nome households are rentals

Hourly wage needed to afford a 2-bedroom - \$28.42

Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority

BSRHA manages rentals in Nome

- 34 units at market rate – 18 families on wait list
- 48 low-income & senior housing units – 6 on wait list
- These numbers are for qualified applicants.
- The true number of applicants is 2-3 times more but don't qualify
 - Not including those who don't apply because they know they don't qualify.

BSRHA only builds new housing in villages, not Nome

- Their latest survey in the 17 villages they serve indicates the need for 460 houses.
- Their entire funding runs \$6-7 million per year
- The cost to build an energy efficient, climate-appropriate 3-bedroom home in Savoonga in 2017 is ~\$700,000.
- Villages severely overcrowded, and people trying to relocate to Nome
- No affordable housing in Nome, so some return to village while others drift to ANC

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation - AHFC has 33 houses in Nome for families

- 42 families on wait list for a 2-bedroom (Dec 2016 data)

- 5 families on wait list for a 3-bedroom
- 4 families on wait list for a 4-bedroom
- AHFC also has barrier crimes that keep people out of low-income housing.

Rural Alaska is NOT eligible for any AHFC rental voucher programs

- This Includes rent vouchers for prisoner re-entry, kids aging out of foster care, VASH vouchers for vets, the new Moving Home program and low-income vouchers.

Nome Eskimo Community (local tribe) has limited housing program

- Has recently implemented a rental assistance program for tribal members only
- Minor weatherization efforts for shareholders for tribal members only
- Homeowners tribally enrolled in other villages but who live in Nome can't get renovation or energy improvements made.
- Is sponsoring a LIHTC project that will be open to all residents

Rental managers in town flooded with requests for housing

- Property managers report multiple calls daily
- Nome and Bering Strait Native Corporations

Consequences of lack of affordable rentals

Lack of affordable low-income housing means that privately owned, and often sub-standard housing is rented at extremely high prices.

Children, families and individuals remain trapped in poverty

- The high cost of living is not compensated for with a living wage.
- In the 'Out of Reach' study by the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), Nome ranks near the bottom with a score of 71 out of 3,144 counties surveyed when comparing rents to income.
- People making \$12 – 16/hour having to pay \$1800+/mo for a 2-bedroom apartment, while feeding families at local grocery prices
- Nome rates as one of the 'Worst Places to Grow Up' in Alaska where poverty reduces a child's future in the New York Times article, 'The Best & Worst Places to Grow Up'

Families are doubled, tripled and quadrupled up

- Brings alcohol and the potential for physical and sexual abuse into households
- Impacts kids' success at school - no quiet, no space, poor sleep
- Spreads health and social problems
- This problem is even more widespread in most of the region's villages

Housing is often sub-standard

This relates back to the high cost of renovation and energy

- Landlords are paying high-energy costs for old properties they can't afford to make energy efficient or even safe – or are unmotivated without oversight and regulation to make them compliant.
- **Fire Marshall's findings**
 - There were dramatic and dangerous findings for our community.

- Two apartment buildings were shut down due to unsafe conditions

Impacts on Foster Care & Safe Homes

- Potential foster parents not able to become licensed due to:
 - Having a relative living in the home who has a barrier crime and no other housing situation to move into.
 - Having a home with too many people in it because there is no other affordable housing available
- High numbers living in households means if a person with a barrier crime lives there, the home cannot be used as a Safe Home for a woman fleeing domestic violence.

Nome's Public Assistance Program has highest housing costs in state

- PA provides temporary housing assistance to families on ATAP.
- With no place to house them they turn to hotels, which are more expensive.
 - Reprimanded for being the highest spending of the PA offices in the state

Sample of other Nome service providers struggling with housing shortage for clients

- Behavioral Health Services – No sober or transitional housing
- Kawerak Vocational Rehab – Nowhere to house clients in training
- Arctic Access – Struggling to find housing for disabled
- Nome Community Center – Struggling with families needing housing
- Nome Public School District – Dealing with impact of students from overcrowded and unhealthy homes

Reducing capacity to solve our own problems

- Professional positions are going unfilled because people won't move to Nome.
- Numerous skilled positions at hospital, regional nonprofit, local tribe, in the trades, etc.
- We lack the talented workforce necessary to solving our many problems.

Impact on police, corrections & court system

Without access to affordable housing, and no intensive alcohol treatment, which provides sober, transitional or supportive housing, people exiting AMCC will end up back in the revolving door of arrest, ER visits and incarceration.

- This has only increased since the passage of SB91

Future Efforts

Expanding PIT across rural Alaska

We need to increase the definition of homelessness for rural communities, especially those with extreme weather conditions, where it is culturally and humanely unacceptable to leave families and individuals out in the weather to die.

- If we can count seriously overcrowded homes, and houses that are unsuitable for human habitation, rural numbers will increase dramatically.

Making AHFC programs available statewide

While there are not enough housing vouchers of all types offered by AHFC, currently none are available to other than a handful of road communities.

- In small communities, one voucher can save a small program a significant portion of its budget, and help prevent recidivism, domestic violence, alcoholism and other problems exacerbated by lack of housing.

Increasing Rural Voices

- The SPHC hopes to help more developed coalitions and urban housing and homeless programs, understand that the housing needs in and hubs and villages are interwoven with what is driving homelessness in the larger populations of the state.
- The SPHC is working to spread word across rural Alaska about the HUD PIT, the AKCH2, the Governor's Council on Homelessness, and the myriad of programs and possibilities that larger communities are aware of and had access to.
- The SPHC is working to see other rural communities form their own housing coalitions, or consider collectively forming a Rural Housing Coalition, that brings non-profits, social service providers and the regional housing authorities together with a stronger voice that participates with other members of the AKCH2.

Community Needs

We cannot end homelessness until there is housing for everyone

The idea of ending homelessness carries with it the unstated assumption that there is housing for everyone. Until this is true across the state, we cannot end homelessness.

Alaska's Plan to End Homelessness Needs Rural Numbers

The plan relies far too much on PIT numbers, which have not been collected, or the program meaningfully advertised, across rural Alaska. Until statewide participation is a reality, the plan is trying to solve a problem that has not been accurately identified.

Rural Programs need Mentorship!!!

Small communities simply don't have knowledge of existing housing programs, or the capacity to pursue and manage the myriad of housing grants that larger communities are able to take advantage of. Mentorship, and/or centralized grant management services, are need to expand functional and much needed programs to rural Alaska.

Kodiak Homeless Coalition

Kodiak's homeless population continues to struggle with a lack of accessible low income housing for our homeless population. We do have units open but they are mostly larger units with income and background requirements that are inaccessible for a large percentage of the homeless population. Brother Francis Shelter serves over 300 individuals annually and is the primary resource for the homeless population providing food, shelter, laundry, showers, and referrals. Spruce Cape Home plans to break ground on 20 units this year and intends to have some units set aside for those meeting homeless and special needs criteria. High cost of construction in Kodiak restricts the number of low income and affordable housing being built. KWRCC houses women and children escaping domestic violence. They have recently expanded their capacity up to 26 and continue to be full.

Drug and alcohol remains a problem among the population and treatment options are insufficient locally with no detox options and travel required for inpatient treatment. Salvation Army attempts to tackle wait lists and re-integration with their transitional housing program but lacks space to meet needs for women.

Many individuals and families that rely on seasonal cannery work have found a poor season this year with limited hours and long breaks. The canneries and fisheries hire a significant portion of the homeless population.

Recognizing the need for case management options for homeless individuals that is unavailable without other disorders, Providence Counseling Center applied for a grant that would dedicate a case manager to work inside Brother Francis Shelter. The grant was not successful.

Kodiak Area Mentor Program (KAMP) works with those dealing with the criminal justice system and provides support to many of those in the homeless population with resources, outreach, life classes, referrals and mentorship. KAMP continues to see successes among individuals and families that are seeking life changes and are willing to engage in supportive services.

Brother Francis Shelter Kodiak's homeless prevention program is funded and able to continue this year with prevention services reaching 280 families just last fiscal year. Brother Francis Shelter has seen a loss of funding for shelter services and is looking to fill the gap for this year. These losses reflect a trend among service providers.

Association of Alaska Housing Authorities



ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Building communities, empowering Alaskans.





ASSOCIATION OF
ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES

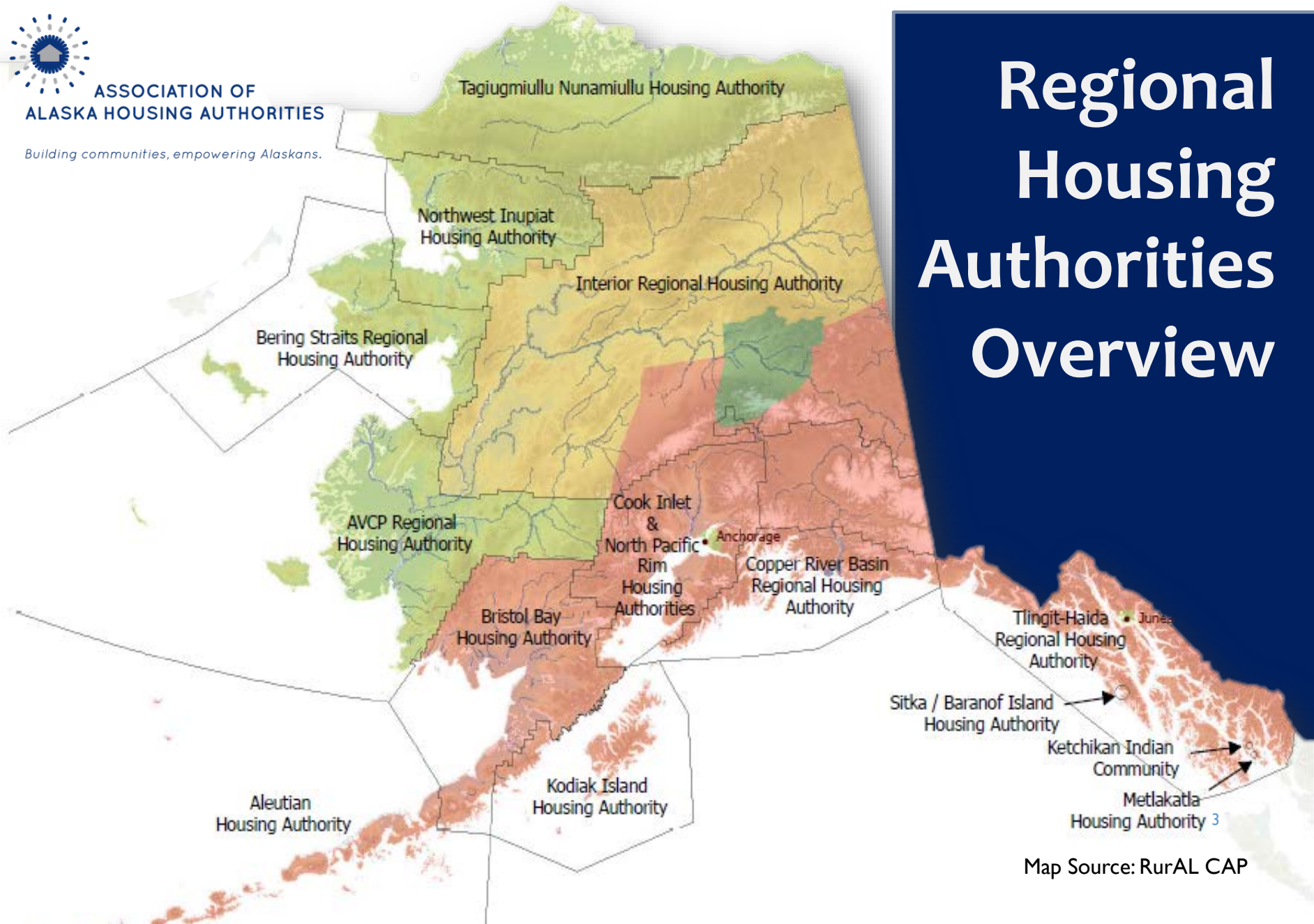
Building communities, empowering Alaskans.

Our membership includes 14
regional housing authorities and
the Alaska Housing Finance
Corporation.



ASSOCIATION OF
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Regional Housing Authorities Overview

Map Source: RurAL CAP

WHAT DOES AAHA DO...

Advocacy

- Unified State and Federal Legislative Advocacy
- Education about programs



Training & Technical Assistance

- Regional Trainings
- Direct on-site Technical Assistance
- Developing tools and Material
- Needs Assessment



TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Training and Technical Assistance (T&TA) for Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) recipients
- Builds capacity
- Improve effectiveness of Alaska's affordable housing programs
- Special emphasis on individualized on-site technical assistance



T&TA ACTIVITIES

Regional Trainings

- NAHASDA Essentials
- Meth Decontamination
- Audit Preparation
- Tribal Council
- Admissions & Occupancy
- Basic Financial Management for Small Tribes
- Oil Fired Boiler Technician Training

Direct Technical Assistance

- Resolve Monitoring Findings
- Needs Assessment
- Policy Updates
- Salary Study
- Bookkeeping Assistance
- Financial & Program Planning
- IHBG Requirements such as TDC, Useful life agreements, etc.

ADVOCACY

- Provide education to local, state and federal partners to supply safe, sanitary and affordable housing in the State of Alaska
 - AAHA has an active Legislative Committee that meets as needed to address a number of issues that arise.
 - Annually, AAHA develops State and Federal Priorities for our advocacy efforts.



AAHA STATE PRIORITIES

- Supplemental Housing Development Grant Program
- Weatherization
- MEEBA HB 81
- Senior Housing

www.aahaak.org



The screenshot shows the AAHA website header with the logo and tagline "Building communities, empowering Alaskans." Below the header is a navigation bar with links: MEMBERS, TRAINING & TECH. ASSISTANCE, ADVOCACY (circled in red), PARTNERS & FUNDING, RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS, and TRAINING & PUBLICATIONS. The main content area is titled "Advocacy" and lists "2017 Federal Legislative Priorities" and "2018 State Legislative Priorities". A red arrow points to the "2018 State Legislative Priorities" section.

ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES
Building communities, empowering Alaskans.

MEMBERS **TRAINING & TECH. ASSISTANCE** **ADVOCACY** **PARTNERS & FUNDING** **RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS** **TRAINING & PUBLICATIONS**

Advocacy

[2017 Federal Legislative Priorities](#)

1. Reauthorize appropriations for the Indian Housing Block Grant Program.
2. Inadequate NAHASDA funding levels.
3. Ensure that the Census Bureau data on Alaska Natives and American Indians is accurate throughout Alaska.

[2018 State Legislative Priorities](#)

1. AAHA strongly supports the Governor's Budget Request for the AHFC Supplemental Housing Development Grant (SHDG) Program for \$3 million.
2. AAHA strongly supports continued state investment in the AHFC Weatherization Program.
3. AAHA strongly supports the Governor's Budget Request for the AHFC Senior Citizens Housing Development Grant Program (SCHDGP) for \$1 million to meet the rapidly growing need for housing in Alaska.

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

- NAHASDA
Reauthorization
- NAHASDA Funding
- Census- Tribal Enrollment
Question; Funding



ASSOCIATION OF ALASKA HOUSING AUTHORITIES

Building communities, empowering Alaskans.

AAHA Talking Points - AAHA 2017 Federal Priorities

Issue # 1: Reauthorization of appropriations for the Indian Housing Block Grant program

- Securing funding for the IHBG is a top priority
- Having the main source of housing development funding unauthorized may draw attention for possible targeted funding cuts
- Attach the proposed language to a larger piece of legislation

Issue # 2: Inadequate NAHASDA Funding Levels

- Flat funded since inception
- BIA & IHS has seen substantial increases over the past few years
- NAHASDA has lost 50% of its purchasing power- attached inflation chart on page 17
- TDC has increased significantly
- Hasn't kept pace with population growth

Accessing more funding (opportunities):

- There may be a special opportunity with the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
- The Cantwell-Hatch bill would substantially increase the amount of tax credits Alaska would receive.
- Housing investments as infrastructure development:
- An additional LIHTC allocation is also uniquely positioned to be included in an infrastructure spending package because the program is a true public-private partnership
- [Trump quote] "Another Republican president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, initiated the last truly great national infrastructure program: the building of the interstate highway system. The time has come for a new program of national rebuilding. America has spent approximately \$6 trillion in the Middle East, all the while our infrastructure at home is crumbling. With the \$6 trillion, we could have rebuilt our country twice, and maybe even three times, if we had people who had the ability to negotiate."
- The HUD Housing Needs Study found that 70% of the Tribes and TDHEs identified developing infrastructure as one of the top three barriers of developing new housing.

Issue # 3: Ensure that the Census Bureau data on Alaska Natives and American Indians is accurate throughout Alaska.

- The American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) population is notoriously difficult to count accurately.

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OTHER INITIATIVES

- Homelessness
- Health and Housing
- Income Limits/Cost of Living Differential
- BIA-HIP Program
- Housing Counseling Certification Requirements

HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Provide education about the housing needs to your local, state and federal partners
 - City Council
 - Tribal Council
- Collect stories. Both success stories and stories that express the need for housing
- Submit testimony or public comment both to State Legislature and Congressional committees
- Open communication with the Regional Housing Authority or Tribal Housing entity in the community

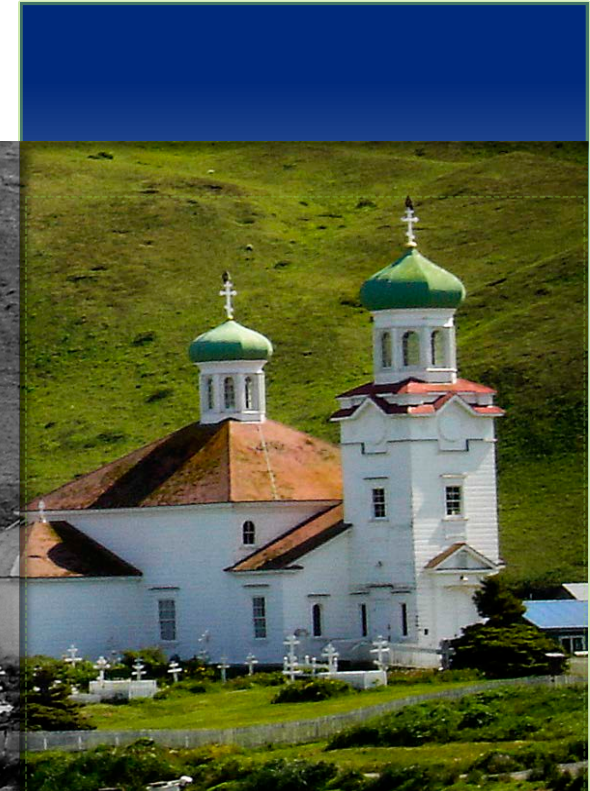




ASSOCIATION OF
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HOW CAN AAHA HELP YOUR ORGANIZATION?



Qagaasakung- Thank you



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Alaska Supportive Housing Plan

Alaska DHSS Strategic Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing for Vulnerable Alaskans Progress Report Governor's Council on Homelessness October 23, 2017		
Goal		Progress
1	Develop a policy framework to guide implementation of PSH as an essential component of DBH's service system	DHHS with housing stakeholders has developed a draft crosswalk plans from the Governor's Housing Summit, the Governor's Council on Homelessness and the DHSS plan. Alaska was awarded an Innovation Accelerator Program technical assistance opportunity. We will use this structure to update the Plan for Permanent Supportive Housing, recognize achievements and revise action steps as appropriate. This will not be a complete revision of the Plan but merely an update on "where are now and where are we going".
2	Establish a coordinated and consistent approach to housing and housing related services across all DHSS Divisions	DHSS (Senior and Disability Services, Healthcare Services and Behavioral Health Services) has developed a preliminary crosswalk of housing services across the three DHSS divisions. AHFC and the Trust have been a part of the discussions to insure that gaps are identified and duplication minimized.
3	Establish a PSH pipeline to create between 465 and 615 PSH opportunities over the next five years	1. The Moving Home Program Vouchers (150) are at 100% utilization with a 90% retention rate. Vouchers have been available in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su, Petersburg, Sitka, Soldotna, Valdez and Wrangell. These vouchers, when available, are awarded to individuals based on homelessness and other vulnerability factors, who are eligible for DHSS services and who meet federal Housing and Urban Development criteria. This is a successful program in partnership with AHFC. 2. The Section 811 Housing Project Rental Assistance program will be

		available as a pilot to 10 individuals (5 from SDS and 5 from DBH) in late fall/early winter, 2017. This program draws upon General Relief funding (DHSS), federal Housing and Urban Development funding through AHFC and Trust funding to transition participants from Assisted Living Homes into community-based scatter site apartments. AHFC is coordinating with NeighborWorks to establish the first 10 units. DBH and SDS are coordinating the application and referral process. The pilot will be available in Anchorage, but going forward this is a state-wide program that honors the interests, individual strengths and needs of participants throughout the state. The pilot is the first step toward achieving rental subsidies and supports for 200 individuals to access appropriate integrated living opportunities. 3. DBH and AHFC have explored the use of Medicaid to support programs funded through Special Needs Housing Grants. Originally Medicaid was projected as a potential revenue source for Special Needs Housing Granted programs. The service provided through SNHG are general supports and do not appear to fall into the Medicaid reimbursable services array.
4	Establish a PSH Clearinghouse to coordinate the timely referral of eligible households for PSH opportunities	No specific report from DHSS at this time related to this goal.
5	Establish a funding source for services delivered in supportive housing settings that is sustainable and tailored to the needs of individuals	DHSS was awarded a technical assistance opportunity through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP). The expressed goals of this program are to: 1. develop public and private partnerships between the Medicaid and housing systems; and 2. to support states in the creation of detailed action plans that foster additional community living opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries. The team consists of DHSS representatives including Healthcare Services (Medicaid) and

		housing partners (AHFC, Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities).The team attended a face to face meeting in August and is scheduled for a second face to face in November. Telephonic semi-monthly meetings are schedule over the course of the next 6 months to continue to identify sustainable funding sources.
6	Expand service delivery in home- and community-based settings to promote housing stability and community integration	DBH has expanded grant funded supported employment programs from 3 to 5. The 811 Program is drawing is drawing on General relief funding that subsidizes rent in Assisted Living Homes to follow the person into homes in the community. DBH is funding an evidence based practice Assertive Community Treatment, Intensive Case Management and Permanent Supportive Housing. DHSS is measuring fidelity to these evidence based practices to insure services are developed appropriately and effectively.
7	Strengthen community provider workforce capacity to delivery home- and community-based housing services that promote wellness, recovery, and community integration	DHSS funds training for practitioners in evidence based practice housing and employment services.

Alaska Supportive Housing Plan Goals and Action Steps
Amended October 20, 2017

Goal	Recommended Action Steps
Goal 1 The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) and the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services (DHSS), working together with their respective partners and stakeholders, will oversee and coordinate implementation of the objectives of the Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Plan within their respective organizational structures. AHFC and DHSS will twice yearly jointly report on progress to the Alaska Council on the Homeless.	1a. Ensure that all appropriate PSH activities by AHFC and DHSS include coordinating access and services for those individuals who are involved across the DHSS, Department of Corrections (DOC), and Homelessness/Continuum of Care (CoC) systems. 1b. Develop and implement outcome/performance measures related to access, housing stability, tenancy, and community integration. 1c. Continue to align the PSH plan with statewide housing planning efforts, including those needs identified during Governor Walker's Housing Summit, and over time by the Alaska Council on the Homeless and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and its beneficiary boards.
Goal 2 Establish a coordinated and consistent approach to housing and housing related services across all DHSS Divisions.	2a. Seek to create a standing committee within DHSS to coordinate policy, practice, and services related to DHSS-supported housing and residential programs. 2b. DHSS to direct a department-wide assessment to estimate the need for PSH and other residential service options for vulnerable Alaskans served across all DHSS divisions.

Goal 3 Establish a Permanent Supportive Housing pipeline to create between 400 and 500 PSH opportunities from 2015 - 2020.	3a. AHFC, DHSS, and its partner and stakeholder agencies work to leverage all available supportive housing resources, public and private, to encourage both the production of permanent supportive housing and the use of innovative financing models to create PSH projects.
Goal 4 Establish a Permanent Supportive Housing Clearinghouse to coordinate the timely referral of eligible households for housing opportunities.	4a. AHFC and DHSS will partner to develop and implement a PSH Clearinghouse to coordinate the referral and supportive service provision of eligible households for PSH opportunities. 4b. Coordinate the development and implementation of any coordinated entry efforts with the State's two Continuum of Care organizations. 4c. Provide PSH property owners and managers with sustained training opportunities to build understanding of their obligation under the Federal Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, with the goal of eliminating barriers to access and reducing stigma.
Goal 5 Establish a variety of funding sources for services delivered in supportive housing settings that are flexible, sustainable, and tailored to individual needs	5a. Utilize the existing Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) Technical Assistance opportunity provided to the State by CMS to review each of the specific actions and objectives in this plan to acknowledge achievements to date and revise specific actions and objectives as appropriate at this point in time. 5b. To the extent feasible, using the vehicle of DHSS' planned application to CMS for an 1115 Behavioral Health Demonstration Waiver, work to maximize Medicaid coverage of the services involved in providing supportive housing activities.

Goal 6 Expand service delivery in home- and community-based settings to promote housing stability and community integration.	6a. Design services to be provided in home and community settings that will promote housing stability and community integration.
	6b. Improve provider performance in supporting individuals to achieve housing stability and community integration.
	6c. Adapt home- and community-based services and delivery of services to meet the needs of individuals living in rural and remote Hub and village communities.
Goal 7 Strengthen community provider workforce capacity to delivery home- and community-based housing services that promote wellness, recovery, and community integration	7a. Work to develop a PSH certification requirement for providers receiving state, federal, or Trust funds to deliver housing services.
	7b. Identify providers who excel in delivering services aligned with the principles and practices of PSH and community integration to serve as role models, system champions, and peer provider coaches to other providers.

Alaska Council on the Homeless

Resolution 2017-1

Whereas, the Alaska Council on the Homeless adopted Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness on October 13, 2015; and

Whereas, the Alaska Council on the Homeless acknowledges that Supportive Housing is one necessary strategy to end long term homelessness; and

Whereas, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority commissioned the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan as published December 18, 2015; and

Whereas, the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan outlines goals and action steps for housing and service development to end long term homelessness; and

Whereas, the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan goals and action steps were amended on October 20, 2017 by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation; and

Whereas, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation will partner to implement the amended goals and action steps of the Alaska Supportive Housing Plan;

Therefore, be it resolved that, the Alaska Council on the Homeless formally endorses the October 20, 2017 Alaska Supportive Housing Plan amended goals and action steps as a companion to Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness.

Adopted this _____ day of October, 2017.

Bryan Butcher, Council Chairman

Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness

Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness 2017 Progress Report

The Alaska Council on the Homeless adopted *Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness* (Plan) in October 2015. The Plan is designed as a framework for communities to utilize in their local planning efforts around issues of homelessness. It is organized around five priorities; housing development, supportive services, education, engagement and policy, and data. Within each priority are recommended strategies for communities and state agencies to guide progress in addressing a specific priority.

This progress report covers the second year of the Plan from July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 with accomplishments reported by communities and state agencies, including the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Department of Corrections (DOC), Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), Department of Public Safety (DPS), Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA).

Priority 1: Housing Development *Every Alaskan should have access to an affordable, accommodating, and safe place to call home.*

Strategy: Expand Housing Options (Construction/Rehab/Rental Assistance)

- AHFC's Greater Opportunities for Affordable Living (GOAL) program provided funding to construct 209 rental units for low-income Alaskans. Of those units, 35% were set-aside for homeless or disabled Alaskans.
- Nome's Local Tribe, Nome Eskimo Community, utilized a portion of their Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) funding to develop a new rental assistance program for tribal members.
- The Fairbanks Rescue Mission, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, began construction of the Joshua Community Projects, a ten unit supportive housing program.
- Construction in Kodiak by Spruce Cape Homes will result in 20 new units with some units designated for special needs populations and persons experiencing homelessness.
- Anchorage developed a family housing program with the support of private funding that provides 6 months of rental assistance and 12 months of case management. In FY17, 30 families (108 persons) were supported through this new program.
- Valley Residential Services began the planning and financing stages for three new affordable housing projects in the Mat-Su Valley.
- Volunteers of America developed 40 units of affordable housing in Juneau through Phase II of Terraces at Lawson Creek. 14 of those units are dedicated to persons with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness.

- Trillium Landing Seniors Housing was developed in Juneau in FY17 which will provide 9 fair market rentals and 40 reduced income rentals.
- The City and Borough of Juneau awarded 12 grants to homeowners through the Accessory Apartment Grant Program and 6 loans to Alaskans needing down payment assistance through the Mobile Home Down Payment Assistance Program.
- AHFC awarded 32 sponsor-based rental assistance vouchers to the Juneau Housing First Collaborative's Forget Me Not Manor project.

Strategy: Increase Pool of Operating Support to Preserve Existing Housing Stock

- Nome Eskimo Community utilizes a portion of their NAHASDA funding to support tribal member home renovations.
- The AMHTA and AHFC provided operating support to assist 277 households in permanent housing across the state through the Special Needs Housing Grant Program.

Strategy: Increase Number of Units Available to Priority Populations

- Blood-N-Fire Ministries in the Mat-Su Valley added 23 units for men and 11 units for women experiencing homelessness.
- MY House in the Mat-Su Valley has added two housing projects for youth and young adults that provide assistance for 7 men and 5 women.
- Gastineau Human Services in Juneau expanded their transitional housing program for men.
- 20 new units of permanent supportive housing were made available in Anchorage through RurAL CAP's 325 East Third Avenue property.
- Construction of Juneau Housing First Collaborative's Forget Me Not Manor was mostly completed in FY17 which will result in 32 beds of permanent supportive housing.
- 100 families per month received rental assistance from AHFC, in partnership with DOC, through the Returning Home Program which provides assistance for persons released from Corrections.
- DHSS and AHFC provided rental assistance for 150 families per month who were transitioning into housing from homelessness or institutional settings through the Moving Home Housing Program.
- AHFC and DHSS Office of Children's Services provided rental assistance to 20 youth, aged 18-24, per month who were transitioning out of foster care.

- 185 families per month were served through AHFC's Empowering Choice Housing Program which provides rental assistance to families displaced due to domestic violence and sexual assault.
- AHFC, in partnership with the Veteran's Administration, administered 271 rental assistance vouchers for veterans experiencing homelessness through the Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program.
- The Kenai Peninsula saw the development of a 6-bed detox center, the opening of Indigo House which provides 10 beds for individuals wishing to be clean of addictions, 9 beds for women exiting prison or rehab through Freedom House, and 4 beds through the Nuk'it'un transitional housing for men exiting corrections, rehab, or working on outpatient drug and alcohol problems.

Priority 2: Supportive Services *Individuals and families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness should have access to all eligible services and supports.*

Strategy: Increase Funding and Sources of Supportive Services in Underserved Areas

- Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center increased their total number of available beds and can now house 26.
- Juneau Housing First Collaborative, with partners St. Vincent de Paul and Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWARE), applied for supportive services and funding for a pilot scattered site housing first project through the Balance of State Continuum of Care program which is expected to support 6 units to begin operation in FY18.
- Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc. developed a health care clinic for case management, behavioral health, and primary care services in coordination with the Juneau Housing First Collaborative's Forget Me Not Manor to begin providing services in FY18.
- The AMHTA and DOC continue to partner on the Discharge Incentive Grant Program that provides housing placement and services support to individuals re-entering the community.

Strategy: Increase Income and Employment Opportunities for Persons in Transition

- Love INC of the Kenai Peninsula assists people in restoring their lapsed certification, licenses, and training in order to gain employment.

Strategy: Increase Outreach Services

- NeighborWorks Alaska employed a part-time mobile outreach assessor to collect Coordinated Entry data for clients who would not typically access services at local service agencies. That data was entered into HMIS and helped clients into housing placements.

- Juneau increased street outreach efforts in preparation for the Forget Me Not Manor opening. This included additional case management and completion of housing assessments and surveys for Juneau's unsheltered homeless population. Activities were partially funded by the Juneau Community Foundation and the AMHTA.

Strategy: Maintain and/or Expand Emergency Lodging Options as Needed

- Anchorage's Emergency Cold Weather Shelter program continued to provide shelter for up to 24 families per night from October to May through the support of 9 churches and numerous volunteers.
- In FY17, The City and Borough of Juneau's (CBJ) Homeless Taskforce recommended that the CBJ work with emergency shelter operators to set-up a winter warming shelter from November - April on nights when temperatures drop below 32 degrees.
- The DPS continued to provide funding to support emergency shelters across the state that provide assistance for Alaskans fleeing domestic violence and sexual assault through their partnership with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
- The AMHTA and AHFC supported 17 emergency shelters statewide through the Basic Homeless Assistance Program.

Priority 3: Education, Engagement, and Policy Community and statewide education, engagement, and policy efforts among stakeholders and interested parties is central to addressing issues of homelessness.

Strategy: Landlord Engagement, Education, and Support

- In Fairbanks, the Salvation Army, Restore Inc., the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living, and a number of local veteran's services are actively engaging and recruiting landlords to participate in voucher driven housing programs.
- The United Way of Anchorage secured resources in FY17 to fund a landlord liaison program in the community.
- The Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness hosted a landlord appreciation luncheon for 24 local, private landlords where they provided information about services available, answered landlord questions and concerns, and discussed ways to partner in efforts to prevent homelessness and rapidly re-house those who become homeless.

Strategy: Encourage Housing Policy at the Local Level

- At the request of the City of Nome, The Nome Emergency Shelter Team (NEST) is leading a taskforce on the increasing number of homeless Alaskans in their community.

- The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) hired a Chief Housing Officer in FY17 who staffed the CBJ Homeless Task Force. In collaboration with local providers, the Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, Juneau Police Department, and Downtown Business Association, the task force provided recommendations to the CBJ on solutions to address street homelessness.
- The AMHTA partnered with the Municipality of Anchorage and City of Fairbanks to create Housing and Homeless Coordinator Positions within the Mayor's office to lead efforts to reduce homelessness.

Strategy: Support Local Housing Organizations to Coordinate Planning Services and Reporting

- The Seward Peninsula Housing Coalition is a newly developing housing coalition that brings together local non-profits, the regional housing authority, and local tribes to collaboratively address housing issues in the region.
- The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness is the lead orchestrator for the community's Coordinated Entry System which coordinates housing and supportive services for clients prioritized on one of the Coordinated Entry lists. Since implementation in January 2017, 99 single adults, 183 families, and 34 transition-age-youth have been housed.
- The Juneau Housing and Homeless Coalition submitted their first collaborative application for funding to the City and Borough of Juneau Social Services Block Grants and the Juneau Community Foundation with funding awarded at nearly requested levels.
- The AMHTA and AHFC continue to support the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness executive director position to provide statewide education, engagement, and policy efforts on issues of housing and homelessness.

Strategy: Expand Outreach on Use of Alaska Housing Locator

- The Mat-Su Valley's coordinated group of housing and service programs provide staff training on the use of the Alaska Housing Locator and find it to be an effective tool in guiding clients to resources.

Priority 4: Prevention *Prevention support is essential to mitigating episodes of homelessness.*

Strategy: Eliminate Discharge to Homeless Shelters and the Streets from State Institutions

- The Brother Francis Shelter in Anchorage implemented a respite care program for clients newly discharged from medical treatment which provides space for clients to recuperate from acute physical ailments or injury on a short-term basis.

Strategy: Improve Outreach and Linkages to Housing Resources and Services

- Anchorage hired a part-time mobile outreach assessor that regularly went to shelters not using HMIS, homeless camps, and the public library to identify clients not connected to HMIS or supportive services.
- The Mat-Su Health Foundation, in partnership with the Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, has hired a full time case manager who provides outreach into correctional facilities and helps returning citizens navigate the reentry process.
- Communities throughout the state hosted a Project Homeless Connect event in January to connect persons experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness with service providers and housing assistance.
- DOC is updating their inmate database to include a homeless screen which will help identify and track individuals in need of housing and will increase the coordination of care services prior to release into the community.
- The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness in partnership with stakeholders and service providers designed and launched the Anchorage Coordinated Entry System.
- The Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, in coordination with AHFC and housing and homeless leadership throughout Alaska, began the design phase of the Balance of State Coordinated Entry System with implementation expected in FY18.

Strategy: Maintain Centralized Pool of Prevention Resources

- Brother Francis Shelter in Kodiak serves as the centralized location for prevention resources for their community with approximately 96% of Kodiak's prevention resources administered through that organization.
- The Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, in coordination with partner agencies, maintains a centralized pool of prevention resources from state and local funding sources.
- Over 1,800 households were provided prevention assistance by 24 organizations statewide through AHFC's Basic Homeless Assistance Program in partnership with the AMHTA.

Priority 5: Data *Timely and accurate data is essential to making housing and homeless policy decisions.*

Strategy: Expand Homeless Service Provider HMIS Coverage

- The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, and AHFC have partnered with the Institute for Community Alliances,

HMIS System Administrator, to expand HMIS utilization. The implementation of coordinated entry, data sharing, and increased outreach efforts resulted in 7 new organizations reporting data in HMIS in FY17.

Strategy: Develop Strategies for Gathering Homeless Data from Organizations Not Connected to HMIS

- The Nome Emergency Shelter Team (NEST) and Seward Peninsula Housing Coalition are working towards engaging other rural hubs and regions in the annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT) and the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- To encourage robust data collection and reporting efforts, Love INC of the Kenai Peninsula provides staffing support to partner agencies that are limited in capacity and resources to fully participate in the HMIS.
- The DEED gathers information from school districts throughout the state to generate an annual report on homeless children and youth.
- The Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, and AHFC continue to gather homeless data from organizations not connected to the system through the annual Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Chart.

Strategy: Coordinate Community Prevention Services

- Community prevention services are coordinated in some communities through AHFC's Basic Homeless Assistance Program.

State Agency Updates

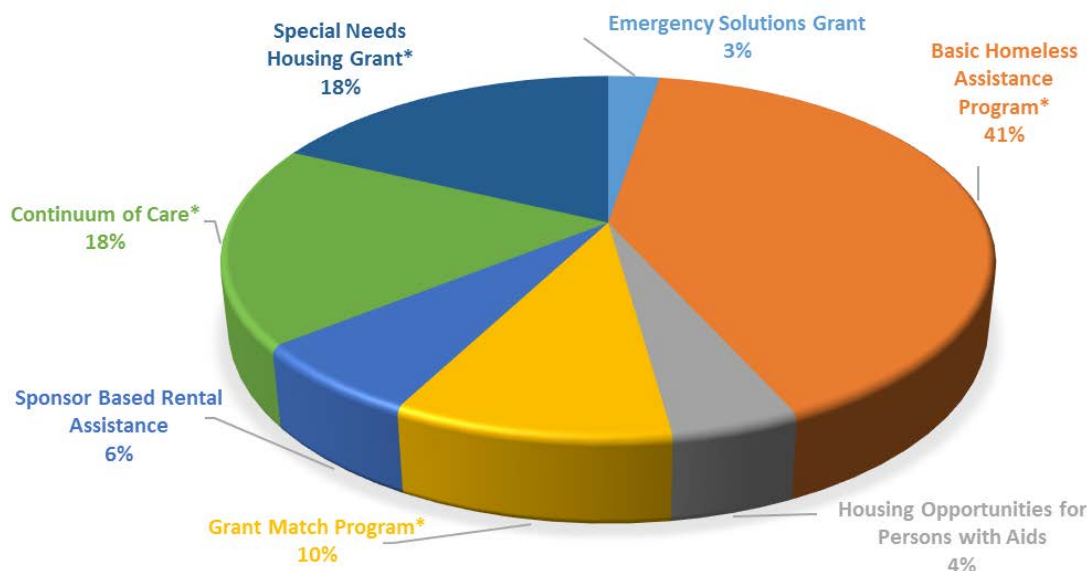
Agency Report: Homeless and Supportive Housing

Beyond our lending and energy efficiency programs, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) funds three fundamental services for Alaskans: Housing Support, Construction, and Rental Assistance.

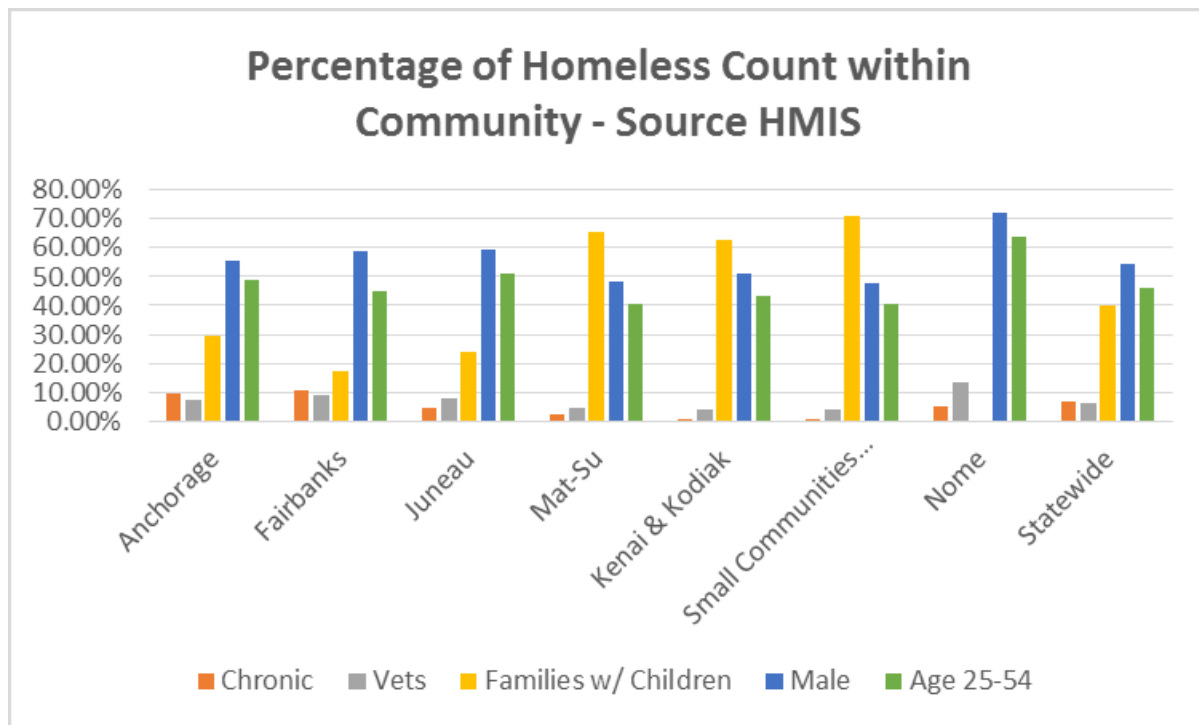
Housing Support for SFY 2017: AHFC and its partners utilize seven programs to support the full spectrum of housing needs statewide: shelter operations (homeless, domestic violence), rapid re-housing and prevention services, Re-Entry, and transitional and permanent supportive housing. AHFC administers all programs noted below except the Continuum of Care. State programs are noted with an asterisk *.

Program	Communities Served	Alaskans Served	Daily Cost Per Alaskan Served
Emergency Solutions Grant	5	1,524	\$0.68
Basic Homeless Assistance Program*	13	12,488	\$1.37
Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids	3	262	\$7.02
Grant Match Program*	5	425	\$9.40
Sponsor Based Rental Assistance	4	129	\$20.49
Continuum of Care	6	317	\$22.88
Special Needs Housing Grant*	8	285	\$25.33
Total	16	15,430	average \$2.62

ANNUAL PROGRAM RESOURCES: HOMELESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING



The distribution of Alaskans served within their respective communities were reported below by cohort for SFY 2017. Please note, these figures omit domestic violence shelters.



Housing Support Partners: Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Department of Corrections, Department of Health and Social Services, Public Housing Division.

Construction in SFY 2017: In SFY 2017, 35% of the 209 rental units funded in the multi-source Greater Opportunity for Affordable Living (GOAL) round were set-aside for homeless and / or disabled Alaskans in five communities. Construction will take place throughout SFY 2018 at a collective development cost of \$60M. These units provide integrated rental housing opportunities in 7 properties; 98% of the units for homeless and disabled Alaskans will receive support services through nonprofit partners.

Over the past three years, 29% of the 573 units built or renovated through the GOAL program funds were set-aside for homeless and / or disabled Alaskans. 167 of these units receive support services through non-profit service providers.

Housing Construction Partners: the Rasumson Foundation, Kenai Peninsula Housing Initiatives, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, Swell LLC, the Pacific Companies, Cordes Development.

Rental Assistance:

Empowering Choice Housing Program

The Empowering Choice Housing Program was started in 2012 through a combination of state and federal funds to serve homeless families displaced due to domestic violence and sexual assault. This is a two year time-limited program in which families are referred to their local AHFC office by an approved Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault member agency. The program serves 185 families per month.

Making A Home Housing Program

In partnership with the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Office of Children's Services this program provides youth that are 18-24 and transitioning out of foster care with thirty six months of rental assistance. This program is managed in collaboration with an Office of Children's Services Independent Living Specialist who works with the youth to help them with the skills needed to live independently for the first time. This program serves 20 youth per month.

Moving Home Housing Program

The Moving Home Housing Program is a rental assistance program designed to help individuals or families transition into housing from homelessness or institutional settings. Families must have a person with a disability or an eligible Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority beneficiary residing in the household. This person must be eligible to receive services and applies through their community-based service organization. In many cases these families will transition from state funded assisted living homes into supported rental properties, thereby reducing the State's assisted living costs while simultaneously creating a new partnership with federal housing funds. This program serves 150 families per month.

Returning Home Housing Program

In partnership with the Alaska Department of Corrections the Returning Home program was developed to provide voucher rental assistance to persons released from Corrections. The goal of this program is to reduce re-incarceration rates. With no assistance, 66% of people released from Corrections return to prison, however, under this program that statistic has been flipped and only 34% have re-offended and been returned to incarceration. This program serves 100 families per month, and hopes to expand in the near future.

Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)

The VASH program continues to be a successful partnership with the Veteran's Administration (VA). The VA provides case management for homeless veterans and AHFC provides a housing choice voucher. AHFC currently administer 271 VASH vouchers throughout the state. This partnership has been successfully serving homeless veterans since the initial offering of HUD-VASH in 2008 and due to its success the Alaska allocation continues to increase.

Housing First Programs

Karluk Manor and Forget Me Not Manor are two housing first models which AHFC supports through its Sponsor-based Rental Assistance program. Both Karluk Manor and Forget Me Not Manor were selected under a competitive Special Needs Housing Grant process. The designated population that receives the assistance is homeless families or individuals who meet the definition of an Alaska Mental Health Trust beneficiary. Karluk Manor is managed through an agreement with RuralCAP in Anchorage and assists 48 units. Forget Me Not Manor is managed through an agreement with the Juneau Housing First Collaborative in Juneau and assists 32 units.

MEMO

To: Alaska Council on the Homeless
From: Steve Williams, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Date: October 19, 2017
Re: The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Housing Focus Area

Data indicates that Trust beneficiaries have an increasingly hard time achieving housing stability due to economic challenges and difficulty accessing services. Some beneficiaries who would thrive in supported housing end up in higher levels of care or fall into circumstances that lead to incarceration, homelessness or even death.

In 2006, the Trust established a housing focus area to target both the high incidence of homelessness and the statewide housing shortage that disproportionately affects Trust beneficiaries.

This focus area concentrates on increasing the availability of housing options that are best suited to the needs of beneficiaries and which will improve or sustain their quality of life.

Supported housing is a combination of a safe home and services which are intended to maximize independence in a cost-effective way to help individuals live more stable and productive lives. Supported services may include service coordination medication management, independent living skills, individual or group therapy, vocational services, and mental or physical health services.

Major supported housing initiatives that have been backed by this focus area have included the Karluk Manor Housing First facility in Anchorage, the Juneau Housing First Project, and the Tanana Chiefs Conference Housing First facility in Fairbanks.

An evaluation of the Anchorage and Fairbanks Housing First Program concluding in 2014 revealed significant declines in alcohol consumption, higher levels of engagement in the community, fewer symptoms of depression and lower levels of pain for Housing First participants. Emergency room utilization cost reduced 36% from an average cost of \$4,175 per individual to \$1,513 at the end of the second year of residence.¹

¹ *Evaluating Housing First Programs in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska: Final Report, Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies, University of Alaska Anchorage, May 2017*

For FY19, the Trust's continued focus on housing will include over \$2.1 million dollars in grant funding. This will include:

Project Title	Grantee	FY19 Amount
Special Needs Housing Grant	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	\$200.0
Homeless Assistance Project	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	\$950.0
Flexible Special Needs Housing "rent-up"	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	\$150.0
DOC Discharge Incentive Grants	Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	\$100.0
Housing Continuum and Assisted Living Targeted Capacity Development Training	University of Alaska Anchorage - Center for Human Development	\$50.0
Office of Integrated Housing	DHSS, Division of Behavioral Health	\$122.0
SDS Supported Housing Program Manager	DHSS, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services	\$71.0
Municipality of Anchorage Housing Coordinator	Municipality of Anchorage	\$196.5
City of Fairbanks Housing Coordinator	City of Fairbanks	\$100.0
City of Juneau Housing Coordinator	City and Borough of Juneau	\$100.0
Legal Resources for Trust Beneficiaries	Alaska Legal Services Corporation	\$75.0
		\$2,114.5



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Corrections**

Commissioner's Office

550 W 7th Avenue, Suite 1800
Anchorage, AK 99501-3570
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The Alaska Department of Corrections recognizes that homelessness and housing are variables that have a direct effect on individuals cycling in and out of incarceration. For those men and women who release from prison into homelessness, they'll fight massive uphill battles. Family reunification, employment, treatment and other supervision conditions are compounded when basic needs -- such as housing and food -- are not met.

ADOC is committed to ensuring individuals releasing from incarceration have options available to them to meet their housing needs, whether transitional or permanent, as well as have access to the support services needed to ensure an individual can succeed and remain out of the correctional system.

Currently, nearly 5,000 people reside in our prisons and community residential centers. The reality for some? Our institutions are the most stable housing they've had. And nearly everyone coming through the correctional system will need reentry planning and transitional services, with collaboration from community partners. This process needs to begin upon arrest.

In the New Year, ADOC will be able to contact individuals in need of stable, safe housing, or other essential services -- like behavioral health, food, or transportation -- in a much more streamlined manner with the launch of our Pretrial Enforcement Division. The division will also help keep low-risk defendants in the community, with a stable income and the ability to afford housing while awaiting resolution to their criminal case.

For the thousands of people housed in our institutions, ADOC recognizes that essential to the reentry process is the learning and miming of daily living habits while at home and within the community. For example, inmates are responsible for the cleanliness of their living space, and can purchase goods from the "store" instead of placing a commissary order. This also includes teaching social skills through staff and inmate interactions. Facilities are also trying to develop ways to engage individuals in a more community-minded way. Some segregated areas now have "porches" for inmates -- so they can step outside and talk to those around them. There are also "safe cells" where inmates can go and "check-out" for a bit. These include beautiful scenery images and nature sounds; a place where someone can sit and relax. These small things can play a big role in preparing an individual prerelease.

Efforts also include ADOC and its partners offering Ready to Rent classes, a program that is designed to help individuals overcome barriers associated with renting and prepare them to be good renters.

Focusing on the transitional phase, the Alaska Department of Corrections continues to expand on collaborative partnerships with service providers and various agencies throughout the state. These partnerships are critical to the reentry process. Having options for safe, sober and supportive housing is

vital for one's success upon release. Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) remains integral in the role of assisting reentrants upon release. AHFC has increased the capacity of the Returning Home Program for reentrants and offers vouchers throughout Alaska including Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Petersburg, Sitka, Soldotna, Valdez, Wasilla and Wrangell.

Progress has been made not only with the capacity of housing opportunities for reentrants, but also with the transition piece. This includes Institutional Probation Officers working with reentrants and community partners pre-release with the goal of having a set reentry plan identified and formalized prior to the transition out. It is as simple as knowing where you will lay your head each night.

Looking forward, ADOC intends on establishing more formalized options and partnerships for transitional housing. This includes looking at ways to transition individuals out into the community in a safe and supportive way. Housing options in the future may include smaller transitional homes; while ADOC models Therapeutic Living Communities within the institutions, the concept needs to be expanded upon for reentrants.

The Department of Corrections is also currently updating their inmate database, which includes a homeless screen and the ability to document that upon intake. This will help identify and track individuals in need of housing and will increase the coordination of care services prior to release into the community.

The Department of Corrections continues to want to be part of the problem-solving process and work toward solutions. ADOC remains focused on returning individuals home -- in a safe, supported manner - - whether to Juneau, Fairbanks, Kotlik or Chevak. We will continue to work with the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission to review and work on federal barriers to housing while working at a local level, as well. We recognize a house is not the same as a home. We want people to be in an environment where they can thrive, not just survive.

For number's sake:

2017 costs	Daily	Yearly
Institutional Hard Bed	\$149.62	\$54,611.30
Community Soft Bed	\$105.25	\$38,416.25
Returning Home Voucher (AHFC)	\$25.25 (average statewide)	\$9,072 (average statewide)
Transitional Bed (represents average of different providers)	\$22.00 (average statewide)	\$7,800 (average statewide)

As evident from the above graph, transitioning individuals out into the community in a holistic manner, which includes accountability, wrap-around services and basic needs is a win-win for all parties involved and fiscally makes sense.

Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Department of Education & Early Development



Purpose of Federal McKinney-Vento Act:

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youths. Homeless children and youths must have access to the educational and related services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State academic standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. DEED and local educational agencies (LEAs) are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as barriers to the identification, enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youths.

DEED Goals for the 2017-2018 School Year

- Partner with other State and National organizations to gather data regarding children experiencing homelessness in Alaska
- Increase awareness of districts/schools about statewide homeless issues and statistics.
- Continue refining the identification of children experiencing homelessness at the school level using the most current information and resources.
 - o Provide guidance to help schools/districts utilize statewide data to help make educational and fiscal decisions regarding the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program.

Education for Homeless Children as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan

1. Student Identification
 - a. Identification and reporting of students experiencing homelessness
2. Process for when disputes arise regarding the enrollment or educational placement (school selection) of homeless children and youth
3. Support for School Personnel
 - a. Training on the requirements of homeless identification, data collection and support
4. Access to Services
 - a. Access to public preschool
 - b. Equal access to public secondary education services if separated from public schools
 - c. Remove barriers to accessing academic and extracurricular activities.
 - i. Career and Technical Education, Advanced Placement classes, online learning, dual credit, sports, clubs, summer school, etc.
5. Strategies to address enrollment delays and other problems
 - a. Immunizations and other required health records
 - b. Residence requirements
 - c. Lack of birth certificates, school records and other documents
 - d. Guardianship issues
 - e. Uniform or dress code requirements
6. Assistance for Counselors
 - a. Provide support and information to prepare and improve the readiness of homeless students for school/college

Funding:

- McKinney-Vento Grant (US Department of ED)
 - Funding to Alaska is \$207,680
 - Only 5 schools receive a sub-grant for McKinney-Vento
 - Sub-grant funding is tiered. Awards range from \$40,000 to \$60,000
 - Funds available for statewide homeless education initiatives is approximately \$51,000
- Title I-A (US Department of ED)
 - All districts that receive Title I-A funds must reserve funds to support homeless students, including providing educationally-related support services to children in shelters or other locations where they may live.
 - The amount of Title I-A funds reserved for homeless children and youth may be determined based on a needs assessment of homeless children and youths in the district, taking into consideration the number and needs of homeless children and youths in the district, and must be based on the total allocation received by the district and reserved prior to any allowable expenditure or transfers by the district.

Challenges:

- Consistent identification by schools
 - Interpreting the identification criteria
 - For example- doubling up
- Training of Districts and Schools regarding Homeless Education
 - Turnover of Homeless Liaisons at school and district levels
 - District and school recordkeeping is not consistent across the state-
 - Tracking students
 - Consistent data
 - Complete data

Data Collections:

- DEED Data Collection
 - Summer OASIS
 - Homeless Status
 - Nighttime Residence of when identified as homeless: doubled up, shelters, unsheltered, etc.
 - Unaccompanied minor
- US ED Data Collection: McKinney-Vento
 - EDFacts
 - Number of students experiencing homelessness served
 - Number of students experiencing homelessness enrolled
 - LEA McKinney-Vento Sub-grant Status
 - Data regarding young children experiencing homelessness

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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

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The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has the most impact on reducing homelessness through the Council of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA), by providing funding and support to to keep shelters open across Alaska for those experiencing family violence.

CDVSA maintains a strong partnership with HUD and AHFC to make sure victims and survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault are a priority, and advocates for increased aid when needed. CDVSA's federal VOCA funding (which has increased in the last couple of years) now allows for transitional housing to be funded. Accordingly, FY2019 funding will reflect a priority shift towards transitional housing and a focus on housing needs other than emergency shelters.

The need for more housing assistance and focus is a high priority for CDVSA to help clients get out of their current living situations. Too often, if a victim cannot find adequate housing options for the long term they either stay at the shelters longer (reducing the number of emergency beds available) or they go back to their current living situation where the perpetrator of the DV/SA is living. Housing is a critical piece of the work CDVSA does and it needs to have a larger focus in the future.