



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Day 1 Families Fund

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness ([ACEH](#)) is a 501c3 non-profit whose mission is to provide dynamic leadership to unite Anchorage in making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. We believe that every Alaskan deserves a roof over their head, and a place to put down anchor and feel safe with their loved ones. ACEH works with members and partners to design, create, and lead the implementation of Anchored Home, the Anchorage community plan to end homelessness, and works with service providers and community partners to ensure that people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Anchorage can get the help they need.

As the convener of the [Homeless Prevention and Response System \(HPRS\)](#) ACEH strengthens community relationships to better serve, engage, and connect families to services. Through the work of ACEH via the Continuum of Care (CoC), family projects have been supported with HUD and private funds, with a focus on Family Coordinated Entry, and family-specific Case Conferencing. ACEH collaborates with providers and community partners to coordinate, connect, strengthen, and advocate for critical family services to keep families safe and to quickly connect families to resources to facilitate stable housing.

ACEH received a grant from the [Jeff Bezos Day 1 Family Fund](#), which issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families across the country. ACEH received a grant to advance strategies to address the immediate needs of families experiencing homelessness in the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA).

[Anchored Home](#), the Anchorage community strategic plan to solve homelessness, identified families as a priority population with the goal to achieve Functional Zero for families.

ACEH is soliciting proposals from qualified organizations that are pursuing solutions to family homelessness in the MOA, with a strong focus on helping families gain or remain stably housed by providing short-term subsidized rental assistance, and by assisting them with connecting to and navigating an array of supportive services to support them in achieving permanent housing. One organization will be awarded a grant of up to \$350,000. The project timeline is September 2022 through September 30, 2024.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations providing social and other services to families experiencing homelessness in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Target Population

The funding is intended to assist all types of families, acknowledging that family structures are diverse. The primary focus is for families with children ages 0-5, who are literally homeless, or at imminent risk of homelessness in the Municipality of Anchorage.



Proposal Submission Requirements

Grant proposals must be submitted electronically to grants@aceh.org. The deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 25, 2022. Proposals are limited to eight, 8.5 x 11-inch pages, not including the budget and budget narrative.

For questions about this solicitation, please email Julie Frizzell, jfrizzell@aceh.org or Helen Renfrew hrenfrew@aceh.org.

Project Scope and Requirements

This funding opportunity is focused on assisting a minimum of eighty (80) families, particularly those with children ages 0-5, who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness to obtain housing and supportive resources that will assist them in transitioning to and remaining in permanent housing. Eligible activities include diversion, street outreach, low barrier shelter, rehousing, and connection to services. The overarching goal is to decrease the amount of time families spend in shelter, reduce family returns to homelessness, and increase the number of families transitioned to permanent housing.

The selected service provider will develop or expand upon an existing rental subsidy program to create a long-term program model providing recently re-housed households with a small rental subsidy for sustainability. The rental subsidy program must be designed to assist families with very low income by providing navigation services, and by providing short-term rental assistance in order to help them achieve housing stability. Examples of the types of rental subsidy programs that may be developed can be found here, [Homeless Response: Shallow Rental Subsidies](#) and the [Shallow Subsidies Program](#); an initiative recently implemented nationally by Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). The intent of this type of rental subsidy model is to divert families from returning to homelessness and prevent unnecessary additional trauma in families.

In addition, the selected service provider will staff a full-time community liaison such as a Community Navigator to guide families to supportive services in addition to using a rental subsidy program to assist families with short-term rental assistance as they transition to permanent housing. A designated community liaison will ensure families are connected to critical services and will provide continued follow up to support families in need during this challenging time. Services may also include access to emergency funding for immediate housing in the event that family shelter options are at maximum capacity. The Community Navigator must develop relationships with community partners, including the Anchorage School District to connect with families in the [Child in Transition Program](#), and a wide range of service providers and related stakeholders, such as landlords and housing providers.

In addition, the Community Navigator will:

- Work with ACEH and participate in Coordinated Entry and case conferencing meetings as needed by the community.
- Work with organizations providing temporary family emergency shelter to connect with families.
- Meet families where they are, such as temporary family emergency shelter locations.
- Work a non-traditional schedule to best accommodate families at times of day when they are needed most (e.g., Noon – 9pm).



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

- Provide guidance and support to families throughout the process of obtaining permanent housing that meets their unique needs.
- Practice a client-centered approach to build trust with families to better connect them to effective programs and services and to establish long-term independence through community supports.
- Connect families to critical services (e.g., childcare, counseling, legal services).
- Connect families to employment and training (e.g., Alaska Job Center Network which may include state and/or federal grant training programs with supportive services).
- Prevent families from experiencing an unsheltered night by deploying flexible funds included in the budget to use in cases when existing emergency shelters are at capacity.
- Assist families in Rapid Re-Housing who are at-risk of returning to homelessness by connecting them to the rental subsidy program and supportive services.
- Enter client information into the AKHMIS (domestic violence clients excluded from this requirement).

Partnerships

Strong partnerships are critical to this work. The service provider must identify current partners and their roles and include strategies for building new relationships to provide supportive services to families. Describe how the relationships with partners will assist in the sustainability of the program. Provide letters of support from organizations that will contribute to the project now and in the future.

Data Collection and Reporting

The service provider must have or obtain access to the Homeless Management Information System (AKHMIS). The AKHMIS allows for the collection of client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Data collection requirements include common risk factors across families to better understand predictors of future housing instability and the length of time between identifying the family need and securing housing. Quarterly narrative progress reports are required.

Budget/Fiscal Requirements

Funds may be used for:

- Personnel to serve as a community liaison
- Flexible funding reserve for providing emergency shelter
- Funding for rental application fees
- Funding for short-term rental assistance
- Grant administration (limited to 10 percent)

Selection Criteria

- Organization overview including qualifications, staffing structure, and skills and experience of staff providing services
- Organization's experience with providing the same or similar services to families



- Describe your organization’s strategy for accomplishing the scope of work. Include a timeline of your project plan and activities using a calendar year quarter format, and a brief description of how the project may be sustained after this project is complete.
- Describe partnerships and connections to family supportive resources.
- Provide a budget that includes line-item categories and descriptions, narrative, and leveraged funding sources.

Of particular interest are projects that:

- Demonstrate how they address racial disparities
- Are inclusive of diverse family structures and equity
- Meet the needs of families in the selection and expansion of housing choices and proximity to local services and amenities
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of and connection to social and supportive services, including employment services.

Evaluation Criteria

Experience, skills and qualifications of the organization and the individuals who will be available to provide those services; success in providing similar services and working with families	25 points
The project description includes a comprehensive project plan and timeline that clearly demonstrate project goals and outcomes to be accomplished during the period of performance and a sustainability plan	20 points
Demonstration of partnerships and access to community resources and family supportive resources	20 points
Budget, narrative, and other leveraged funding sources	15 points
Demonstration of commitment to equity	20 points
Total	100 points