

Highlights of Municipality Actions on Homelessness, 1983-2018

- **1983:** Using a federal development grant, and with the assistance of the Anchorage utilities and the Anchorage Assembly, the land and a building were developed for a permanent structure for the Brother Francis Shelter on Post Road. See www.adn.com/alaska-life/2016/09/23/brother-francis-shelter-marking-35-years-of-caring-pauses-to-remember-its-beginnings/
- **2002:** Municipality of Anchorage commits to provide a 2.2-acre site for long-term use for the new Brother Francis Shelter
- **2011:** Mayor Sullivan hires a homeless coordinator position, creates the Mayor's Homeless Leadership Team (HLT), and works with the Assembly to enable the development of larger-scale Housing First projects, like RuralCap's Karluk Manor (for individuals with chronic dependencies), and to authorize Cold Weather Plan to allow churches and other approved facilities to act as temporary, cold weather shelters
- **2015:** Anchorage Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness is created by the HAND Oversight Subcommittee on Homelessness, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, and Municipality Department of Health & Human Services Planning Committee with the guiding principle that housing is a basic human right and the goal to provide a strategic vision aimed at addressing homelessness in Anchorage over the next five years
- **2016:** Assembly establishes Assembly Committee on Homelessness (later named the Committee on Housing and Homelessness)
- **2016:** Mayor Berkowitz works with Assembly to pass AR 2016-179 to create a Housing and Homeless Services Coordinator to provide coordination to reduce impediments to fair housing by working with Municipal departments and external partners to develop additional permanent supportive housing, homeless services, and other strategies to eliminate homelessness in Anchorage; the position is paid for with a grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust
- **2017:** Mayor Berkowitz works with Assembly to pass AR 2017-211 to create a Chief Housing Officer to help meet the community goal of producing 900 housing units per year to fill Anchorage's housing shortage; the position is paid for from 2017-2020 with a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation
- **2017:** Municipality partners with health agencies to open preventative health care and recovery support services at Brother Francis Shelter. See www.cssalaska.org/our-programs/brother-francis-shelter/medical-care-brother-francis-shelter/
- **2018:** Individual Assembly members and members of Assembly Committee on Housing and Homelessness join 75 organizations and over 700 community members to create the Anchored Home plan to solve homelessness in Anchorage
- **June 12, 2018:** Assembly passes resolution declaring policy of dispersed placement in the Anchorage Bowl of services and programs for homeless persons to reduce the burden on Fairview and Downtown neighborhoods and shift to smaller service locations citywide (AR 2018-167, As Amended)
- **November 2019:** Assembly approves \$730,000 for shelter as part of the Anchorage Health Department budget, marking the first time there are recurring MOA operational funds for shelter

2020

- **March 24, 2020:** Mayor Berkowitz and Assembly fund \$5.4M for the Home for Good pilot program, an intensive supportive housing initiative
- **2020:** Voters approve Proposition 13, authorizing a 5% sales tax on alcohol sales, to create a steady funding stream for programs to prevent and address problems associated with substance misuse and the lack of mental and behavioral health services, including housing programs
- **Spring 2020:** COVID-19 hits and heightens the existing shortage of emergency shelters. The Municipality converts the Sullivan and Boeke Arenas to emergency shelters, creating 560 temporary spaces for adults, and contracts partners to open spaces for families with children
- **April 28, 2020:** Assembly passes a resolution requesting the Administration to issue notices and clear significant prohibited encampments to reduce the spread of COVID-19; the resolution reinforces the municipality's policy that permanent, supportive housing is the preferred, long-term solution for many individuals experiencing homelessness, and that camping in public places often runs counter to that goal (AR 2020-149, As Amended)
- **2020:** Anchorage Assembly and Mayor Berkowitz utilize \$37M in federal relief funds through the CARES Act in AR 2020-221, As Amended, EO 2020-04(S1) and AR 2020-271(S), As Amended on housing programs:
 - \$23M for Rental and Mortgage Assistance Relief Program for grants to landlords and mortgage holders, landlord liaison support, and legal services for individuals impacted by COVID-19
 - \$1M Covenant House expansion to increase affordable housing units and shelter
 - \$1M for Rapid Rehousing program
 - \$2.5M for RuralCap Weatherization Jobs Program to fund home weatherization and mobile home repair and help put unemployed, underemployed, or furloughed workers back to work.
 - \$600K to Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC) for expansion of emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence as current space has been reduced due to impacts from COVID-19
 - \$500K for Risk Pool Insurance Program for Private Landlords
 - \$300K for Nine Star's Net-2-Ladder Project
 - \$7,400,000 in additional rental and mortgage assistance on 12/8/20 (AR 2020-426)
 - \$700,000 in additional rapid rehousing program funds on 2/23/21 (AR 2021-047)
- **July 2020:** Mayor Berkowitz and Assembly utilize CARES Act and proceeds from the ML&P sale in AO 2020-66(S), As Amended to authorize \$22.5M for acquisition of Beans Café for a downtown homeless engagement center, Tudor Alaska Club for a midtown shelter and engagement center, Golden Lion Hotel for a treatment center, and America's Best Value Inn as housing with a resource center. The deals on the Alaska Club and America's Best Value Inn later fall through and are not completed
- **September 29, 2020:** Assembly adopts the Anchored Home plan as the municipal's guiding document for homeless response and appropriations (AO 2020-338, As Amended); while the plan had been in use by the community for several years, the COVID-19 emergency response revealed that the Municipality was using the plan in its response, but had not yet formally adopted it
- **2020:** Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness and partners prioritize improving data reliability in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the central database for homeless services to ensure accurate capturing of data and effective use of the data for planning and decision-making; the Anchorage Assembly supports that work by committing over \$300,000 to the project

2021

- 2021: First year of new alcohol tax include \$6.3M allocated for housing programs:
 - \$2,000,000 for operational costs for shelter, day center and/or treatment center
 - \$1,800,000 for Pay for Success/Home for Good housing program
 - \$750,000 for day engagement/shelter operations
 - \$700,000 for Healthy Spaces - expand camp abatement to year-round to include storage
 - \$500,000 for operational costs for shelter, day center and/or treatment center
 - \$360,000 for overnight shelter for 150 individuals
 - \$117,494 for new Homelessness Program Manager
 - \$30,000 to add full year non labor funding for homelessness and housing administration
 - *Note: final spending does not necessarily match allocations*
- **2021:** Anchorage Assembly and Acting Mayor Quinn-Davidson collaborate on allocation of American Recue Plan Act funds through AR 2021-167(S), As Amended and dedicate \$7.9M to housing projects:
 - \$4,000,000 for hiring housing intensive case managers and rental relief for those individuals in this program that don't qualify for federal rent relief
 - \$1,623,165 to House of Transformations to provide housing, addiction treatment, vocational and apprenticeship training, and other wrap around services for persons experiencing homelessness
 - \$500,000 to fund business personal property tax relief grant program to eligible taxpayers financially impacted by government orders, as an economic stimulus measure
 - \$500,000 to Choosing our Roots to acquire a multi-unit dwelling, which would be used to temporarily house youth participants (ages 18-24) awaiting host home placement
 - \$300,000 to Shiloh Community Housing to provide accessible, affordable, and quality housing for young adults 16-24 years of age experiencing homelessness and employment barriers
 - \$258,000 to continue building a Coordinated Shelter Intake system with the goal of linking persons to both the existing Homeless Response System resources and mainstream benefits
 - \$225,000 to Covenant House Alaska for Emergency Rapid Rehousing for Homeless Youth
 - \$200,000 to Alaska Legal Services Corporation to fund two (2) attorneys, one dedicated to employment issues and one dedicated to preventing housing instability
 - \$150,000 to Nine Star's Net-2-Ladder Project, which included housing support services
 - \$100,000 to the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness to fund the HMIS contract for July 2021 to June 2022 to maintain momentum for the data improvement efforts and allow them to build additional capacity in partnership with COVID-19 efforts and the HMIS Strategic Plan.
- **June 22, 2021:** Assembly passes ordinance establishing a municipal license requirement for homeless and transient shelters as a quality assurance tool that nimbly and flexibly allows for minimal oversight by the Municipality of a critical service to a vulnerable population, and to protect neighborhoods from significant impacts (AO 2021-55(S-1), As Amended).
- **June 22, 2021:** Assembly passes ordinance amending code to allow the use-type "homeless and transient shelter" in the B-3 general business district and create use-specific standards, to allow a scattered-site approach to locating homeless services (AO 2021-54, As Amended).

2021-2022

- **July 27, 2021:** Assembly commits to collaborative process with Mayoral Administration for interim and long-term planning to address housing and homelessness in the Municipality. Tasked with the responsibility to exit mass care (Anchorage's homelessness response to the COVID-19 pandemic), identify opportunities, design plans, and prepare funding proposals to address gaps in the traditional housing and shelter system through these areas of focus (AR 2021-256):
 - Complex Care Shelter (Formerly the Sockeye Inn, opened June 2022)
 - Navigation Center & Shelter
 - Substance Misuse Residential Treatment
 - Workforce & Supportive Housing (Formerly The Guest House)
 - Housing for Special Populations (couples, elders, women, & LGBTQ+)
- **November 1, 2021:** Assembly passes AR 2021-350 As Amended with the Bronson Administration in support of an exit strategy to end mass care and implement an integrated client and community centered approach to addressing homelessness
- **December 7, 2021:** Assembly and Mayor Bronson work together to pass AR 2021-116(S), As Amended to reallocate \$6M in previous CARES Act fund as a grant to Alaska Community Foundation with \$2M for a complex care facility, \$1.2M toward purchase of a workforce/permanent supportive housing facility, and \$2.8M toward design and manufacture of a shelter and/or navigation center
- **2022:** Alcohol tax includes \$6.8M allocated for housing:
 - \$3,297,852 for operational costs for shelter, day center and/or treatment center
 - \$1,800,000 for Pay for Success/Home for Good housing program
 - \$655,823 for Housing and Homelessness Services Program Manager and other admin support
 - \$648,132 for Healthy Spaces continuation - expand camp abatement year-round, include storage
 - \$360,000 for overnight shelter for 150 individuals
 - *Note: final spending does not necessarily match allocations*
- **2022:** Amendments to Alcohol Tax:
 - AR 2022-111(S) to grant \$1.3M of alcohol tax funds to for the construction of an adult shelter and/or navigation center, 5/10/22
 - AR 2022-221 to reappropriate FY22 alcohol tax funds and use alcohol tax fund balance of \$500K to remodel and immediately open up 60 rental units, \$2M to fund emergency shelter needs through the end of 2022 and \$1.72M for outreach services, 7/26/2022
- **March 15, 2022:** Assembly and Mayor Bronson grant \$1,067,500 in alcohol tax funds to Catholic Social Services to operate a complex care facility (former Sockeye Inn) (AR 2022-76(S)) and approve \$800K for design or design/manufacture for an adult shelter and/or navigation center (AR 2022-72).
- **April 28, 2022:** Assembly and Mayor Bronson issue joint resolution in support of the proposed Navigation Center and low barrier shelter, using a "Housing First" model at Tudor and Elmore.
- **May 10, 2022:** Assembly approves funding for Mayor Bronson's proposal to construct an adult shelter and/or navigation center with no more than 150 beds, plus an emergency surge capacity of 50 beds, by reappropriating \$4.M in CARES Act funding and \$1.3M in alcohol tax fund balance (AR 2022-111(S)). A condition of funding requires the Mayor to make a firm written commitment to make a good faith effort to operate the former Golden Lion Hotel as a substance misuse treatment center

2022 Continued

- **July 26, 2022:** the Anchorage Assembly allocates \$500,000 to United Way to rehabilitate up to 60 rental units, \$1.217M to the Health Department to procure emergency sheltering for the winter (a funding requirement was for AHD to develop a written emergency shelter plan to present at the August 2022 meeting of the Assembly Committee on Housing and Homelessness), \$350,000 to Christian Health Associates to provide family emergency shelter services, \$433,000 to Brother Francis Shelter for adult emergency shelter services, and \$1.72M to Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness to expand outreach to affected people (AR 2022-111(S), As Amended)
- **July 26, 2022:** the Anchorage Assembly allocates \$3.4 million in ARPA funds to complete the purchase of the Guest House for workforces housing (AR 2022-222)
- **August 9, 2022:** Anchorage Assembly allocates \$22.1M of American Rescue Plan Act funds through AR 2022-178(S), As Amended to housing projects:
 - \$11,878,000 to Alaska Community Foundation for purchase of hotel for affordable housing
 - \$4,500,000 to Cook Inlet Housing Authority to develop 64 units of affordable housing at Ch'bala Corners Phase 2, Mountain View Brewster's Redevelopment, and Coronado Park Townhomes
 - \$2,375,000 to Covenant House for vocational training and stable housing at Covey Academy
 - \$965,000 to Providence Alaska for the construction of 51 units of permanent supportive housing
 - \$600,000 to United Way for the Landlord Housing Partnership Program, Phase 2
 - \$500,000 to Shiloh Community Housing for housing for young adults experiencing homelessness and employment barriers
 - \$475,000 to Rural Alaska Community Action for Affordable Housing Deferred Maintenance
 - \$400,000 to Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness for Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Support, Housing Transition Coordinator and Flexible Housing Navigation Funds.
 - \$400,000 to Henning for transitional housing supportive services for clients at Aviator Hotel
- **August 17, 2022:** Assembly authorizes an Emergency Shelter Task Force led by the Anchorage Coalition to End Homeless to develop emergency shelter plan for upcoming winter to be in compliance with AMC 16.120) to have a plan when weather goes below 45F (AR 2022-252)
- **September 26, 2022:** Assembly approves funding for Administration to implement the Emergency Shelter Task Force recommendations:
 - Increase of capacity at Brother Francis Shelter of 20 individuals (previously funded through alcohol tax revenue in (AR 2022-221(S)).
 - Increase of capacity at Covenant House of 25 individuals (\$200,000 from alcohol tax revenue)
 - Semi-congregate sheltering at Bean's Café of 40 individuals (\$306,000 from alcohol tax revenue)
 - Non-congregate use of the former Golden Lion as housing of 120 individuals (\$427,000 from alcohol tax revenue to Henning, Inc. to provide services)
 - Congregate sheltering at the Sullivan Arena of 150 individuals (\$1,500,000 from alcohol tax revenue to Henning, Inc. to provide services)

2022-2023

- **October 25, 2022:** at the October 25 meeting, by a vote of 3-9, the Assembly declines to adopt AM 496-2022 to amend the Roger Hickel Contracting contract for the Tudor/Elmore Navigation Center and Shelter. Adoption would have allowed the original contract for \$50,000 for pre-construction to be increased to \$4.9M for site preparations and construction. The contract dispute eventually becomes the subject of legal action that is finalized when the Assembly authorizes payment on June 16, 2023.
- **December 6, 2022:** Assembly passes annual budget with alcohol tax funds for homelessness (AO 2022-87 as Amended with Mayor Vetoes and Overrides):
 - \$400,000 to fund year-round day shelter for transition age youth grant to Covenant House
 - \$445,000 to increase single adult shelter capacity grant to Catholic Social Services for Brother Francis Shelter
 - \$550,000 to fund family unsheltered response grant to Christian Health Advocates
 - \$634,290 to Parks Department for Healthy Spaces year-round camp abatement and personal property storage
 - \$679,079 to Health Department for Homelessness program operations
 - \$700,000 to Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness for year-round outreach to people experiencing homelessness
 - \$1,330,000 to fund Complex Care Facility operations
 - \$1,800,000 for Pay for Success/Home for Good Housing program
 - \$129,435 for Homeless Coordinator position at Health Department (areawide general fund)
 - \$730,000 for operations at Brother Francis Shelter (areawide general fund)
- **March 7, 2023:** Assembly contracts Restorative Reentry Services to conduct third-party oversight of municipal contractors providing operations at shelters, also adds funding to carry out the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter through the spring (AR 2023-43, As Amended):
 - \$200,000 to Covenant House for shelter operations for 25 individuals
 - \$628,600 to Alex Hotel to lease 46 rooms
 - \$797,922 for operations at Alex Hotel
 - \$1,323,789 to Aviator Hotel for 125 individuals occupying 113 rooms
 - \$2,003,892 for Sullivan Arena for 345 overnight clients
- **April 25, 2023:** Assembly approves 1st quarter budget revision, adding funding for homelessness services (AR 2023-102 (S) as Amended with Mayor Vetoes):
 - \$225,000 to Brother Francis Shelter to permanently increase capacity of 120 beds through 12/31/23
 - \$250,000 to Golden Lion start-up costs
 - \$250,000 to Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust to assist with homelessness prevention for individuals at their facilities through 12/31/23
 - \$326,000 to extend services at the Sullivan Arena through 5/31/23
 - \$330,000 to Covenant House for day shelter services for 50 individuals through 12/31/23
 - \$500,000 to Catholic Social Services for Complex Care Operations through 12/31/23
 - \$1,000,000 to Providence for crisis stabilization center, incl. short-term crisis residential program
 - \$1,150,000 to Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness for outreach services to camps

2023 continued

- **March 21, 2023:** Assembly adopts “Clean Slate Strategy” to restart the Municipality’s efforts to identify and invest in a permanent year-round low-barrier shelter using criteria to evaluate interaction between proposed shelter and surrounding neighborhoods (AR 2023-97, As Amended).
- **April 11, 2023:** Assembly adopts a demobilization plan for emergency shelter to close Sullivan Arena on April 30, 2023, request the Administration and partners to pursue alternative forms of shelter and navigation services, and create three demobilization community task forces to explore the Forest Home Mobile Home Park, sanctioned camps and complex behavioral health needs for those experiencing homelessness (AR 2023-127).
- **May 23 – August 22, 2023:** A resolution is brought forward to identify funds to continue the Tudor/Elmore Shelter and Navigation Center (AR 2023-182(S-1)). The funding and project are reviewed and discussed over the summer and is ultimately abandoned during an Assembly vote on August 22, 2023 (AR 2023-182 (S-1), As Amended).
- **May 23, 2023:** Assembly approves \$200,000 contract with Alaska Hotel Group for non-congregate sheltering at the Aviator Hotel
- **May 25, 2023:** Forest Park Mobile Home Park committee issues final report on feasible short-term remediation options and the long-term solutions to resolve the current crisis at Forest Park.
- **June 20, 2023:** Assembly appropriates previous funding from various HUD grants to:
 - \$86,190 for homeless outreach and \$71,560 for Sitka Place case management to RuralCAP
 - \$224,834 to Habitat for Humanity for housing program
 - \$70,000 to Choosing our Roots for shelter and supportive services
 - \$153,063 to Nine Star for Net 2 Ladder program
 - \$75,000 to New Life Development for residential re-entry
 - \$250,000 to NeighborWorks for tenant based rental assistance
- **June 16, 2023:** during a special meeting, the Anchorage Assembly approves AR 2023-196, As Amended, to authorize a \$2.4M settlement with Roger Hickel Contracting for work on the Tudor/Elmore Navigation Center and Shelter.
- **June 26, 2023:** After large homeless camps spring up around town, the Bronson Administration begins offering services such as port-a-potties and outreach at camps. [adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2023/06/27/city-brings-basic-services-to-growing-downtown-anchorage-homeless-camp-as-more-people-are-expected-to-arrive/](https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2023/06/27/city-brings-basic-services-to-growing-downtown-anchorage-homeless-camp-as-more-people-are-expected-to-arrive/)
- **July 11, 2023:** Assembly appropriates \$529,000 for repairs and start-up costs to open up the former Golden Lion Hotel for supportive and permanent housing.
- **July 11, 2023:** Assembly accepts Sanctioned Camp Community Task Forces final recommendations for allowed camps and other sheltering options (AIM 140-2023) and approves an ordinance to define allowed camps with required site and operational standards (AO 2023-70(S-1), As Amended).
- **August 16, 2023:** Anchorage Health Department issues draft emergency cold weather shelter plan at the Assembly Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting that relies on small, scattered sites across the city that can potentially be funded with existing federal housing funds – the plan eventually utilizes non-congregate sheltering at three hotels and a congregate shelter at the former administrative building at the old Transfer Station.

2023 continued

- **August 29, 2023:** the Assembly's Community Task Force on Complex Behavioral Needs hosts a leadership summit with state and local decision makers to review the task force's recommendations and discuss solutions.
- **September 5, 2023:** Assembly reappropriates \$220,000 of previous unspent alcohol tax funds for mitigation at large encampments.
- **September 12, September 26, and October 16, 2023:** Assembly approves funding for the 2023-24 Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Plan that was presented by the Anchorage Health Department at the August 16 Housing and Homeless Committee meeting (AR 2023-298(S), AR 2023-286(S), AM 742-2023, AM 786-2023, AM 787-2023, AM 787-2023, AM 790-2023, and AM 790-2023).
- **September 12, 2023:** Assembly accepts the Complex Behavioral Needs Community Task Forces' final recommendations for allowed camps and other sheltering options (AIM 173-2023).
- **September 12, 2023:** Assembly reappropriates \$1,300,000 of previous unspent funds to the Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust to rehabilitate vacant and abandoned buildings for low-income housing.
- **September 26, 2023:** Assembly grants Catholic Social Services \$1.2M for Complex Care operations (AM 716-2023).
- **October 5, 2023:** Bronson Administration begins abatement of homelessness camps with vehicle removal. <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2023/10/05/a-tense-afternoon-of-vehicle-towing-and-a-microcosm-of-frustration-over-homelessness-in-anchorage/>
- **October 16, 2023:** Anchorage Health Department opens the Alex Hotel and Aviator Hotels as non-congregate shelter, providing beds for 374 individuals.
- **Coming in November 2023:** Anchorage Health Department opens the Administrative building at the old transfer station to serve as the Municipality's congregate cold weather shelter for the 2023-24 season of up to 150 beds.

Note: not all allocated funds are eventually spent – some projects change in scope or are no longer possible, so funds are then reallocated for other projects. The Assembly also keeps a tracker of Housing and Homelessness Appropriations on its website.