

## **RurAL CAP**

RurAL CAP would like to express support for continued funding for unsheltered homeless outreach. This funding for outreach has enabled the RurAL CAP outreach members to increase relationships for the unsheltered of Anchorage. The funding has been a reason why there has been so much success in addressing COVID in the homeless population. They have worked with partnerships across the town, both in outreach, housing providers, as well as the Sullivan Arena staff and have been able to obtain housing. Just this week, in an outreach meeting, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness employees commented on the quality of the relationships RurAL CAP staff had with so many unsheltered last week while completing the Homeless Individual Count. Just last quarter alone, this funding alone allowed one staff member to do 46 Coordinated Entry assessments.

In the same vein, the funding for Sitka Case Management is so invaluable for the successful transition of chronic homeless individuals from unsheltered life to stable Permanent Supportive Housing at Sitka Place. The funding for this position allows a staff member to work with chronic homeless who are now housed, and to stabilize in housing, working on independent living skills, recovery skills, harm reduction skills, increased physical and mental health interventions when needed, and at times even job skills. The position allows staff to teach money management skills, and to help obtain increased resources.

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) is in support of continuation of the funding for the Mobile Home Repair Program (MHRP) at the current level of \$400,000.

There is a demonstrated need for the program based on past participation and current waitlist, and RurAL CAP has the resources to continue to successfully implement this program.

Starting in 2014 through December 31, 2020, RurAL CAP successfully completed 123 projects, expending all of the funds available.

MHRP has been an extremely successful program and has greatly improved the mobile home housing stock in the greater Anchorage area.

MHRP funds have allowed improvements to be made on homes that may have otherwise gone neglected and have significantly extended the useful life of these structures.

Many health and safety issues are addressed using MHRP funds including potential fire and carbon monoxide hazards and poor indoor air quality.

These improvements allow low to moderate income residents to continue to live more comfortably and safely in their homes for the foreseeable future.

The current waitlist for MHRP has secured clients for the next two grant years at the current funding level.

In order to keep the waitlist achievable, RurAL CAP temporally suspended intake for this program but will begin accepting new applications for 2022 later this month. Historically the waitlist has filled up very quickly for this program, demonstrating the high demand for the services.

RurAL CAP requests the opportunity to continue the Mobile Home Repair Program at the \$400,000 funding level allowing improvements to be made that will increase the useful life span of this valuable housing resource in the greater Anchorage area.

RurAL CAP is extremely grateful for the partnership RurAL CAP has with the municipality. The funding that comes from this relationship is of such great value in RurAL CAP's mission to address the needs of chronic homeless and trying to provide Permanent Supportive Housing in an effort to eliminate poverty in Alaska as well as working to improve the quality of housing for those in Anchorage who remain housed in mobile home units that are so very susceptible to the elements of our Alaskan climate.

Thank you for your consideration,

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