



Uniting Anchorage to
end homelessness.

2023

Annual Report



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO
END HOMELESSNESS

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All Alaskans deserve **a warm, safe place** to call home.



OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP TO UNITE ANCHORAGE IN MAKING HOMELESSNESS RARE, BRIEF AND ONE-TIME.

OUR VALUES ARE DIGNITY, RESPECT, EQUITY & COMPASSION.

The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness aims to make homelessness rare, brief and one-time through dynamic leadership, partnership and collaboration. ACEH provides the organizational framework for a person-centered approach that is rapidly evolving to focus on housing with tailored supports. If our community commits to housing those most in need as a top priority, we can help our neighbors out of homelessness.



Meg at the Houston visit press conference, 12/4/2023

We can solve homelessness.

A message from Executive Director Meg Zaletel

“I wake up every day with a singular commitment to this work, and our community that has made dramatic progress in the past couple of years. ”

As we close out 2023, it's safe to say that this year was a tough year for our community. Not only did we see record numbers of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness, those impacts were felt throughout Anchorage. But the visibility of homelessness, especially this summer, shouldn't overshadow the fact that this was also a year with successes. The last of the hotel conversions starting housing people and between last year and this year, there are now nearly 270 filled housing units that didn't previously exist, many of serving individuals who were formerly experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, we were extremely fortunate to have our colleagues from Houston, Texas, join us as we launched the Next Step pilot, which aims to house 150 people in six months. This is the most ambitious housing effort to date focused on those individuals experiencing literal homelessness and done in close partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage and service providers. Not only is this the most ambitious housing effort we've ever tried, but it's also the most informed. Housing individuals with proper supports will provide them a platform for stability and success. We've set an ambitious goal of 85% retention in housing at 24 months. We wouldn't have been able to take on an initiative like this without having laid some extensive ground work through robust coordinated street outreach, which celebrated its first year this past October. Having robust coordinated street outreach is a game changer. Not only are we better

informed about who is experiencing unsheltered homelessness, but we also are able to ensure they are prioritized for housing based on their vulnerability and we maintain consistent contact and relationships that allow us to better meet their needs while waiting for a housing opportunity.

2024 promises to be another dynamic year for the Coalition. We fully expect to meet our Next Step Pilot housing goal and then prepare to take these efforts outside this summer to close encampments by housing individuals directly from the streets. This will be possible through continued building of robust partnerships and ensuring that our community is housing focused.

I wake up every day with a singular commitment to this work, and our community that has made dramatic progress in the past couple of years. In Houston they have a decade plus of working together. We've just really started and quickly demonstrated success. As we learn from one another, we need to be patient and consistent in our commitment to housing. Our approach to solving homelessness is already changing. The Coalition's success is the community's success. Together, we've got this.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Meg'.

Meg Zaletel

Momentum is building for housing.

A message from board Chair Nathan Johnson

“Anchorage has added 860 units of housing in recent years for those with low and very low incomes”



Nathan at the Houston visit press conference, 12/4/2023

Our team at the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness is making a bold move. We are making a big push to house at least 150 people, with needed supports, by the end of April. The Municipality of Anchorage, our close partner, has dedicated \$9 million for emergency cold weather shelter this winter – with a requirement that individuals served are guided into housing, not simply warehoused in temporary shelter. We are working to move people directly from the streets to housing because the answer to homelessness is not merely shelter, but a home where people can begin the journey of putting their lives back together – to heal and live with dignity and hope.

The coalition serves as the hub and convener for efforts to help people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage. As the coalition board, we oversee the nonprofit’s governance, financial stewardship and long-term vision. Three new members joined in 2023, strengthening our knowledge base and adding new energy. Join me in welcoming Kenny Peterson, owner of Allen & Peterson Cooking & Appliance Center; Jason Bockenstedt, executive director of the new Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust; and Kimberly Rash, acting director at the Anchorage Health Department.

Our board, now 11 members strong, fully supports this push for housing. As board member and retired hospital administrator Dick Mandsager learned early in his medical career, ‘housing is the first prescription’.

Public interest in Anchorage homelessness has never been higher, in part because of the visibility of camps and camp abatement. The heartbreaking tragedies of outdoor deaths have grabbed headlines and dominated newscasts.

Successes and solutions can be harder to see, but Anchorage has added 860 units of housing in recent years for those with low and very low incomes, a record, and more is coming. We are working with landlords to offer financial incentives and mitigate risks. Outreach teams are conducting detailed housing assessments to find out what people want and need. Hundreds of individuals already are moving off the streets into housing at converted hotels.

This is a pivotal moment. We have visionary leadership at the coalition, an Anchorage Assembly committed to this work, a mayor supportive of housing, and energized service providers. Stay connected with us to learn more about what is working. Follow our social media for volunteer opportunities. Reach out to board members or the staff to see what else you can do.

Let’s build on this momentum. If we keep doing the hard work, all of our neighbors in Anchorage will have a chance for a better life.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Johnson'.

Nathan Johnson

Meet the Team



THE TEAM

Meg Zaletel
Executive Director

Jessica Parks
Chief Operations Officer

Terria Ware
Senior Director of Policy & System Planning

Lisa Demer
External Relations Director

Sasha Zimmerman
Director of Communications

Dakota Orm
Healthcare Integration Director

Mac Lyons
Coordinated Entry Director

Yvonne Humphery
Housing First Planner

Robert Hockema
Data Analyst – HMIS

Madeleine Lang
Executive & Finance Assistant

Ziona Brownlow
Coordinated Entry Specialist

Eric Thomas
Coordinated Entry Specialist

Zach Zears
Coordinated Entry Specialist

MEET THE BOARD

Nathan Johnson, Chair
Providence St. Joseph Health – Alaska Region

Judith Crotty, Vice-Chair
Community Member

Jacob Lyon, Treasurer/Secretary
Premier Alaska Tours

Bill Falsey
Community Member

Christopher Kolerok
Cook Inlet Housing Authority

Emily Edenshaw
Alaska Native Heritage Center Inc.

Jason Bockenstedt
Anchorage Affordable Housing and Land Trust

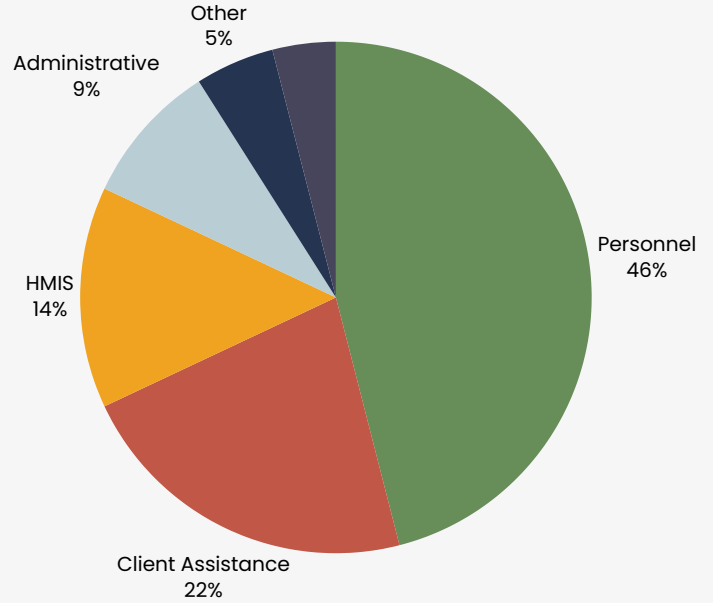
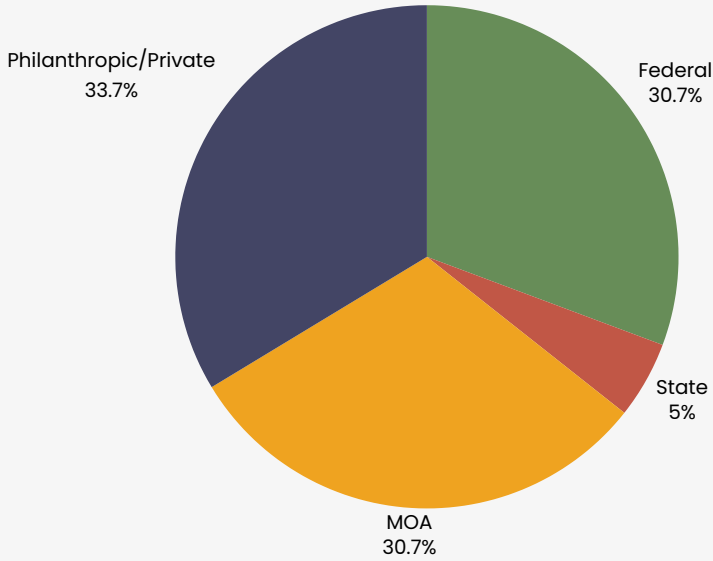
Kenny Peterson
Business Owner

Kimberly Rash
Municipality of Anchorage Health Department

Richard Mandsager
Community Member

Russ Slaten
Calista Corporation

Coalition by the Numbers



OUR FUNDING SOURCES, FY23

PHILANTHROPIC/PRIVATE
34%

FEDERAL
31%

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE (MOA)
31%

PHILANTHROPIC/PRIVATE
34%

STATE
5%

OUR SPENDING AT A GLANCE

PERSONNEL
46%

CLIENT ASSISTANCE
22%

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)
14%

ADMINISTRATION
9%

OTHER
5%

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
4%

Community Impact



People line up in the snow at an Outreach Pop-up events to receive basic supplies, first aid and food. ACEH has hosted these events 2-3 times every week of 2023.

Hotel conversions are helping people move into housing stability.

In 2023, the coalition worked with partners to bring over 860 affordable and permanent supportive housing units to the community.

Over 500 low-income people have left the streets this year and are now in stable housing and supportive care.

We have been busy with outreach in 2023!

The coalition and our partners have been bringing help and services out to our unsheltered neighbors. Multiple times a week this year we have been hosting outreach pop-up events where people can get assistance including basic supplies, first aid, food, and taking the first step to permanent housing and supports through Coordinated Entry. Over 528 people have been enrolled in Coordinated Entry* during street outreach this year alone!

**Coordinated Entry is the first step towards a housing referral. Learn more at aceh.org/coordinated-entry*

Year to Date in Anchorage:

1,676

SERVED STREET OUTREACH

11,523

PEOPLE SERVED BY THE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & RESPONSE SYSTEM



Jason Cates, former ACEH Outreach Manager, counting unsheltered people during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count.



Senator Lisa Murkowski speaks at the Alaska Housing Summit, 08/21/2023.

Alaska Housing Summit

Along with the Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, ACEH hosted a day of presentations, panel discussions, and regional spotlights on the state of housing in Alaska. Housing providers, developers, government workers, policymakers and interested community members learned more about the unique challenges and innovative community-based solutions to the housing crisis. The Alaska Housing Summit discussed solutions and how municipalities, housing authorities, state, and federal government all play a role in the development of housing.

Project Homeless Connect 2023

In October our community came together at the Egan Center for Project Homeless Connect 2023. At the event ACEH and our many partners were able to help over 500 people by providing for basic needs, cold weather gear, and assistance as they navigate toward stable housing.



Terria Ware, ACEH Senior Director of Policy & System Planning and Nathan Johnson, ACEH Board Chair at Project Homeless Connect, 10/25/2023



Owen Hutchinson, former ACEH Director of External Relations handing out winter gear at Project Homeless Connect, 10/25/2023



Next Step

THE COALITION LAUNCHES BOLD EFFORT TO HOUSE 150 PEOPLE IN FOUR MONTHS



Houston leaders tour a studio unit at one of Anchorage's 2023 hotel to housing conversions.

Next Step is a collaborative pilot project to house 150 people by the end of April 2024, moving individuals from Anchorage emergency cold weather shelter into housing. Supportive services will help people stabilize and begin a new chapter in life.

The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, the Municipality of Anchorage, and cold-weather shelter operator Henning Inc. are taking the lead and working with service providers.

Costs and Savings

\$100 a day per person in a shelter vs.
\$85 average daily cost to house a person.

Houston, Texas, has reduced homelessness by more than 60% since 2012. Leaders in the effort visited Anchorage in December 2023 to share their knowledge. Here is some of their encouragement and guidance.

"It's fiscally responsible. ... Ninety percent of those people are going to be successful and be able to move on with their lives and build full lives."

— Mike Nichols, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County President and CEO

"Let's look at data. ... There's a lot of political theories masquerading as solutions out there that have absolutely no data to back it up. The only data out there that shows substantial reductions in homelessness is housing with services."

— Marc Eichenbaum, Special assistant to Houston mayor, homelessness initiatives

"Just think about how great this project can be and then how great the next few years are going to be for all of you. ...You're definitely on the right path."

— Ana Rausch, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County Vice president of program operations

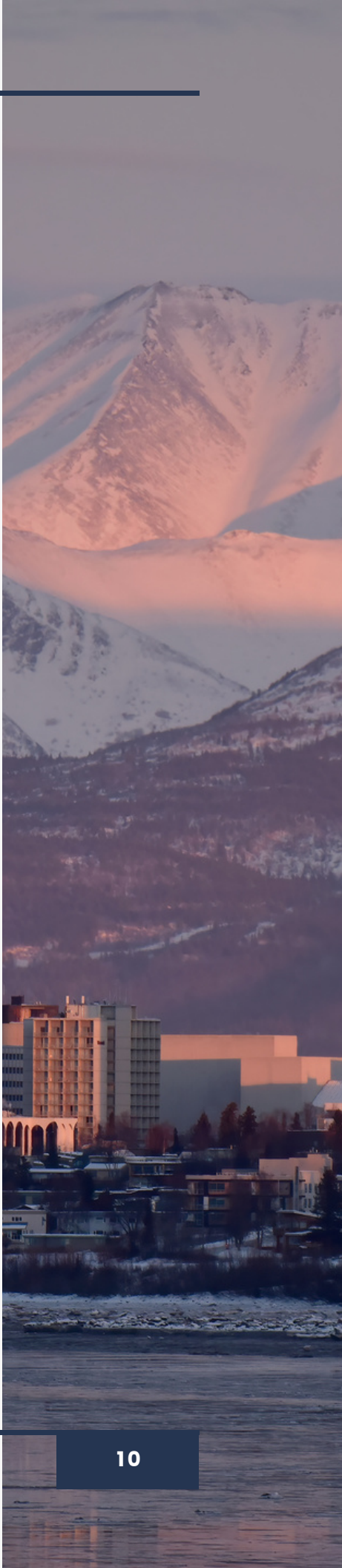
Thank you to our partners & stakeholders!

Homelessness is a community-wide problem that requires a community-wide response.

Major Donors



Major Partners



Our Donors

Thank you to the organizations and individuals who believed in our mission and contributed time and resources to helping our neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Adam Legg, Love Alaska

Alan & Anna Parkinson

Alison Kelley

Allison Higgins

Anita Algiene

Anne Coady

Arleen Duran

Barbara Noblin

Bill Falsey

Brenna Brock

Chad Ross

Cheyenne Seckel

Christine Hanson

Christine Ruffley

Christopher Kolerok

Cliff Groh

Dan Bilderback

David Johnson

Diane Kaplan

Ethan Cruze

Hannah Payne

Jeffrey Lynch

Jennie Pik-ha

Jo Ann Asher

Joey Fret & Cobra Van Reed

John Evans

Judith Crotty

Judy Caminer

Justin Scanio

Kacey Hopson

Kenny Peterson

Lauren Bradley

Layla Logsdon

Leonard Hanna IIV

Lloyd Stiassny

Lorraine Cutler

Lynn Valeri

Margaret Bean

Maureen Lonergan

McKenna Slivensky

Nathaniel Ycas

Nicolas Reyna

Ocean Robbins

Paul Schrooten

Raymond Flores

Richard Reichman

Richard Robertson

Robert Kapke

Robert Loeffler

Roberta Britain

Sandra Moore

Sarah Herrera

Sarah Schuerch

Stephen Sweet

Suzi Pearson

Victoria Granado

Zan Fredrick

Zoe Shetters



HOMELESSNESS IS A COMMUNITY-WIDE PROBLEM
THAT REQUIRES A COMMUNITY-WIDE RESPONSE

Thank you for uniting
to end homelessness.



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO
END HOMELESSNESS

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