



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO
END HOMELESSNESS

Emergency Shelter Outreach Survey for People Experiencing Homelessness and People with Lived Experience of Homelessness

Summary: The outreach survey for people experiencing homelessness or with lived experience of homelessness received 76 responses. Many participants declined to answer all five questions and answered only ones they felt comfortable with. Sites visited were Karluk Manor, Covenant House, GuestHouse, Brother Francis Shelter, and Centennial Campground. At outreach events, cookies and juice were provided. Participants responded well to the snacks, and it was a useful way to initiate conversations.

Recommendations: Many respondents did not understand the wording of the questions. For future surveys, the outreach group recommends making questions easier to understand and answer. For questions regarding geography or location of services, the group recommends visual aids or maps, as many individuals did not have a strong mental map of the neighborhoods.

Results:

- 1) Do you have safety concerns when utilizing shelter? (Note: many people did not understand this question and it was often reworded as “Did you feel safe while staying in shelter?” Participants who had safety concerns specified those and the answers are listed below.**

71 responses

Primary concerns listed: alcohol use, assaults, fighting, arguing, stealing, violence, bed bugs, mental instability of others, losing friends, anxiety about having to leave or uncertainty about ability to stay/length of stay.

- 2) Is there a location around Anchorage that you feel most comfortable?**

65 responses

Lots of places were mentioned, but no single place stood out. The list includes Downtown, MV, Midtown, South Anchorage, Dimond, and Government Hill. Participants mentioned a need to be near transportation, help centers, services, and job opportunities.

- 3) If there was food service available, regardless of whether you are staying at the shelter, would you utilize it?**

70 responses

67 yes. 3 no

4) What services do you think should be at emergency shelter?

70 responses

Those with the most responses were:

- Mental Health services 15
- Transportation needs. 11
- Clothing/winter. 12
- Jobs/job training. 11

Other services were access to Wi-Fi, housing help, case workers, hygiene (showers, washers), and vouchers.

5) What are your strengths? (Note: responses are separated by ;)

Actively looking for work; Hands-on work like welding and plumbing; Helping myself and taking care of myself; Advocating for self; Advocating; Not giving up; Resilient, stubborn, problem solver; Outgoing, loud, persistent; Outside the box thinker; Problem solver; Good at working things out, finding out what works; Keep a positive mindset; Detailed orientated, resiliency, creative, self-motivated, introspective; Solving problems; Compromising; Looking for job; Mental health, I'm getting smarter, I'm coming up with ideas, creativity; Patient, self-control, doing things the right way; Fearless; Motivation. I sat down and set a goal and made steps towards it. I got out of jail and didn't know what to do. Then I got another job. I had to believe in myself; Nice, friendly, talkative, hardworking, sober; Surviving; Hard worker, I have medical problems and that makes everything difficult, I can help people a lot, when someone is hurting they come to me; Talkative, people person, helpful, I've been married for 30 years; I'm healthy; Easy to talk to, reading, writing; Friendly, healthy, good at cleaning, I'm timely; Getting up in the mornings and saying my prayers; Working as a day laborer; Interacting with others, reading and getting healthy; I stick to myself; Stubborn; I care about people too much, especially the ones that are out on the street; Survivor, hard worker, due to health can't work; Encourager, leader; Music, bible, seduction; Strong; God and the world; My laughter, never hold a grudge; Support; Passionate; Adapting; Personal; Good sense of humor; Not sure. Do a lot of commercial fishing; Builder, car repair anything; Cooking; Focusing on housing; Assertive; Employee; Good work ethic, good morals; Math, fixing stuff, drawing; Good in stressful environments; Spiritual; Resilient; Being alone; Helping others; Lead by example, organized, neat; Listening; Loyalty; Building this camp with my buddies. Surviving.; Conflict resolution and math; Math, problem solving.