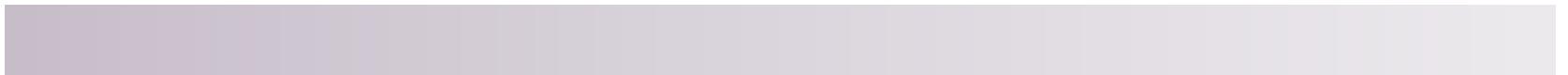




Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

Homelessness Prevention Collaboration & Pilot

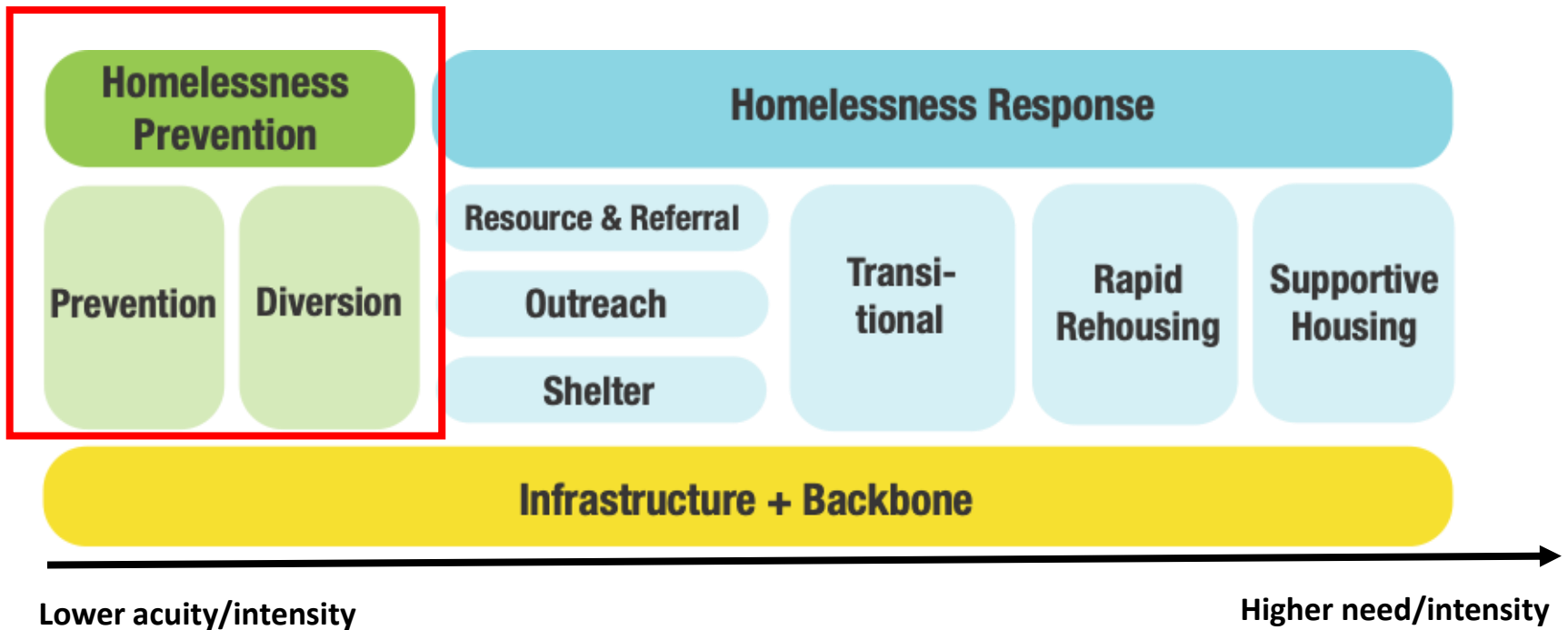
January 20, 2021



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.



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.



2019 Anchorage Housing Data



KEY FACTS

19,652
OR
23%

Renter households that are extremely low income

\$31,380

Maximum income for 4-person extremely low income household (state level)

-13,927

Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters

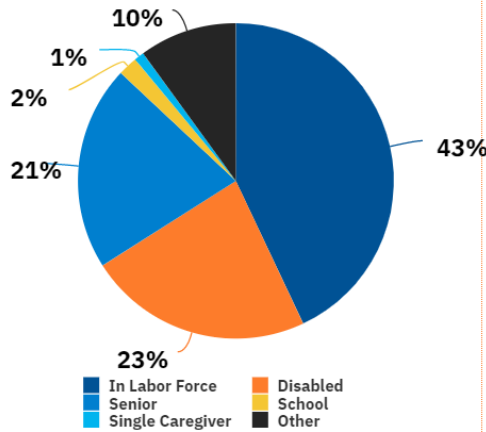
\$52,147

Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent.

72%

Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

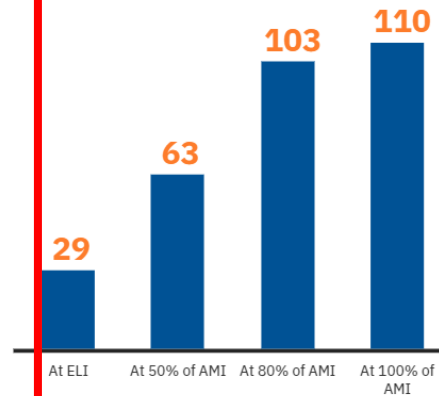
EXTREMELY LOW INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Note: Mutually exclusive categories applied in the following order: senior, disabled, in labor force, enrolled in school, single adult caregiver of a child under 7 or a person with a disability, and other. Fifteen percent of extremely low income renter households include a single adult caregiver, more than half of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week. Eleven percent of extremely low-income renter households are enrolled in school, 48% of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week.

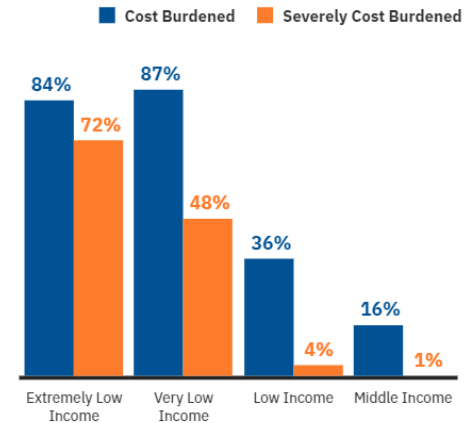
Source: 2018 ACS PUMS.

AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOMES PER 100 RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2018 ACS PUMS

HOUSING COST BURDEN BY INCOME GROUP



Note: Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened.

Source: NLIHC tabulations of 2018 ACS PUMS

Who is most at risk?



- **Those with economic challenges (2019 43% of ELI households)**
 - Ex: COVID-19 economic impacts, 2018 earthquake
- **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
- **Those 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
- **Reentry community members:**
 - Formerly incarcerated people are almost 10 times more likely to be homeless than the general public*
 - Anchorage Reentry Coalition's recent survey shows 65.8% of reentrants are unsure (or do not have) a place to live upon release

Thank you :

- Access Alaska
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Anchorage Reentry Coalition
- Disability Law Center of Alaska

[*https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html)

2021 Community Priorities

Priority 1: Permanent Supportive Housing, Shelter, and Rapid Rehousing for Single Adults

- Single adult homelessness continues to be the largest area of need, and this gap between demand and capacity is projected to grow. This need can best be addressed by a combination of shelter (or shelter alternatives), Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing for adults.

Priority 2: **Prevention, Resource and Referral, and Outreach; Shelter and Rapid Rehousing for Families and Youth & Transition Aged Youth (TAY)**

- Preventing or immediately addressing new inflow into homelessness is a significant need particularly during COVID-19. Additionally, increased capacity for shelter and rapid rehousing for families and youth & TAY is necessary to adjust to the economic impacts of COVID-19 and prevent intergenerational homelessness.

Priority 3: **Diversion; Transitional Housing for all populations; Permanent Supportive Housing for Families & Youth; Housing Interventions for Veterans**

- Other interventions have proven effective for specific subpopulations and should be scaled up to meet demand.

Projected impacts of COVID-19



Local Insights:

- According to a weekly survey by the Census, **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.
- The **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. **That amount of calls in a single month represents nearly half of the total call amount for the entire 2019 calendar year.**
- Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) predicted that **Anchorage would lose 11k jobs in 2020**

Community Solutions (Built for Zero)

- Dr. Brendan O'Flaherty, a professor of economics at Columbia University, **projects an increase in homelessness by 40-45% this year over January 2019**, an addition of nearly 250,000 people, if homelessness follows unemployment the way that it has done so in the earlier part of this century.
- Using data on homelessness and unemployment from 2007 to 2009, it found that **for every 1% increase in the unemployment rate, homelessness per 10,000 people increased by 0.65.**

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.”

Late 2020 Collaboration & Pilot



Who?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) • United Way • Catholic Social Services (CSS) • Nine Star Employment & Education Services (Nine Star)
What?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACEH and United Way responded to the Cares Act Relief Fund opportunity with the Alaska Community Foundation for a small grant to benefit households at risk of new homelessness resulting from the economic impacts of COVID-19 in Anchorage • United Way asked local providers who have long worked on prevention efforts, who could jump in quickly to serve families in need before and during the holidays: Nine Star and CSS answered the call to assist bring their own expertise to the project • The pilot included testing the provision of the critical elements of a future prevention system: Navigation to mainstream resources, support to boost income (financial support like rent or childcare and/or connecting people to community benefits), employment services.
Who?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on families most financially at risk due to COVID-19 related job losses, reduction in employment hours etc. • Hearing from families: these were individuals who were facing significant financial challenges including rent, food security, transportation, childcare and the need for employment
When?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November and December of 2020- this was a very rapid design and deployment and a testament to the work of the organizations willing to take on this project
Where?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified and served families across the Anchorage bowl
Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping families in their homes is a win for the entire community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces instability for the families served • Increases income and self-sufficiency • Reduces childhood ACES • Prevention is more cost effective than addressing literal homelessness • Reduces continued burden on the shelter system and Emergency Operations • Support landlords around the community and employers looking for employees • Contributes to the general safety and well being of the Anchorage community • Began formalizing the prevention and diversion system which is critical in COVID-19

Exceeding Expectations!

Outcomes: Pilot targeted serving 60 families (due to timeframe)

- 115 families were served in this two-month period (almost double the project target)
 - 100% of the families were able to stay in their homes
 - Families were connected to other mainstream resources like the Department of Public Assistance, food pantries, holiday programs, unemployment benefits, rental assistance and employment services
 - Despite the difficult economic circumstances, all families maintained existing income levels and 32 households gained new or improved employment
- The pilot has some exciting potential to inform new Covid-19 federal relief initiatives!

From the experts:



Nine Star's Net2Ladder Project's targeted 45 families, but served 93 Families with 97 Job Seekers. All 97 Job Seekers are continuing their connection to Nine Star & using its *INTEGRATED SERVICE SYSTEM*:

- **ADULT EDUCATION**—High School Completion, Basic Skills, English as a Second Language Instruction, American Sign Language Courses, & Work Readiness Instruction
- **CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER**
- **CAREER EDUCATION CENTER**
- **YOUTH SERVICES**

MENU OF SERVICES

- Applications for Housing/Utility
- Barrier Removal Activities
- Behavioral Health Services
- Budgeting
- Career Planning
- Cover Letters
- Educational Planning
- Educational/Career Assessments
- Financial Aid/Support Discussions
- Interviewing/Mock Interviews
- Job Development Support
- Job Search
- Resume Writing
- Training Advancement