



August 13, 2020

Catholic Social Services thanks The Anchorage Health Department and the Municipality of Anchorage for taking needed and intentional measures to combat the additional strain and financial burden on the homeless shelter and support system in Anchorage. The funds granted to Catholic Social Services programs, Clare House and Homeless Family Services, from the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds through the CARES Act will making a lasting impact in combating the economic effects of Covid-19.

Clare House offers 24-hour emergency shelter and progressive housing for women with children and expectant mothers. During FY 2019, Clare House provided 27,161 nights of stay to 316 women and children without a home. With the \$100,000 awarded from the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds from the CARES Act, we will be able to shelter approximately 40 moms and children every night of the year – despite the challenges of Covid-19.

Homeless Family Services provides case management to veterans, individuals, and families living in shelters and unsheltered families with children. Between March 16th and June 30th of this year, Homeless Family Services has housed over 295 individuals and provided support so that 448 at risk individuals could remain in permanent housing, securing housing for a total of 743 individuals in five months. The \$296,000 awarded from the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program funds from the CARES Act will continue to house vulnerable people experiencing homelessness through this emergency time.

Due to Covid-19, nationally there is expected to be an increase of 40% in people experiencing homelessness in the coming year. Much of that increase is projected to be among families and households living near the edge financially. The ESG funds will work to limit the impact of homelessness on families by assuring there is family shelter in Clare House and by providing rapid rehousing funds through Homeless Family Services which can quickly move individuals and families from homelessness into permanent housing, with case management support.

We appreciate the opportunity to utilize this valuable funding through Clare House and Homeless Family Services to make Anchorage a better place for all.

Thank you,

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