



Legislative briefing: Housing & Homelessness

A STATEWIDE RESPONSE IS URGENTLY NEEDED

Why invest in housing & homelessness

- Anchorage has a significant housing gap and affordability crisis: it takes **72 work hours a week at minimum wage to be able to afford a 1-bdrm rental** at market rate in Anchorage (1)
- **Investing in housing is a good deal:** housing people in converted hotels costs \$26 dollars per person/day versus over \$100 per person/day for congregate shelter (2)
- Increasing **affordable housing simultaneously reduces homelessness and grows economies** (3)

**2023 REQUEST:
\$20M CAPITAL +
\$5M OPERATING**

Homelessness in Anchorage is a state issue

- **This is not just an Anchorage issue.** Communities from Fairbanks to Sitka to Newtok are in a housing crisis and **the negative impacts are overwhelming state services** – public safety, health care, nonprofits, jobs, and education – and cause missed economic opportunities, worker shortages, and out-migration
- **Anchorage is the only community in Southcentral with low-barrier emergency shelters;** these shelter options serve people from the Mat-Su to the Kenai Peninsula
- **State government has a mandate to “provide for the promotion and protection of public health”** and to “provide for public welfare.” The homelessness crisis is a public health crisis
- As the state's largest city, **Anchorage's economic and housing issues impact the entire state**

Recent progress – a formula for success in Anchorage

- Despite a large-scale housing crisis during the pandemic, **500 fewer people were experiencing homelessness in Anchorage in September 2022 than in March 2020** (4)
- This is because partners in Anchorage have developed **a winning approach: align private and public dollars to provide housing** and the resources that help people stay housed
- In 2021-22, the **Municipality of Anchorage invested more than \$54 million in housing**
- Rasmuson Foundation, Calista Corporation, Chugach Alaska Corporation, Doyon Limited, CIRI Foundation, Providence Anchorage, Weidner Apartments and many others have also contributed millions to housing

Local communities can't do it alone – a statewide response is needed

State & local investments can work in tandem to leverage private investments. **2023 MOA Request to State:**

- **\$20M in capital budget:** \$14M for 100-125 units for building conversions to house low and extremely low income individuals (such as the Arctic Rec Center) + \$6M toward low barrier shelter development
- **\$5M in operating funds** for emergency shelters and extremely low income housing units
- Additionally, **state support is needed for substance misuse treatment and mental and behavioral health services** – some of the factors that increase the risks for people facing homelessness



MOA-FUNDED PROJECTS SINCE 2020:

3RD AVE NAVIGATION CENTER



Anchorage

HOTEL CONVERSIONS
 Funded by ARPA via Anchorage Affordable Housing & Land Trust (AAHLT)

AREA-WIDE PROGRAMS THAT RECEIVED MOA FUNDING 2020-2022

- United Way Landlord Housing Partnership
- COVID Rental Relief for individuals & families
- Home for Good/Pay for Success
- Rural CAP Deferred Maintenance & Weatherization
- Emergency Shelters - Brother Francis, Covenant House, Alex Hotel, Aviator Hotel, Sullivan Arena

ARCTIC REC CENTER
 Potential Emergency Shelter and Housing Development

1	Catholic Social Services 3rd Ave. Navigation Center	Services
2	AAHLT 5th Ave - Extremely Low-Income Housing	130 units
3	Catholic Social Services Complex Care Facility	85 Beds
4	Choosing Our Roots Youth Housing Placement	20 Units
5	Covenant House: Mack Center & Covey Lofts	32 Beds
6	Rural CAP Supportive Housing	30 Units
7	Cook Inlet Housing Authority: Mountain View	20 Units
8	AAHLT Lake Shore - Extremely Low-Income Housing	45 Units
9	AAHLT Spenard - Extremely Low-Income Housing	93 Units
10	Shiloh Community Housing Fresh Beginnings for Youth	6 Beds
11	Cook Inlet Housing Authority: Ch'bala Corners	21 Units
12	Golden Lion Housing & SUD treatment center	85 Units
13	House of Transformation Transitional Housing	20 Units
14	Providence Alaska House Supportive Housing	51 Units
15	Cook Inlet Housing: Coronado Park (Eagle River)	23 Units
16	Arctic Recreation Center - FOR SALE	120 Beds

MOA HOUSING INVESTMENTS COMPLETED IN PROGRESS POTENTIAL

Housing - the Solution to Homelessness

A disabled veteran who had been experiencing unsheltered homelessness for almost 20 years, living in a tent and going to shelter occasionally, was recently housed in a hotel conversion. He now has income and paid his own security deposit, and had agency support with his first month rent so he could use his remaining income on supplies to set up his new home. Now that he is housed he will qualify for more assistance to help him continue to maintain his housing.

Page 1 Resources:
 (1) Anchored Home, Out of Reach Alaska, National Low Income Housing Coalition, January 23, 2023; (2) Anchorage Coalition to End Homeless Analysis, winter 2022; (3) <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10511482.2022.2065328?journalCode=rhpd20>; (4) <https://aceh.org/data/>