The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) mission is to provide dynamic leadership to unite Anchorage in making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

We believe that everyone deserves a roof over their head, a place to put down anchor, and to feel safe with loved ones.

- ACEH was formed in 2004 as a grassroots coalition of homeless service providers. We incorporated as a nonprofit in 2012.
- Our membership includes individuals, businesses, social services, medical organizations and governmental agencies. We welcome all community members to join us in our shared mission.
What causes homelessness?

When Housing is Out of Reach:
Now more than at any other time, there is a lack of housing that low-income people can afford. Without housing options, people face eviction, instability and homelessness.

Income and Housing Affordability:
Low-income households often do not earn enough to pay for food, clothing, transportation and a place they can call home.
While many socioeconomic factors can cause a community member to experience homelessness (or to stay houseless), lack of affordable and accessible housing is the single greatest driver of homelessness.

Provide dynamic leadership to unite Anchorage in making homelessness rare, brief and one-time.
2021 Affordable Housing Shortages

1. Alaska is the 15th most expensive state in the nation for renters

2. An individual would need to make $23.74 an hour to afford a 2-bedroom apartment (92 hours a week at minimum wage)

3. An individual would need to work 71 hours a week at minimum wage to afford a one-bedroom apartment
Who is most at risk of becoming homeless?

Underemployed and unemployed: 2019 43% of Extremely Low Income (ELI) households
- Ex: COVID-19 economic impacts, 2018 earthquake, 2008 Financial Crisis

Elders and seniors: 2019 21% of ELI households
- Since 2008, Alaska is the #1 state in the nation for per-capita 65+ senior growth
- 17% of Anchorage’s population is 60+ (increase expected through at least 2035)
- Anchorage and Matsu house over half of the 60+ population in the state

Living with disabilities: 23% of ELI households
- Lack of ADA compliant housing
- Two year plus wait list for those experiencing disabilities and elders
- Rent to income ratio for those with a fixed income

Formerly incarcerated
- Almost 10 times more likely to be homeless than the general public**
- 65.8% of reentrants are unsure (or do not have) a place to live upon release

Sources: Access Alaska, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Anchorage Reentry Coalition, Disability Law Center of Alaska, **https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html
How many people experience homelessness?

ACEH tracks the number of active clients in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People Experiencing Homelessness in ANC</th>
<th>Youth &amp; Young Adults</th>
<th>Families (individuals)</th>
<th>Veterans</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2018 - Dec 2018</td>
<td>1043</td>
<td>1958</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>4852</td>
<td>7763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2019 - Dec 2019</td>
<td>1176</td>
<td>2117</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>4621</td>
<td>7901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2020 - Dec 2020</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>2390</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>5551</td>
<td>9628</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Unsheltered homelessness: ACEH in partnership with Anchorage Health Department, Choices and RurAL CAP launched comprehensive year-round outreach in June 2020. Outreach workers connected with 1548 unique individuals outside. 551 were new to homelessness. 429 never accessed shelter. **106 were able to stabilize in housing and remain there currently.**

For current year-round data: aceh.org/data
Building a Continuum

ACEH’s goal is to connect a full continuum of evidence-based, cost-effective interventions to make homelessness rare, brief and one time.

We call this the Homeless Prevention and Response System.

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Anchored Home

VISION
Homelessness is rare, brief, & one-time

KEY PILLARS

Prevention & Diversion
United Way of Anchorage

Housing & Support System
Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

Public Health & Safety
Municipality of Anchorage

Advocacy & Funding
Homelessness Leadership Council
Impacts of COVID-19 on Homelessness

Local Insights

• According to a survey by the Census in 2020, 1 in 4 adults in Alaska either missed their last housing payment or have little-to-no confidence of being able to make next month’s housing payment.

• United Way 2-1-1 operators received 8,420 calls from Alaskans seeking assistance related to either housing, utility assistance, or food assistance in the month of June 2020 alone. The calls in a single month represent nearly half of the total calls received in 2019.

National Low-Income Housing Coalition

• “Even before the COVID-19 public health and economic crises, nearly eight million extremely low-income renter households were spending more than half of their incomes on their housing, leaving them no ability to save for a future emergency and putting them just one financial shock away from housing instability.”
# Anchored Home responding to COVID

## What Has Happened in 2020-2021?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 - 2021 Capacity Building</th>
<th>Projects in design and/or implementation (secured funding)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention</strong></td>
<td>• Rental and mortgage assistance through AHFC, MOA&lt;br&gt;• Philanthropic support for other financial assistance for those at risk&lt;br&gt;• Coordination with landlords and court/legal system&lt;br&gt;• Adding employment support to rental assistance for those most at risk&lt;br&gt;• Adding navigators to assist in case management and referrals via the shelters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diversion</strong></td>
<td>• Family diversion pilot&lt;br&gt;• Housing Problem solving in the shelters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Resource and Referral</strong></td>
<td>• Resource and referral services integrating with mass care shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Outreach</strong></td>
<td>• Outreach pilot focused on unsheltered individuals and panhandlers</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shelter</strong></td>
<td>• Shelter expansion projects with potential new locations&lt;br&gt;• Family shelter system moved from churches to hotel&lt;br&gt;• Non-congregate care shelter alternatives for those at COVID risk&lt;br&gt;• Day shelter space expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transitional Housing</strong></td>
<td>• Retain existing services</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rapid Rehousing</strong></td>
<td>• City and Philanthropic investment in rapid housing out of mass care shelters&lt;br&gt;• Family rapid rehousing program launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supportive Housing</strong></td>
<td>• Expansion of existing supportive housing including Home for Good</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure and backbone</strong></td>
<td>• Launch of the ACEH Data Dashboard&lt;br&gt;• Healthcare and Homelessness partnership with Providence St. Joseph&lt;br&gt;• Steering Committee launch with AK Department of Public Health, Anchorage Health Department, Emergency Operations Center and ACEH</td>
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Funding Reduction Risk: Special Need Housing Grants (SNHG)

- SNHG has been essentially flat funded since creation in 2009.
- **Flat funding represents a reduction in services over time.** Based on the Alaska Department of Labor’s inflation calculator this is a 27% reduction since 2009.
- State funding has decreased while homelessness has increased.
- SNHG programs provide care for the most vulnerable Alaskans across the state.
- Supportive housing meets individual and community needs in a cost-effective manner.


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Key Takeaways

Homelessness is a community problem that negatively impacts all of us—we all benefit from ending homelessness.

There are evidence based and cost-effective solutions used around the world to address homelessness successfully. Anchorage does not have adequate services or enough affordable housing.

Single adult homelessness has been increasing in Alaska since 2007, the inflow is greater than service capacity (outflow). Single adult services are the greatest community need and often have the least funding.

Anchorage will best meet projected needs by enhancing our Homeless Prevention and Response System via: housing solutions (rapid rehousing and supportive housing), emergency shelter and related services (day engagement and resource connectivity) and increasing our prevention and diversion services.