



Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

Who We Are

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- Michael Sanders, Housing and Homelessness Coordinator, City of Fairbanks
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Housing First

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Housing First

TYPICAL "HOUSING READINESS"

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Housing First Models

- Permanent Supportive Housing
 - It's Permanent!
 - Tenants typically have leases
 - Services are sometimes co-located, but not required
 - Congregate vs. Scattered Site
 - Targets Individuals who are highly vulnerable
- Rapid Rehousing
 - Temporary assistance
 - Supports to stabilize housing crisis
 - Targets individuals who are less vulnerable

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Housing First Research

- Significant evidence that Housing First Works:
 - Reduces homelessness (Palepu, 2013; Tsemberis, 2000, Gulcur, 2003)
 - Reduces hospital utilization among individuals with persistent mental illness & problems with substance abuse & addiction (Cochrane-Stergiopoulos, 2015; Fitzpatrick-Lewis, 2011; Montgomery, 2013; Nelson, 2007)
 - Improves housing stability for people with mental disorders (Stergiopoulos, 2015; Palepu, 2013; Tsemberis, 2000)
 - Advances mental health and well-being (Nelson, 2007; Tsemberis, 2012)

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Housing First Research

- Significant evidence that Housing First Works:
 - Increases treatment for substance abuse and addiction (Nelson, 2007; Tsemberis, 2000)
 - Decreases utilization of psychiatric hospitals for formerly homeless individuals with mental illness (Gulcur, 2003)
 - Program participants report significantly higher quality of life than non-participants (Patterson, 2013)
 - Substance use declines among program participants (Kirst, 2015)

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Housing First Research

- Economic Benefits:
 - Decreases cost to shelters (Stergiopoulos, 2015; Ly, 2015)
 - Decreases costs to emergency departments (Ly, 2015)
 - RRH linked with cost reductions associated with hospitalizations and treatment for individuals with persistent mental illness & substance abuse problems (Srebnik, 2013; Urban-Cunningham, 2009)
 - Housing First programs generally cost less than programs that require sobriety or treatment prior to providing housing (Gulcur, 2003)

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Housing & Service Needs Among Formerly Incarcerated Persons

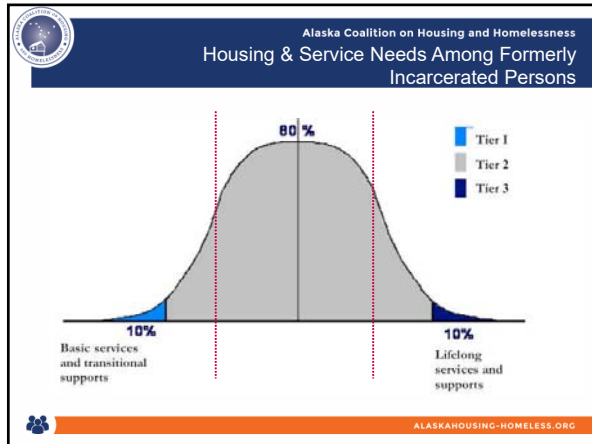
LOW NEED
 Individuals who are relatively self-sufficient, able-bodied and employable, who face a short-term affordability gap or desire to leave former neighborhood

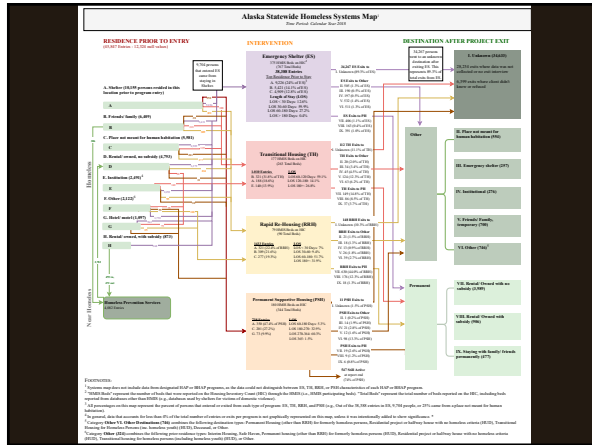
MODERATE NEED
 Individuals who have limited employment histories and employment prospects, who may have substance abuse challenges and limited social networks

HIGH NEED
 Individuals with significant disabilities and/or behavioral health issues, who will need longer-term services

Source: Adapted by the Urban Institute from a typology advanced by the Corporation for Supportive Housing (2010).

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Reentry Housing Literature

- Permanent, independent housing is difficult to secure (Fontaine & Biess, 2012)
- Formerly incarcerated persons experience high rates of residential instability (Visser, Yahner, & La Vigne, 2010)
- Most rely on family and friends for post-release housing (Visser & Courtney, 2007)
- Housing with family and friends is not always ideal (Fontaine et al., 2012; Kirk, 2012)

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Necessary Partnerships


- Correctional Institutions
- Housing Agencies/Service Providers
- Continuum of Care/Reentry Coalitions
- State Agencies
- Municipalities
- Funders (Public and Private)

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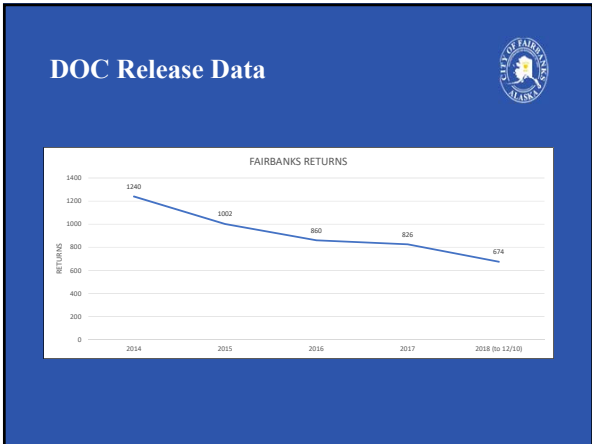
**Housing Returning
Citizens**

Fairbanks



Good News in Fairbanks 

- Increased interagency collaboration
- High vacancy rate (13.7%) - case managers & landlords connecting
- A strong Reentry Coalition
- Multiple Reentry specific organizations
- Peer support starting to become more mainstream
- No wait for Returning Home Vouchers
- College/University and Union apprenticeship programs
- Steadily reduced demand since 2014



- ### Challenges in Fairbanks
- Lack of behavioral health services
 - Occasional interagency competition for funds
 - High unemployment / high housing cost burden

Covenant House Alaska
Serving Alaska's Youth for over 30 years.


Our Services

- Street Outreach
- Drop-In Center
- Food
- Hygiene/Clothing
- Phone/Mail/Internet
- Crisis Shelter
- Health Services
- Case Management
- Employment
- Education
- Counseling
- Housing
- Pastoral Ministry
- Legal Issues
- Transitional Living





Stereotypes and Myths about Homelessness

- It's their fault and they deserve it.
- They are all drug addicts and alcoholics.
- They are all mentally ill.
- They are all too lazy to work.
- They are all criminals.
- It is always the result of their poor choices.
- It is freedom and a life of leisure.





How Youth End Up On The Street...

It's simple... and complicated....


How Youth End Up On The Street...

- Cycle of poverty
- Fleeing abuse
- Exiting from detention center, prison, and treatment centers
- Moving from rural to urban areas or from out of state
- Kicked out because of behavior
- Kicked out because LGBTQ
- Mental illness
- Addiction
- Loss of family housing
- Age out of foster care





Vulnerabilities of Homeless Youth

- Living on the street, camping in tents, sleeping in cars, cold winters
- Among the homeless population, youth are the most vulnerable.
 - Physical, emotional, and sexual abuse
 - Commercial sexual exploitation
 - Gang recruitment
 - Addiction
 - Mental illness
 - Violence



Leaving the Street Life

- Youth Street Culture
 - Street Family
 - Better than Home
- Street Code
 - Don't Rat
 - Survive
 - Practicality vs Morality
- Street Time
 - Living in the Now



Leaving the Street Life

- Needs...
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Mental Health Services
 - Substance Abuse Detox and Treatment
 - Food
 - Community
 - Positive Hobbies and Activities



Housing Options for Youth:
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

- 1) Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- 2) Rapid Re-Housing Program (RRH)
- 3) Permanency Navigator Team (PN)
- 4) Host Home Program for Youth who identify as LGBTQ

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

- Young people with 9+ VI-SPDAT score
 - Neighborworks Alaska (Housing)
 - Volunteers of America (Clinical support)

RAPID REHOUSING PROGRAM

- Young people with 4 to 8 VI-SPDAT score
 - Covenant House Alaska

PERMANENCY NAVIGATOR TEAM

- 4 Permanency Navigators
 - Covenant House Alaska

HOST HOME PROGRAM

- Choosing Our Roots (COR)

Questions?

