

# Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Commission

## 2024 Annual Report

Submitted: June 05, 2025

### Executive Summary

In 2024, the HHAND Commission navigated through a period of significant transition and rebuilding. Following substantial turnover in 2023 and 2024, the Commission was reconstituted with a diverse group of new and returning members, bringing renewed energy and a commitment to public service. Despite the challenges of onboarding and reestablishing regular operations, the Commission remained focused on its mission to advise the Mayor and Assembly on housing, homelessness, and neighborhood development priorities.

In alignment with the Anchored Home Plan, the Mayor's 2025 Homelessness and Health Strategy, and the 10K Housing Strategy, HHAND looks forward to prioritizing community engagement, strategic collaboration, and policy development to advance solutions for Anchorage's most urgent housing challenges.

### 1. Commission Purpose and Mandate

As outlined in Municipal Code AMC 4.60.265 and informed by its 2014 foundational goals, HHAND is charged with:

- Recommending long- and short-term strategies to increase access to affordable housing.
- Supporting the development of the HUD-required Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.
- Encouraging community participation in neighborhood revitalization efforts.
- Partnering with the Continuum of Care (CoC) to address homelessness.
- Advising the Mayor and Assembly on progress toward Anchorage's housing and homelessness goals.

### 2. 2024 Activities and Highlights

#### A. Commission Rebuilding and Reengagement

2024 marked a transformative period for the HHAND Commission. Due to multiple member resignations and term expirations in 2023, the Commission operated with limited quorum for several months. By the end of 2024, recruitment efforts led to the appointment of new members with professional and lived experience across housing development, service provision, planning, and community organizing and a renewed commitment to active governance and public accountability was established.

## B. Site Visits and Learning Exchanges

- Conducted tours of Brother Francis Shelter and the 3rd Avenue Navigation Center along with other shelter programs.
- Met with providers to discuss barriers to housing navigation and data tracking.
- Heard presentations from housing projects like the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness's Next Step rapid rehousing project.

## C. Public Hearings and Plan Review

- Participated in the public review and comment process for the 2024 Annual Action Plan.
- Provided comments on CDBG and HOME priorities.

## D. Engagement with Community Stakeholders

- Heard presentations from neighborhood organizations and community councils.
- Facilitated a conversation with Solid Waste Services regarding bear activity and trash collection services in neighborhoods.

## E. Collaboration with the Continuum of Care (CoC)

- Received a presentation on the Anchored Home 2023-2028 implementation.
- Received data presentations and discussion with CoC Lead Agency/Collaborative Applicant.

# 3. 2025 Recommendations and Goals with Actions

## Goal 1: Enhanced Data Analysis and Use

- Monitor and discuss public dashboards showing inflow and outflow of our community's Homeless Prevention and Response System (HPRS).
- Request regular reports from ACEH and MOA staff on strategy outcomes.

## Goal 2: Support Affordable Housing Development

- Make recommendations of strategic direction and allocations under the HUD Action Plan to develop affordable housing.
- Provide input on implementation of 10K Homes strategy.
- Request updates on zoning reform and Title 21 changes.

## Goal 3: Strengthen Partnerships with Community Councils and Stakeholders

- Establish regular feedback from Community Councils.
- Include Community Council Federation reps in any established advisory groups.
- Provide regular feedback and recommendations to the Assembly via the Housing and Homelessness Committee.

## Goal 4: Provide Feedback and Recommendations on HUD Action Plan

- Formalize review of Consolidated and Annual Action Plans.

- Submit written feedback aligned with Commission goals.
- Collaborate with AHD to reflect HHAND priorities in submissions.

## Goal 5: Coordinate Implementation of Anchored Home with the CoC

- Receive regular reports from CoC Governance Board.
- Align priorities with Anchored Home's prevention and housing goals.
- And create clarity and alignment with all providers participating in the continuum of care.

## 4. Policy Alignment

- Anchored Home: 2023–2028 — HHAND's system-building focus aligns with Anchored Home.
- Mayor's 2025 Homelessness and Health Strategy — HHAND supports expanded shelter and housing resources.
- 10K Homes Strategy — HHAND supports policy tools to meet 10,000-unit housing goal by 2035.

## 5. Conclusion

The HHAND Commission emerged from a challenging transition period in 2024 as a more engaged, diverse, and effective advisory body. With strong leadership, renewed structure, and a strong alignment with municipal strategies, the Commission has reestablished itself as a vital partner in Anchorage's housing and homelessness response.

This report was adopted unanimously at the HHAND Commission meeting June 4, 2025. We respectfully submit this report in service to our community and in support of a just, safe, and housed Anchorage.



David Rittenberg

HHAND Commission Chair

## Additional Resources:

- HHAND Commission Webpage:  
<https://www.muni.org/Departments/health/PHIP/CSD/pages/hand.aspx>
- Anchored Home Plan: <https://aceh.org/anchored-home>
- Mayor's Homelessness and Health Strategy 2025:  
<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/Documents/Priorities/Homelessness%20and%20Health%20Strategy%202025.pdf>
- Mayor's 10K Homes Strategy:  
<https://www.muni.org/Departments/Mayor/Documents/Priorities/10K%20Homes%20IV.pdf>