



Mayor LaFrance's Homelessness and Health Strategy Update

FEBRUARY 18, 2025



CURRENT SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Prepared January 30, 2025, by the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

3,070

End-of-month count of people actively experiencing homelessness¹ through December 31, 2024

Source: AKHMIS

WHO



WHERE

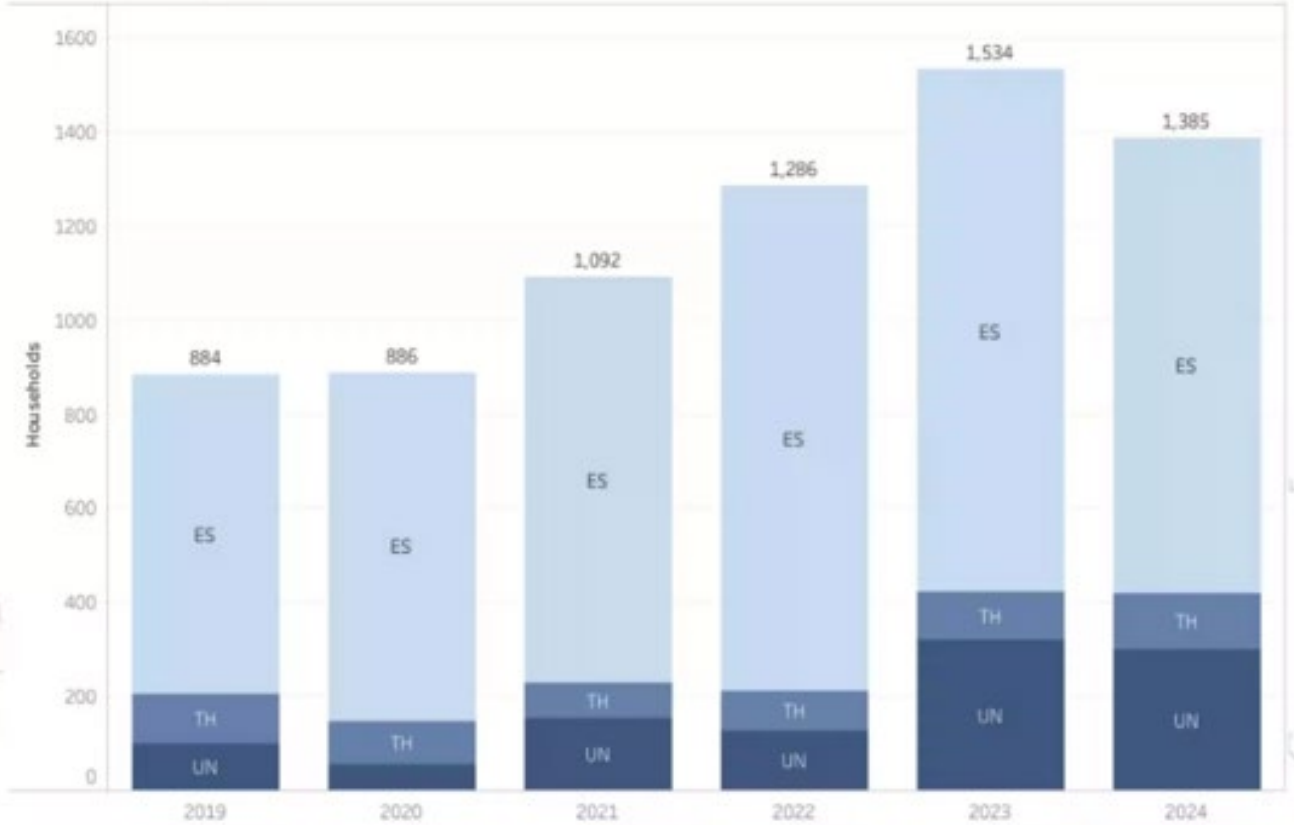


¹ Literal Homelessness: defined as shelter (including seasonal shelter), transitional housing or unsheltered

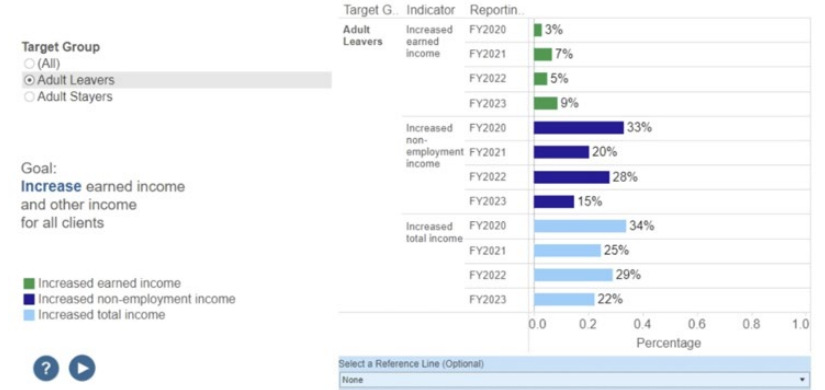
² Current utilization is 100% and includes all emergency cold weather shelter capacity

PIT Summary

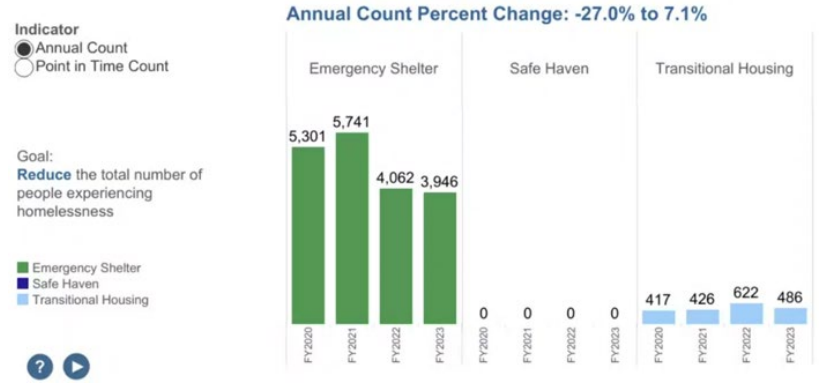
Households by Year



Increasing Income for Stayers and Leavers Alaska- Anchorage CoC



Number of People Experiencing Homelessness Alaska- Anchorage CoC



First 100 Days
October 8, 2024

First Year
June 30, 2025

18 months
December 30, 2025

UNSHELTERED AND SHELTER

- ✓ Launch Anchorage Police Department HOPE (Homeless Outreach, Prevention, and Engagement) Team
- ✓ Increase outreach to camps before abatement
- ✓ Strengthen internal coordination among municipal departments
- ✓ Work with Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH) and other partners to coordinate shelter and housing resources for people moving from camps, prioritized by vulnerability
- ✓ Maintain 200 beds at E 56th Avenue Congregate Shelter
- ✓ Work with Anchorage Health Department (AHD) to complete RFP process and execute contracts for 400 beds of non-congregate shelter before winter



- ✓ HOPE Team and outreach partners continue engagement with camps before abatement
- ✓ Address issues related to vehicles when moving to shelter
- ✓ Identify and launch warming sites for January-March
- ✓ Maintain 200 beds at E 56th Avenue Congregate Shelter
- ✓ Launch 332 non-congregate beds
- ✓ Establish peer, transportation, and other navigation partnerships to increase movement from shelter to housing
- ✓ Use Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data to work with AHD and ACEH to monitor flow of people from unsheltered to shelter to housing, adjusting resources as needed
- ✓ Develop and release RFP for rapid re-housing operator for approximately 75 people

- Establish consistent low-barrier winter services, including congregate and non-congregate shelter, rapid re-housing, and case management
- Continue to engage peer, transportation, and navigation partners with people moving from camps
- Explore and launch legal parking sites available from May through October 15, 2025
- Maintain 200 beds at E 56th Avenue Congregate Shelter
- Maintain at least 50 non-congregate beds
- Identify and launch additional low-density, low barrier, year-round shelter and transitional housing options (i.e., tiny homes, palette shelters, and other innovations)
- Identify opportunities for day shelter and community spaces for people experiencing homelessness



HEALTH

- ✓ Establish a Behavioral Health provider workgroup and host initial meetings
- ✓ Assess the availability of behavioral health treatment in Anchorage today
- ✓ Support the establishment of a care coordination group for the highest utilizers of the Anchorage Crisis Collaborative



- Maintain and monitor active referral network to behavioral health services and a care coordination group for highest utilizers of the Anchorage Crisis Collaborative
- Expand and support access to physical health providers serving individuals with complex needs
- Support development of a full behavioral health crisis continuum and connection to community services
- Maintain relationship with Anchorage therapeutic courts to increase referrals for treatment



HOUSING

- ✓ Develop Mayor LaFrance's Housing Strategy that includes housing for low- and extremely low-income households



- Continue to implement Mayor LaFrance's Housing Strategy
- Leverage public-private partnerships to increase the supply of housing units for very low-income households
- Increase access to rental subsidies
- Identify and plan to redevelop blighted and abandoned properties



DATA, FUNDING, COORDINATION

- ✓ Develop and submit budget proposals for MOA funding of safety net services for Q4 2024 and 2025
- ✓ Re-establish relationship with the Homelessness Leadership Council
- ✓ Develop strong working relationships with the Assembly Housing and Homelessness Committee, ACEH, and other safety-net providers
- ✓ Convene i-Team and GIS team around homelessness data collection and reporting
- ✓ Apply to Bloomberg Philanthropy Collaboration Track
- ✓ Launch regular updates to Assembly and the public
- ✓ Reengage the Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development (HHAND) Commission



- Establish relationships with advocacy and funding partners, including: Alaska Healthcare and Hospital Association, Alaska Behavioral Health Association, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and other business and philanthropy leaders
- Develop relationships with Tribal Health Organizations throughout Alaska
- Develop relationships with neighborhoods, faith-based, and community organizations to increase engagement to address homelessness
- Develop legislative priorities and participate in advocacy with state and federal delegations
- Evaluate MOA and partner expenditures related to homelessness and health, and develop MOA budget proposal for 2026
- Work with funding partners to fully leverage MOA funding with other sources



Mayor Suzanne LaFrance

HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH

From

Expensive seasonal crisis of standing up winter shelter

Standing down winter shelter results in hundreds of people going outside in the spring / summer

Large encampments with not enough places for people to go / live

Interplay of homelessness, behavioral health, drugs and alcohol, and crime

Community frustration and calls for action



To

Predictable baseline of year-round shelter, where we add beds in winter

Abate encampments...But also have places for people to go -- from parking to housing

Align and expand crisis response services, support expansion of behavioral health services, implement public safety strategy

Make this a positive community effort

Goals

- 1. Significantly fewer people sleeping outside**
- 2. Increased access to behavioral health and crisis services**
- 3. More housing**
- 4. Partner and coordinate, including with private funders**



SHELTER



HOUSING



HEALTH



PARTNERSHIP



SHELTER

Fewer people sleeping outside



RFP for congregate
shelter sites



CDBG-CV funding
requested for non-
congregate



Abatement update



Third Party Oversight
contract update



Increase access to behavioral health and crisis care



Crisis Response Workgroup Update

Changes to ASP service area
Funding secured to re-start CORE team
AFD hiring clinicians for MCT 24/7
Exploring options for crisis stabilization



Crisis response funding bill moving in State legislature



Behavioral health providers connected to shelter operators



HOPE team continuing outreach and connections



HOUSING

More Housing



Capital Acquisition RFP

\$1,179,000 for CIHA Baxter Family Housing to Assembly March 4

Second award in negotiation



CDBG-DR funding recommended for same project



CDBG 2025 \$800K RFP posted this month



Rental assistance + Housing Services

\$4M secured from ERA 2 funds + \$1.5M HOME-ARP

Award decisions will go to Assembly in March



Modular transitional living project in planning for fall '25



Partner and coordinate, including private and public funders



**Community Convening in
March 20-21**

**Community council
convenings Feb-March**

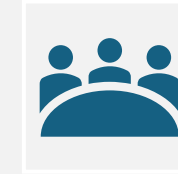


**Advocacy with state
legislature**



**Mayor presented to HLC,
follow up early March with
funding request**

**Meetings upcoming with AK
Mental Health Trust**



**Ongoing meetings with
community councils, faith
communities, individuals,
organizations**

Thank you!

Questions and Discussion