



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO **END HOMELESSNESS**

ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

Monthly Data: December 2021*

Project/Subpopulation	Jan 2022	Dec 2021	Nov 2021	Oct 2021	Sept 2021	Aug 2021
Total Number of Adults over the age of 25 Experiencing Homelessness in Need of Housing and Supports (not all of these individuals need shelter)	2221	2031	2022	2065	2224	2351
Total Number of Adults over the age of 25 Served through Housing Surge in Previous Month	177	140	184	308	209	172
Total Number of Adults over the age of 25 Who Secured Housing through Housing Surge and Moved in during Previous Month	28	25	21	22	17	19

Bottlenecks and Challenges within the local and state systems that result in service barriers or failure to secure housing including risks and issues that will slow down or reduce housing stabilization

Identification of resources within AHD that can be leveraged to support the facilitated exit strategy - i.e. HUD funding, alcohol tax and AHD operating dollars

Coordination/communication across needed entities at local and state level for specialized behavioral health and medical services: progress underway with AHD and SOA

- Resource/ capacity constraints with behavioral health, care coordination, etc.
- Dissemination of tools/programs at a State and local level that will assist with housing
- Hospital discharges to shelter without additional services to meet client

Bottlenecks & Challenges: December 2021

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Availability and accessibility of affordable rental units, assisted living home beds and supportive housing beds

- Vacancy rate for apartments accessible to individuals experiencing homelessness (units available in income range at limited vacancy rate)
- Ramp up of Landlord Housing Partnership efforts now that contracts are completed
- Units that allow pets
- Access to funds that permit leasing up quickly
- Rapidly updated list of landlords who are willing to rent to those in mass care
- ALH that will accept clients without an approved Medicaid waiver

Continued statewide “referrals” to Anchorage shelter system

Continuing to address Data Quality and Data Completeness in the Anchorage shelter system

Envisioned System[#] After
 Mass Care Closure =
 Total Capacity 1198
 441 to housing
 658 to shelter/navigation
 97 to residential treatment

<u>Sockeye Inn Complex Care Shelter - 120 beds</u>	Brother Francis Shelter - 75 beds*	Gospel Rescue Mission - 43 beds	Salvation Army McKinley Annex - 15 women%
Salvation Army Booth House - 30 veterans%	<u>Special Populations Shelter - 120 beds^{^^}</u>	<u>Navigation Center - 200 beds~</u>	Downtown Hope Center - 55 beds for women
<u>Midtown Substance Misuse Treatment - 68 beds</u>	Clitheroe Substance Misuse Treatment - 29 additional beds for men	<u>PSH/Workforce Housing Project 1 - 93 units</u>	Hope Suites Housing - capacity for 72 women
	<u>PSH/Workforce Housing Project 2 - 125 units^{*^^}</u>	Landlord Housing Partnership - 100 units*	Coordinated Entry Resolved to Housing - 50 clients

As of 2/3/2022

*estimated numbers

% March 1st planned opening

^^No identified location

~RFP issued 1/28/2022

Bold underlined text indicates specific projects identified by the facilitation group as part of the mass care exit strategy

Mapping the Current Shelter Capacity for Single Adults = Total Capacity at 1,027

Mass Care – 855 beds includes Sullivan and hotels

Brother Francis Shelter – 59 beds for individuals with medical needs or additional care

Gospel Rescue Mission – 43 beds for individuals who maintain sobriety and commit to provided programs

Downtown Hope Center – 55 beds for women

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Problem Statement:
How To Transition Approximately 800+ People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH) Into Suitable Placements When Mass Care Facilities Close

THE SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS IS HOUSING.

- Anchorage continues to experience a very tight rental market with low vacancy rates
- Even with dedicated resources for shelter outflow, finding appropriate homes for clients is moving slower than anticipated
 - Clients needs for support increase with longer stays in shelter or length of time unsheltered
- Rental assistance is available, but units are not, making each rental unit available competitive
 - Clients experiencing homelessness are not usually picked when units are competitive
 - Long wait lists for housing programs
- Clients in mass care continue to have unmet needs that complicate finding appropriate housing or placement.
- Workforce issues persist to find enough staff to fulfill the need for case management and to staff new programs that have been identified to be brought online.
 - Exacerbated by COVID-19

Funding For Housing

THE SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS IS HOUSING.

- Rental assistance and housing stability funds are available:
 - Intensive Case Management – rental assistance - \$2M
 - AHFC – housing stability funds which include rental assistance and other supports – approx. \$3.4M to be coordinated with the mass care exit strategy
 - Additional funding for Housing Stabilization and Recovery Program is also available through AHFC with at least 6 Anchorage based organizations receiving a notice of intent to provide funding at \$440,000 per organization (~\$2.6M)
 - Emergency Housing Vouchers – 96 vouchers statewide
 - Landlord Housing Partnership – \$450,000 in incentive payments for landlords
- **Funding for rental assistance is not the issue, it is the lack of available units. These resources are time limited, use it or lose it funding. If housing units are not found the money cannot be spent.**

How Each Area Contributes to a Successful Exit of Mass Care and Implements Anchored Home:

- **Implementation of Anchorage's first shelter specifically designed for individuals with complex needs.**
 - Over 150 individuals with medical needs have been identified within the homeless prevention response system.
 - Individuals needing PCS/ALH care will likely remain in shelter longer while awaiting eligibility for benefits and appropriate housing placements (6-18 months)
 - Utilizing the Coalitions Healthcare and Homelessness grant, the Coalition in partnership with Catholic Social Services, Agnew:Beck, Rasmuson and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority are designing this specialized shelter.
 - This shelter will address a long-standing gap within the continuum of care.
 - What additional partnership is required:
 - MOA – full utilization of the rooms as authorized by the Assembly for mass care to start providing appropriate care to this identified population
 - MOA – utilization of HUD funding through CDBG-cv funding or other sources to overlay necessary services while operating as mass care or as a shelter to meet client needs
 - State of Alaska – streamline Medicaid eligibility, care coordination, and ensure payment of services in a shelter setting

How Each Area Contributes to a Successful Exit of Mass Care and Implements Anchored Home:

- **Implementation of workforce and permanent supportive housing units through a hotel conversion adds additional housing units that can leverage current rental assistance and housing stability funds as well as ongoing HUD funding.**
- Working with philanthropic partners to explore financing options for a 93 unit hotel to convert into Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units and some efficiency apartments.
 - All units will be leased month to month for clients.
 - Allows clients to establish a positive rental history as well as save for a more traditional rental unit when available.
- Developing operating budgets including identifying sustainable funding for operations with housing providers that include RuralCap and NeighborWorks Alaska.
- What additional partnership is required:
 - MOA – assessment and utilization of 2021 HOME/HOME-ARP grant funds to jump start the project
 - AHFC - Developing financially feasible rental housing for qualifying households is challenging in the absence of project-based rental assistance. Most HOME-assisted rental projects rely on tenant rents to cover all or a portion of the debt service and project operating costs. Work with AHFC to identify or obtain project-based rental assistance for units funded with HOME funds.
 - Philanthropy or Housing Provider – identification of an owner and operator of the property.

Family Cold Weather Shelter

- **According to AWAIC, January referrals**
 - **29 families**
 - Will provide more statistics on family size, time, and repetition next month
- AWAIC is providing cab vouchers so families can get to hotels through ACEH ACF grant
 - Also provides transportation to NeighborWorks for enrollment in a longer term hotel accommodation
 - NeighborWorks able to complete Coordinated Entry Assessments and assist household with obtaining stable housing
- **Suggestions:**
 - Decrease time to house in hotel once referral is made
 - Currently approximately 2 days