

# Statewide Analysis of COVID-19 Homeless Service Priorities

The Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (AKCH2) and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) surveyed statewide providers to assess impacts of COVID-19 on homelessness and identify shared priorities for COVID-19 relief funds. **The highest ranked priority was the need to increase funding for supportive housing.** The second priority was housing vouchers and security deposits. Rental/mortgage, utility, and food assistance programs ranked lower, likely due to previous funding allocations.

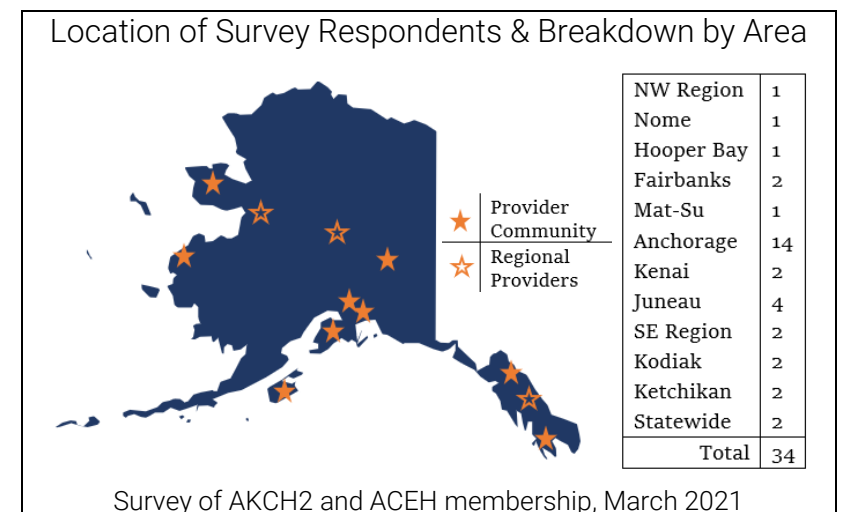
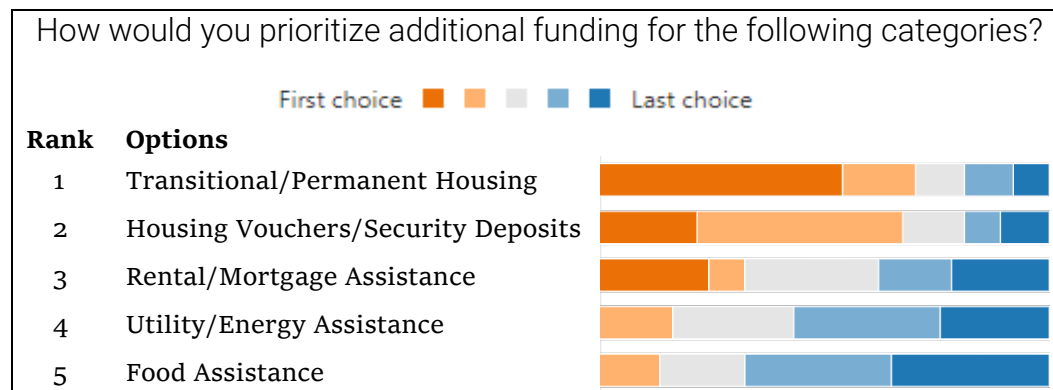
## Where is the opportunity for impact?

COVID-19 has increased demand on the homeless response system. AKCH2 and ACEH welcome the opportunity to work with legislative partners, the State of Alaska, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and coalition provider members to address rising needs in a sustainable way. The Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) and funding for AKCH2 to provide statewide coordination are necessary components of a comprehensive homeless response system.

	FY 21	FY 22	Difference
HAP	\$8.15m	\$7.2m	-\$950k

	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	Difference
AKCH2	\$138.5k	\$0	\$0	\$0	-\$138.5k

## Homeless Service Provider Survey Results



# COVID-19 Federal Relief for Housing & Homeless Services

	CARES Act (March 2020)	COVID-19 Relief Bill (December 2020)	American Rescue Plan Act (March 2021)
Rental Assistance	X	X	X
Mortgage Assistance	X		X
Utility Assistance	X	X	X
Housing Vouchers			X
Homeless Assistance	X		X

Federal relief programs have made critical resources available to Alaska.

There is an opportunity for coordination, collaboration, and strategy. Our members welcome continued partnership on housing and homelessness policy and the distribution of funding.

## From the Front Lines

- ★ 100% of survey participants noted client need for housing, food and economic resources had increased due to COVID-19.
- ★ Bay Haven Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Shelter in Hooper Bay told us, **“Victims of crime have been put on travel restrictions and have not been able to leave the community. However, leaving isn't an option when there are no beds available in other areas.”**
- ★ Nome, Kenai and Ketchikan providers connected rising housing insecurity to unemployment and loss of seasonal work. Women In Safe Homes said, **“If Ketchikan loses a second cruise ship season, we anticipate that housing insecurity will increase greatly.”**
- ★ Arctic Access described a trickle affect, **“Families caring for relatives who are homeless now need assistance and are unable to care for themselves. Getting loved ones off the streets is virtually impossible when the housing inventories are not there.”**
- ★ Catholic Social Services of Anchorage reported the largest need for housing in over six years, while folks in Kodiak said they are providing triple the assistance compared to past years.



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO  
**END HOMELESSNESS**

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