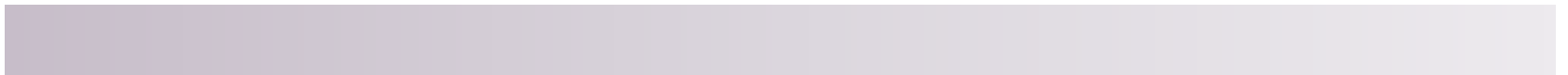


# Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

Homelessness in Anchorage Overview

September 1, 2020



# What causes homelessness?



**When Housing is Out of Reach:** Now more than at any other time, there is a lack of housing that low-income people can afford. Without housing options, people face eviction, instability and homelessness.

**Income and Housing Affordability:** Low-income households often do not earn enough to pay for food, clothing, transportation and a place they can call home.

While many socioeconomic factors can cause a community member to experience homelessness (or to stay houseless), lack of affordable and accessible housing is the single greatest driver of homelessness.



# 2020 Affordable Housing Shortages



## ALASKA

#11\*

In **Alaska**, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is **\$1,304**. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn **\$4,346** monthly or **\$52,147** annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly Housing Wage of:

**\$25.07**  
PER HOUR  
STATE HOUSING  
WAGE

### FACTS ABOUT ALASKA:

STATE FACTS	
Minimum Wage	<b>\$10.19</b>
Average Renter Wage	<b>\$19.55</b>
2-Bedroom Housing Wage	<b>\$25.07</b>
Number of Renter Households	<b>91,290</b>
Percent Renters	<b>36%</b>

**98**  
Work Hours Per Week At  
**Minimum Wage** To Afford a **2-Bedroom**  
**Rental Home** (at FMR)

**76**  
Work Hours Per Week At  
**Minimum Wage** To Afford a **1-Bedroom**  
**Rental Home** (at FMR)

**2.5**  
Number of Full-Time Jobs At  
**Minimum Wage** To Afford a  
**2-Bedroom Rental Home** (at FMR)

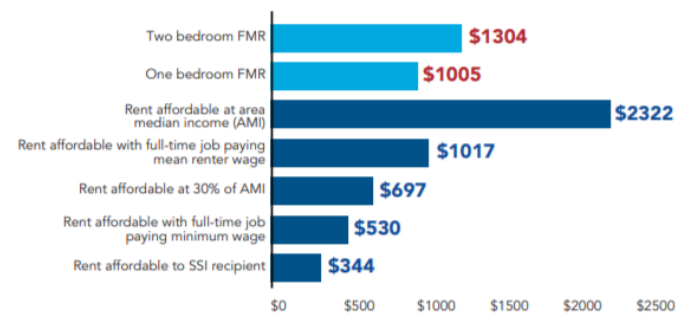
**1.9**  
Number of Full-Time Jobs At  
**Minimum Wage** To Afford a  
**1-Bedroom Rental Home** (at FMR)

MOST EXPENSIVE AREAS	HOUSING WAGE
Aleutians West Census Area	<b>\$33.75</b>
Bethel Census Area	<b>\$32.46</b>
Nome Census Area	<b>\$32.40</b>
Denali Borough	<b>\$29.60</b>
Juneau City and Borough	<b>\$28.50</b>

MSA = Metropolitan Statistical Area; HMFA = HUD Metro FMR Area.

\* Ranked from Highest to Lowest 2-Bedroom Housing Wage. Includes District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

**OUT OF REACH 2020** | NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION

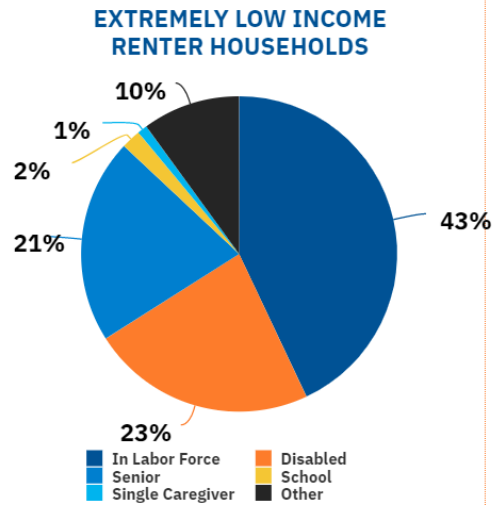


AK-1

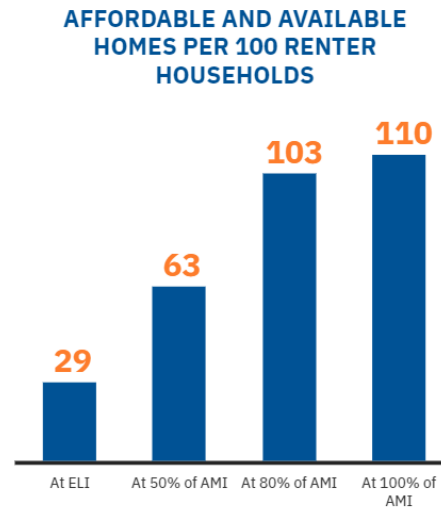
# 2019 Housing Data

**KEY FACTS**

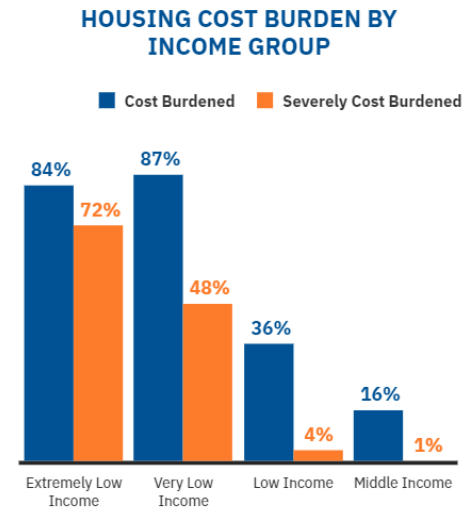
- 19,652 OR 23%**  
Renter households that are extremely low income
- \$31,380**  
Maximum income for 4-person extremely low income household (state level)
- 13,927**  
Shortage of rental homes affordable and available for extremely low income renters
- \$52,147**  
Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent.
- 72%**  
Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden



**Note:** Mutually exclusive categories applied in the following order: senior, disabled, in labor force, enrolled in school, single adult caregiver of a child under 7 or a person with a disability, and other. Fifteen percent of extremely low income renter households include a single adult caregiver, more than half of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week. Eleven percent of extremely low-income renter households are enrolled in school, 48% of whom usually work more than 20 hours per week.  
**Source:** 2018 ACS PUMS.



**Source:** NLIHC tabulations of 2018 ACS PUMS



**Note:** Renter households spending more than 30% of their income on housing costs and utilities are cost burdened; those spending more than half of their income are severely cost burdened.  
**Source:** NLIHC tabulations of 2018 ACS PUMS

# Who is most at risk?



- **Those with economic challenges (2019 43% of ELI\* households)**
  - Ex: COVID-19 economic impacts, 2018 earthquake
- **Elders and seniors: (2019 21% of ELI\* households)**
  - Since 2008, Alaska is the # 1 state in the nation for per-capita 65+ senior growth
  - 17% of Anchorage's population is 60+ (increase expected through at least 2035)
  - Anchorage and Matsu house over half of the 60+ population in the state
- **Those living with disabilities: (23% of ELI\* households)**
  - Lack of ADA compliant housing
  - Two year plus wait list for those experiencing disabilities and elders
  - Rent to income ratio for those with a fixed income
- **Reentry community members:**
  - Formerly incarcerated people are almost 10 times more likely to be homeless than the general public\*
  - Anchorage Reentry Coalition's recent survey shows 65.8% of reentrants are unsure (or do not have) a place to live upon release

Thank you :

- Access Alaska
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Anchorage Reentry Coalition
- Disability Law Center of Alaska

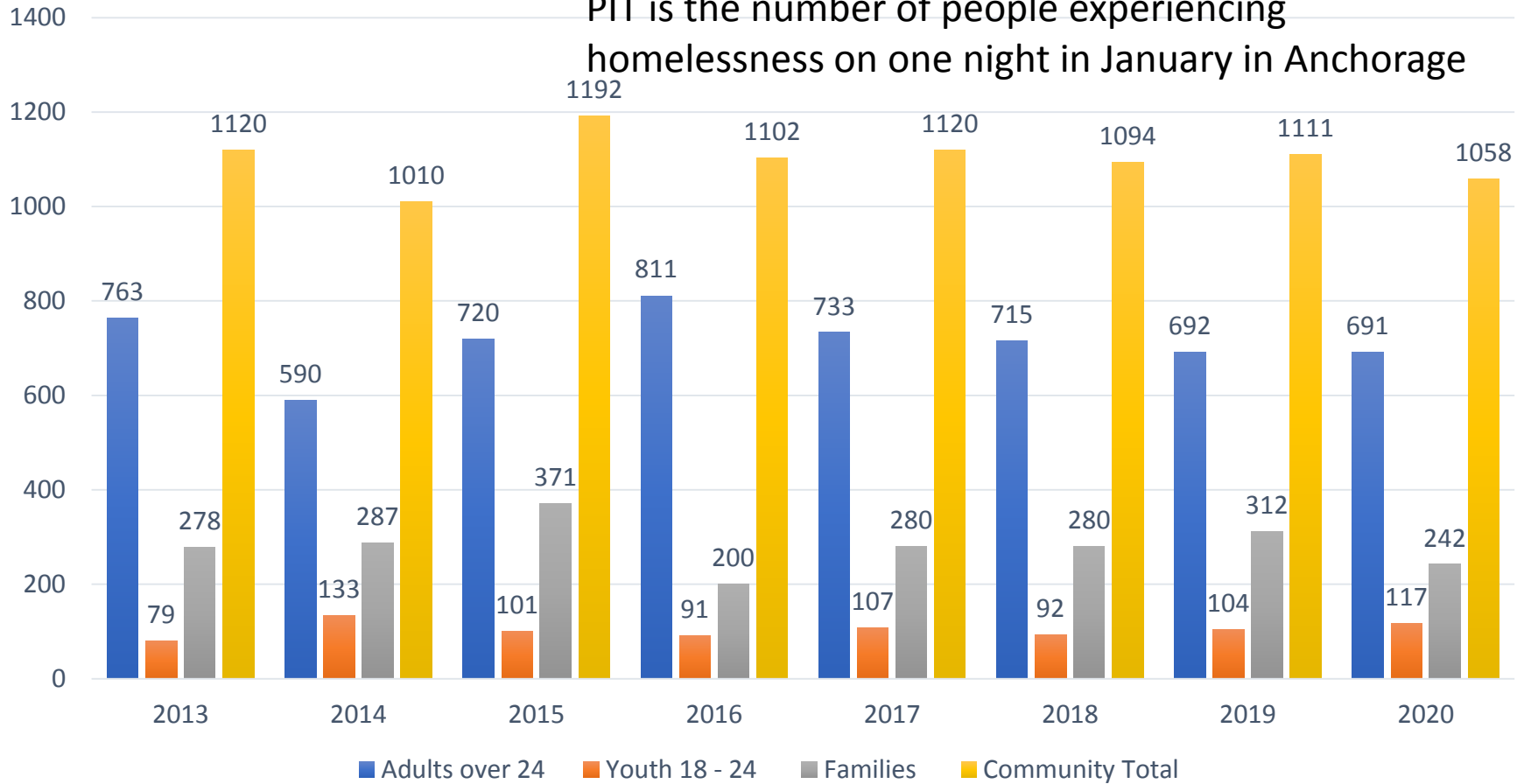
\*ELI: Extremely Low Income

[\\*https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/housing.html)

# Point in Time (PIT) Count



PIT is the number of people experiencing homelessness on one night in January in Anchorage



## Flat is a success!

Other west coast cities are experiencing a drastic rise in homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness:

- Los Angeles- 14% increase from 2019 to 2020, 16% total increase from 2018 to 2019
- San Francisco- 17% total increase from 2017 to 2019 (only conducts PIT every other year)
- Seattle- 5% increase since 2019 (almost 50% of their population is unsheltered)
- Portland- 21% unsheltered increase from 2017 to 2019 (only conducts PIT every other year)

# Year-round data



Total number of people served for the year.

People Experiencing Homelessness in Anchorage	Youth & Young Adults	Families	Veterans	Adults	Total
<b>Total served in 2018</b>					
Active clients in HMIS Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	1043	1958 people	519	4852	7763
<b>Total served in 2019</b>					
Active clients in HMIS Jan 2019 - Dec 2019	1176	2117 people	422	4621	7901

## Services work!

7600 people were kept off the streets in Anchorage in 2019.

- 7901 unique individuals were served by data sharing partners in 2019.
- Throughout the year, only 55 (winter) - 250 (summer) of those individuals experienced unsheltered homelessness.

# Anchored Home



## KEY PILLARS



Anchored Home is the community plan to solve homelessness-launched in late 2018.

### Progress Made:

- Established partnerships with local government, philanthropy and the business community to increase accountability, return on investment and reduce system inefficiencies
- Increased capacity for supportive housing options including several national projects
- Deepening community and public engagement with ACEH
- Building infrastructure for single point of entry and data management

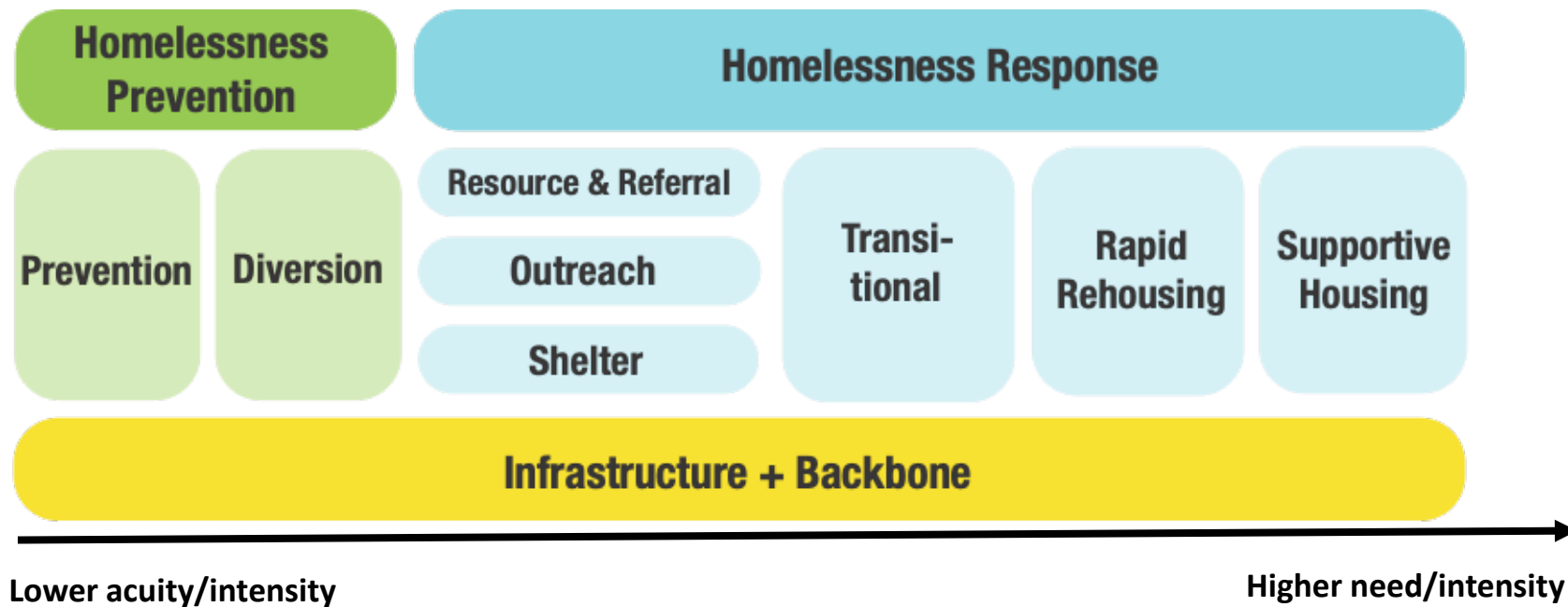


# Building a Continuum to Solve Homelessness



ACEH's goal is to connect a full continuum of evidence-based, cost-effective interventions to make homelessness rare, brief and one time.

We call this the Homeless Prevention and Response System.



Lower acuity/intensity

Higher need/intensity

*Provide dynamic leadership to unite Anchorage in making homelessness rare, brief and one-time.*

# 2020 Gap Analysis for Anchorage



## Gaps = Demand - Capacity

(X) = Sufficient capacity, system meeting demand

X= Not enough capacity, demand exceeding capacity

	Single Adults	Families	Youth & TAY	Veterans	Gap (units needed - current capacity)
<b>Shelter</b>	400	30	20	0	<b>450</b>
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	154	(40)	(30)	1	<b>155</b>
<b>Rapid Rehousing</b>	1,510	23	162	(17)	<b>1,695</b>
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	557	28	95	20	<b>700</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3,000</b>

This data accounts for new funded projects coming online and COVID-19 impacts to the shelter system as of June 2020.

# Addressing unmeasured gaps

For some interventions, we do not yet have coordinated data to quantify gaps. For these interventions, gaps are explained qualitatively.

Intervention Type	Description of Gap
<b>Prevention</b>	We are missing data and coordination for a robust prevention system, need which is anticipated to grow due to COVID. Addressing problems early through prevention is lower cost than waiting for need in higher level of care.
<b>Diversion</b>	We know that diversion is working for veterans in Anchorage, and we know that there are many families and youth who meet the definition for homelessness and are not being served by our current system. Diversion helps people who are one situation away from homelessness from requiring more intensive interventions.
<b>Resource &amp; Referral</b>	Intervention early after entering the system by connecting with available resources can lead to self-resolution. This is not currently available in shelters in Anchorage because they are not funded to include robust resource & referral supports.
<b>Outreach</b>	Outreach is particularly important in connecting people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with needed resources. We are significantly lacking outreach capacity to ensure all unsheltered hotspots have regular outreach year-round, including initial engagement and data collection and also capacity for intensive outreach to those with higher acuity needs.

# 2021 Community Priorities

## **Priority 1: Permanent Supportive Housing, Shelter, and Rapid Rehousing for Single Adults**

- Single adult homelessness continues to be the largest area of need, and this gap between demand and capacity is projected to grow. This need can best be addressed by a combination of shelter (or shelter alternatives), Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing for adults.

## **Priority 2: Prevention, Resource and Referral, and Outreach; Shelter and Rapid Rehousing for Families and Youth & Transition Aged Youth (TAY)**

- Preventing or immediately addressing new inflow into homelessness is a significant need particularly during COVID-19. Additionally, increased capacity for shelter and rapid rehousing for families and youth & TAY is necessary to adjust to the economic impacts of COVID-19 and prevent intergenerational homelessness.

## **Priority 3: Diversion; Transitional Housing for all populations; Permanent Supportive Housing for Families & Youth; Housing Interventions for Veterans**

- Other interventions have proven effective for specific subpopulations and should be scaled up to meet demand.

# Projected impacts of COVID-19



## Local Insights:

- According to a weekly survey by the Census, **1 in 4 adults in Alaska either missed their last housing payment** or have little-to-no confidence of being able to make next month's housing payment.
- The United Way 2-1-1 operators received 8,420 calls from Alaskans seeking assistance related to either housing, utility assistance, or food assistance in the month of June 2020 alone. **That amount of calls in a single month represents nearly half of the total call amount for the entire 2019 calendar year.**
- Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) predicts that **Anchorage will lose 11k jobs in 2020**

## Community Solutions (Built for Zero)

- Dr. Brendan O'Flaherty, a professor of economics at Columbia University, **projects an increase in homelessness by 40-45% this year over January 2019**, an addition of nearly 250,000 people, if homelessness follows unemployment the way that it has done so in the earlier part of this century.
- Using data on homelessness and unemployment from 2007 to 2009, it found that **for every 1% increase in the unemployment rate, homelessness per 10,000 people increased by 0.65.**

## National Low-Income Housing Coalition

- "Even before the COVID-19 public health and economic crises, **nearly eight million extremely low-income renter households were spending more than half of their incomes on their housing**, leaving them no ability to save for a future emergency and putting them just one financial shock away from housing instability."

# Key Takeaways

- Homelessness is a community problem that negatively impacts all of us
- Single adult homelessness has been increasing in Alaska since 2007- the inflow is greater than service capacity (outflow)
  - Anchorage has maintained stable numbers- the initiatives that have increased capacity for youth, family and veteran services have offset the increase in single adult homelessness
- There are evidence based and cost-effective solutions used around the world to address homelessness successfully- we have many in place in Anchorage but do not have enough services and enough affordable housing
- Anchorage will best meet current and COVID-19 related projected needs by enhancing our Homeless Prevention and Response System via: housing solutions (rapid rehousing and supportive housing), emergency shelter and related services (day engagement and resource connectivity) and increasing our prevention and diversion services

# What can we do?

- **Address the existing gaps in the existing Homeless Prevention and Response System**
  - Direct funding, policy and new initiatives to the evidence based and cost effective services that work
  - Partner with those with lived experience and front-line providers to create better efficiencies and outcomes
  - Partner with the public in education and advocacy- homelessness impacts every resident of Anchorage!
- **Prepare for the next 24 months as the economic impacts of COVID-19 unfold**
  - Partner across historic silos to engage and innovate. One easy example is to work better with landlords to address occupancy rates, evictions and other upcoming changes
  - Advocate for the necessary food stability, economic support and housing supports in the coming months
  - Identify and educate partners and stakeholders on the changing face of homelessness- the months ahead will look very different

# Interested in more info?



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