

Municipality of Anchorage

Anchorage Ten Year Plan on Homelessness

In 2004, Anchorage joined many cities throughout the country in taking a major step towards addressing the issues and impacts of homelessness by developing a Ten Year Plan. Anchorage's Ten Year Plan was created by a task force consisting of twenty-four members appointed by the Mayor to represent various sectors of the community (e.g., homeless individuals, government, education, social services, law enforcement, communities of faith, funders, and businesses).

Anchorage's Ten Year Plan on Homelessness has been translated into a Results Action Plan format to provide the community an easier to read and measurable plan. The vision and goals of the Ten Year Plan have not been changed. The Results Action Plans are a way to assist in moving towards the Ten Year Plan's measurable indicators. In the following pages, the Results Action Plans have been categorized into the following strategic areas: Housing, Information Management, Prevention, Targeted Case Intervention, and Public Policy. These strategic areas were first identified by the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness. For a copy of the detailed Ten Year Plan on Homelessness, contact the Department of Neighborhoods at (907) 343-4182.

The following points are steps that will be taken with the Results Action Plans so as to ensure that the goals laid out within the Plan are achieved:

- Results Action Plans will be reviewed on an annual basis;
- The Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness (ACH) will review the status, flexibility, and feasibility of the Plan's elements on an annual basis;
- Service providers will meet bi-monthly; and,
- The ACH Executive Oversight Board will convene to assign responsible parties to individual activities.



Anchorage Ten Year Plan on Homelessness, *Housing Results Action Plan*

Partner Resources

- Municipality of Anchorage
- Homeless/formerly homeless
- Public safety
- Community based social service organizations
- Local coalitions
- National coalitions
- Alaska Housing and Homelessness Coalition
- Anchorage neighborhoods and community councils
- Faith-based community
- Business community
- Funders
- Health care providers
- State of Alaska
- Anchorage School District and other educational institutions
- Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness
- State Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Governor’s Council
- United Way of Anchorage

Activities

Increase Affordable and Permanent Transitional Housing

- Identify gaps in transitional housing for special needs populations who are homeless and increase the number of transitional housing units as necessary
- Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units
 - Annually have an 811 or 202 project application in the Municipality
- Increase the number of affordable housing units
- Retain public housing resources and units available in Anchorage
- Search for resources and participate in projects that will assist in replacing and/or retaining some mobile home units in order to not lose affordable housing units in the community

Expand Affordable Housing Production Incentives

- Remove zoning barriers and other regulatory barriers to special needs housing
- Develop and sustain affordable housing production through Municipality incentives such as inclusionary zoning, availability of foreclosed properties, tax incentives, dedication of public land, etc.
- Implement Housing Trust and other mechanisms to increase funding resources for affordable housing on the Municipal, State, and private levels

Measurable Indicators

- Maintain existing affordable housing stock
 - No net loss (includes mobile homes and public housing)
- Number of new affordable housing units
 - Additional 1 & 4 bedroom units
 - Section 8 housing vouchers
- Number of new supportive housing units for households that are homeless
- Number of new transitional housing units for households that are homeless
- Increase in the number of people that are housed at each Project Homeless Connect event
- Increase the number of private developers who are building affordable housing
- Sustain funding for the housing trust on an annual basis
- Increase in Municipal incentives, awareness, and support for affordable housing
- Increase the number of service providers who are partnering with nonprofit developers to provide permanent supportive housing

Long-term Outcomes

By the year 2015, people who are homeless will be connected with a way to secure safe and affordable housing within 90 days of being identified by any provider of homeless services

Decrease the point-in-time count*

Anchorage Ten Year Plan on Homelessness, Information Management Results Action Plan

Partner Resources

- Municipality of Anchorage
- Homeless/formerly homeless
- Public safety
- Community based social service organizations
- Local coalitions
- National coalitions
- Alaska Housing and Homelessness Coalition
- Anchorage neighborhoods and community councils
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Activities

Alaska 2-1-1 Referral System

- Create a complete and accurate Alaska 2-1-1 referral system for Anchorage and update the system regularly
- Links to Alaska 2-1-1 referral system will be on every provider's website
- Develop a process to increase awareness and outreach so that Alaska 2-1-1 referral system will be the first point of contact for families and individuals

Alaska Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- Increase training opportunities and technical assistance for agencies using HMIS
- Create a funder packet that helps education and outreach for utilizing HMIS
- Develop a process for providers to input and update their information on HMIS regularly
- Develop and implement a process to ensure that needs, services received, and services not received are recorded on HMIS
- Use system to track community needs and housing stability needs
- Develop customized community assessments for HMIS
- Create a system to accurately count the homeless population (no duplications)

Alaska Housing Locator (AHL)

- Develop a process to encourage private landlords to advertise housing units on AHL
- Develop a process to update and keep current the listing of housing units available in Anchorage on AHL

Packaging Systems

- Funders, when meeting with providers, promote and encourage the use of the 2-1-1, HMIS, and AHL systems and involvement in the Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness

Measurable Indicators

- Increase in number of calls to Alaska 2-1-1 referral system
- Alaska 2-1-1 referral system is the first point of contact for referrals
- Increase in number of providers using the HMIS
- Increase in funder recognition, value and support of HMIS
- Increase number of people exiting HMIS into permanent housing
- Increase in number of private landlords advertising on AHL

Long-term Outcomes

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*Not in Ten Year Plan

Anchorage Ten Year Plan on Homelessness, Prevention Results Action Plan

Partner Resources

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Activities

Eviction Prevention Funding and Services

- Develop resources to increase eviction prevention funds for rent and utilities
- Ensure that those who access eviction prevention funds remain stabilized by providing intensive case management services, financial workshops, workforce development, outreach, and navigation for additional public benefits, the EITC, and Food Stamps

Prevention Services for the "Hard to House"

- Establish tenant certificate programs such as Ready to Rent
- Establish incentive program for landlords to accept "hard to house" tenants
- Assure landlords that they will have access to social service supports when they take on "hard to house" tenants

Measurable Indicators

- Decrease in shelter usage and bed space
- Decrease in number of evictions
- Increase in number of landlords who accept homeless tenant certificates
- Increase in number of households receiving eviction prevention services
- Increase in landlord knowledge of incentive programs and social service supports

Long-term Outcomes

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*Not in Ten Year Plan

Anchorage Ten Year Plan on Homelessness, Targeted Case Intervention Results Action Plan

Partner Resources

Activities

Measurable Indicators

Long-term Outcomes

- Municipality of Anchorage
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- ### Outreach and Support Services
- Identify and implement necessary steps to increase mobile case management in communities to families and individuals
 - Develop a process so that households are able to quickly access services such as SSI/SSDI (social security and disability insurance), food stamps, TANF, Medicaid, VA benefits, etc.
 - Increase supportive services to people in permanent housing

- ### One Stop Shop/Project Homeless Connect
- Continue Project Homeless Connect events
 - Establish permanent, one stop shop for homeless individuals in Anchorage
 - Implement a “no wrong door” policy and process to break down barriers to the application process for housing services that are caused by length of application time, ability to access location, and lack of access to basic personal resources such as birth certificates, etc.

- ### Prevention Services for Food Pantry Clients*
- Community resource information is available at the Food Pantry in different languages
 - Outreach and homeless prevention services occur at the Food Pantry

- Increase in number of homeless families and individuals who access services:
 - at a one stop shop
 - that “meet them where they are at” and
 - so that people are connected to the right supports at the right time
- Decrease in number of days between application submission and when benefits are received
- Increase in resources to fund supportive services for people in permanent housing

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*Not in Ten Year Plan



Anchorage Ten Year Plan on Homelessness, *Public Policy Results Action Plan*

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Activities

- ### Public Communication Strategy
- Executive Oversight Board (EOB) and interested agencies will, on a continual basis, provide a speaker's bureau and presentation about affordable housing and homelessness to the community and potential stakeholders/partner agencies
 - Maintain website and a public document (such as a white paper) on affordable housing and homelessness
 - Provide continual status reports to the community, Assembly, and Mayor's office on progress that is being made

- ### Advocacy
- Local: increase efforts in local advocacy
 - State: support state initiatives regarding homeless policy and provide advocacy input
 - Federal: coalition will provide support on federal policy initiatives

- ### Plan Oversight Policy
- Active and working ACH
 - Consider ways to increase engagement of existing members
 - Reach out to potential partner agencies to increase membership and participation
 - Implement steps to improve direction and overarching coordination of activities
 - Communicate plan to stakeholders
 - Coordinate with other homeless groups and reduce duplication of other groups meeting in the community
 - Reach out to the Municipality to increase their financial support and search for funding to hire a full time Coalition position

Measurable Indicators

- Increase number of public awareness activities each year
- Increase in public awareness about the ACH's specific goals, what is needed to get there, and where the ACH is in relation to the goals
- Elimination of public stigma about homeless persons
- Coalition embraces the Ten Year Plan and is involved in its initiatives
- Increase in coordination with other groups to focus on local policy and advocacy efforts
- Increase in advocacy input at the local, state, and federal levels
- Increase percentage of private sector participation in the Coalition – get business and political support
- Increase in staffing resources for the ACH
 - Full time staff person
- Increase in effective organizational resources around ACH and elimination of ineffective organizational resources
- Sustain funding for the housing trust on an annual basis
- Increase number of housing trust funded projects in Anchorage

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