

KENAI PENINSULA

2023 PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT REPORT



No one deserves to lose hope



The Homeless Action Coalition is proud to report on the Kenai Peninsula’s 12th Annual Project Homeless Connect event held on January 31, 2023. Our success is due to the collaborative effort between service providers, the private sector, volunteers, and the community members.

A special thank-you to the following:

Event Co-Chairs: Kathy Gensel & Frank Alioto	Donations: Melissa Kline
Intake: Cheri Smith	Volunteers: Beth Selby
Food: Kenai Peninsula Food Bank	Check Out: Melissa Kline
Provider Services, Vendors: Leslie Rohr	Fundraising: Kathy Gensel
Publicity: Jodi Stuart	Logistics: Kathy Gensel & Frank Alioto
Transportation: Brent Hibbert & Taylor Cochran	

Steering Committee

Abby Struffert	Greg Meyer	Levi Sutton
Alecia Gottlob	Heather Schafer	Lindsey Anasogak
Amanda McKinley	Jamie Matison	Margaret Gilman
Amanda Moran	Jason Warfle	Margie McCord
Amanda Perez	Jeffrey Eide	Marquitta Andrus
Ashley Blatchford	Jennifer Randleas	Mary Bell
Beth Selby	Jessica Cheeseman	Mary Goggia
Carolyn Potter	Jessie Ruffridge	Mary Starrs Armstrong
Cheri Smith	Jodi Stuart	Melissa Kline
Cinda Martin	John Webster	Pascale Dilley
Courtney Mitchell	Julie Bunch	Paul Whitney
Darla Jones	Karen Martin-Tichenor	Peg Rogers
David Smith	Kathleen Totemoff	Raquel Eisenman
Deidra Lamping	Kathy Gensel	Rhonda Oglesby
Erica Agayar	Kellie Bartelmay	Rose Kimbrell
Frank Alioto	Kimberly Earll	Tami Marsters
Georganne Roberts	Leslie Rohr	Tonya Silk

Demographics of Population Served

Ninety-six (96) individuals participated in the PHC event. The total household number based on participant input was 164.

A total of 57 individuals (62%) who completed an Exit Survey reported this was their first time participating in the Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect event.

Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	44	45%
Female	52	55%
Transgender	0	0
Questioning	0	0
Gender other than female or male	0	0
NA / Refused		
Total	96	100%

Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under age 18	0	0
18 - 24	6	6%
25 - 34	12	13%
35-44	27	28%
45-54	12	13%
55-64	28	29%
65 and older	11	11%
NA / Refused	0	0
Total	96	100%

Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian / AK Native	31	32%
Black / African American	0	0
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	2%
White	60	63%
Asian or Asian American	0	0
NA / Refused	3	3%
Total	96	100%

Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4	4%
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino	91	95%
NA / Refused	1	1%
Total	96	100%

Veteran

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	16%
No	80	83%
NA / Refused	1	1%
Total	96	100%

Slept Prior Night

	Frequency	Percent
Street / Homeless camp	1	1%
Abandoned property	0	0
Vehicle / car	8	8%
Homeless shelter	10	11%
Friends / family	24	25%
My apartment / house	25	26%
Hotel / motel	6	6%
Jail / institution	2	2%
Other	20	21%
Total	96	100%

Household

	Frequency	Percent
Single	59	61%
Head of Household	37	39%
Other household member	0	0
Total	96	100%

Disabilities

	Frequency	Percent
Alcohol Use Disorder	8	11%
Chronic Health Condition	18	26%
Developmental	5	7%
Drug Use Disorder	15	21%
HIV/AIDS	0	0
Mental Health Disorder	31	44%
Physical Disability	33	47%
NA / Refused	26	27%

****Percentages above based on 70 individuals (73%) who disclosed one or more disabling conditions.**

Mental Health Trust Disability

	Frequency	Percent
Alzheimer's / Dementia	0	0
Chronic Alcohol / Substance Use Disorder	10	29%
Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities	8	24%
Mental Illness	15	44%
Traumatic Brain Injury	9	26%
NA / Refused	62	64%

***Percentages above based on 34 individuals (35%) who disclosed one or more disabling conditions.*

Sexual / Relationship Orientation

	Frequency	Percent
Heterosexual / Straight	88	92%
Gay	0	0
Lesbian	1	1%
Bisexual	3	3%
Questioning	0	0
Aromantic	0	0
Asexual	0	0
Demisexual	0	0
Pansexual	4	4%
Queer	0	0
Other	0	0
NA / Refused	0	0
Total	96	100%

Alaska Native Regional Corporation

	Frequency	Percent
Not Affiliated	71	75%
Bering Straits Native	2	1%
Cook Inlet Regional	7	8%
Sealaska	0	0
Ahtna	0	0
Bristol Bay Native	4	4%
Doyon Limited	3	3%
13 th Regional	0	0
Aleut	2	2%
Calista	4	4%
Koniag	0	0
Arctic Slope Regional	0	0
Chugach Alaska	1	1%

NANA Regional	2	2%
Total	96	100%

How long Homeless

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 year	33	35%
1 year or more	44	45%
Don't know / Refused	19	20%
Total	96	100%

Number times homeless in past 3 years

1st time	28	29%
2 – 3 times	32	33%
4 or more times	22	23%
Don't know / Refused	14	15%
Total	96	100%

Number Months spent 1 day homeless in past 3 years

Fewer than 12 months	36	38%
12 months or more	44	45%
NA / Refused	16	17%
Total	96	100%

Zip code of last permanent address

	Frequency	Percent
Kenai	37	39%
Soldotna	31	33%
Nikiski	2	2%
Sterling	10	10%
Kasilof	3	3%
Cooper Landing	1	1%
Wasilla	2	2%
Anchorage	4	4%
Alaska Village	2	2%
Montana	1	1%
Georgia	1	1%
Mexico	1	1%
Refused / don't know	1	1%
Total	96	100%

Survivor or Victim of Domestic Violence

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	48	50%
No	47	49%
NA / Refused	1	1%
Total	96	100%

Participant Exit Survey = 92 (96%)

Rating	Excellent	Very Good	Fair	Poor
The event was helpful to me.	75 (82%)	15 (16%)	2 (2%)	0
I felt respected and supported.	79 (86%)	8 (9%)	1 (1%)	0
NA	4 (4%)			

How did you hear about the event?

Friend	Newspaper	Word of mouth	Flyer at agency in Kenai
Poster	Facebook	Love, INC.	Flyers
Family member	Library	KPAL	AA sponsor
My wife	Food Bank	Wildwood	Serenity House
Re-Entry Coalition	Around town	LeeShore	Radio
Freedom House	School	Bishops Attic	VA Hospital
Frontier	Grandma	Social-media	My mom
Neighbor	Job Center	HUD Vash	Advertising
My son	Kenaitze		

Would you use an Emergency Cold Weather Shelter in community if available?

- Yes = 77 (84%) No = 12 (13%) NA = 3 (3%)

Suggestions for notification of Cold Weather Shelter:

Radio or website	Internet alert	Call by phone	Signs
Facebook	TV	Flyers	Public announcement
Email	Text	Online ad	

Number of Individuals in Household

Age 13 and Under	34
Age 14 - 24	13
Age 25 and Over	117
Total	164

Primary Reason for Homelessness

	Frequency	Percent
Loss of Job	8	7%
Work hours cut	0	0

Rent / Utility Increase	0	4%
Lease Violation	0	0
Illness / Injury	5	5%
Substance Abuse	4	4%
Domestic Violence	5	5%
Family Dispute	2	2%
Aged out Foster Care	0	0
Jail / Prison Release	4	4%
Treatment Center Release	0	0
Loss of Roommate	1	1%
Divorce	1	1%
Eviction	4	4%
New to Community	2	2%
**Other (see below)	44	48%
NA / Refused	12	13%
Total	68	100%

***Other includes: can't afford to buy/rent, landlord filed bankrupt, landlord deceased, no work, helpless sometimes, rent high, fire, haven't found place yet, unemployed, life choices, financial circumstances, transportation, no work, no housing, bad choices, weather, looking for work, hard to find affordable housing, going to school, dad died, lost job then home, low income, new landlord, don't make enough money, food and gas prices, fixed income and home burned down and unable to get into rental of my own, house fire, bad luck.*

Form of Transportation

	Frequency	Percent
Own Vehicle	33	36%
Friend/Family Member	18	20%
Public Transport	7	8%
Taxi	6	6%
Walk / Ride Bike	22	24%
Hitchhike	1	1%
NA / Refused	5	5%
Total	92	100%

Besides housing what is your primary need right now?

Glasses	Teeth	Driver's License	Home
Commodities	Toilet paper	Pet food	Food
Voucher	Laundry	Transportation	Clothing
Housing	Income	Pet needs	Public assistance
Work	Social support	Getting rid of bed bugs	Medical
Car	Fuel/gas/propane	Hygiene products	Blankets
Backpack	Keeping clean	Vet care/ASHA voucher	Haircut
Gas	Household items	Baby supplies	Job search
Rent/cellphone bill			

****Food (24) clothing (14) and transportation (10) were the top requests**

Other needs to get back to you about:

Lifeline	Funding for license	Transportation	Vet
Housing	Fuel/gas/propane	Social Security	Energy assistance
Warm clothing	Boots and shoes		

First Project Homeless Connect event? Yes = 57 (62%) No = 35 (38%)





Our gratitude and thanks to all the following volunteers, vendors, and donors who helped make this event possible!

VOLUNTEERS

Abby Struffert
Alecia Gottlob
Alicia Clucas
Alicia Morgan
Allison Bushnell
Amanda Hanson
Amanda Harber
Amanda McKinley
Amanda Motonaga
Amanda Perez
Amy Lynn Burdett
Andy Knapp
Angela Holland
Angelina Brandt
Angie Hicks-Clary
Ashley Agwiak
Ashley Blatchford
Beth Selby
Bob Bird
Bobbi Stelljes
Candace Grodin
Carolyn Lopez
Carolyn Potter

Gail Kennedy
Georganne Roberts
Hal Smalley
Heather Rasch
Helen Hickman
Holly Martinez
Issac Cryer
James Kinison
Jennifer Flores
Jennifer Madison
Jennifer Randleas
Jennifer Waller
Jennifer Wood
Jerry Rombach
Jessica Cheeseman
Jill Tyler
John Henry
Julie Bunch
Kalena Sutton
Kami Wright
Karen Davis
Karen Martin-Tichenor
Kate Cooper

Margie McCord
Mary Ann McBride
Mary Bell
Matt Law
Melissa Crawford
Melissa Kline
Melody Buhr
Mersha Tamrat
Michael Curtiss
Natasha Mallett
Nora Ribbers
Pastor Johathan Mercill
Pastor Meredith Harber
Patty Eissler
Peggy Rogers
Raquel Eisenmann
Rhoda Dolifka
Rick Oelrich
Robin Holmes
Rose Kimbrell
Sally Oelrich
Samuel Gage
Saundra Wellborn

Cayla Boettcher
Chelsey Carter-Killian
Cheri Smith
Cindy Rombach
Collin Attleson
Courtney Mitchell
Dan Gensel
David Case
Deanne Bell
Deidra Lamping
Diane Fielden
Doreen Potterton
Doug Archenbanlt
Douglas Grzybowski
Eli Semeraro
Ellen Sheehan
Emily Alvey
Frank Alioto

Katie Middleton
Kathleen Totemoff
Kathy Gensel
Kathy Heindl
Katie Cowgill
Kellie Bartelmay
Kelly Griebel
Kenia Belter
Kenzie Long
Kim Fannon
Kim Novak
Kimberley Lewis
Leslie Rohr
Levi Sutton
Linda Tannehill
Lindsey Hnasosak
Lisa George
Margaret Gilman

Savanah Price
Sean Neil
Shanie Malone
Shannon Bartell
Shannon Schjolls
Sheri Boggs
Sherry Martinovich
Sofia Costales
Steven Bell
Susan Smalley
Tamera Mapes
Terri Kunz
Tim Navarre
Troy Bailey
Twyla Mundy
Vicky Hodgkin
William Alexie
William Boyles

VENDORS

49th State Law
AAAA
ABC Life Choices
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alaska Quit Line
Americans Allied Against Addiction
CARTS
Change 4 the Kenai
Cook Inlet Counseling
Division of VOC Rehab
Freedom House
Frontier Community Services
Independent Living Center
Kachemak Bay Family
Kenai Lions Club
Kenai Peninsula Animal Lovers
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Kenai Peninsula Re-Entry
Kenai Public Health
Kenai Vet Service/VA

Kenaitze Indian Tribe
KPAL
Ladies First/S.A.F.R.
Love, INC.
Mountain Magic Massage
Municipal League
Nikiski Shelter of Hope
Nine Star, Ninilchik Traditional Council
Pastoral Care
Peninsula Community Health Services
Peninsula Job Center
Peninsula Spay and Neuter
SinShearly
SNAP
SOA DMV
SOA Public Assistance
Sources of Strength, Students in Transition
Southcentral Consulting
Susan Smalley
The LeeShore Center

CASH AND IN-KIND DONATIONS

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Kenai Peninsula Interfaith Group
Alaska Mental Health Trust	Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Alaska Quit Line	Kenai Peninsula Re-Entry Coalition
Arby's – Kenai	Kenai Public Health
Beeman's	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Bishop's Attic	Kivi Kreations Bakery
Build Up	KPAL
Central Peninsula Hospital	Laura Dean
Change 4 the Kenai	Midnight Son SDA Church
Christ Lutheran Church	Nikiski/Northstar United Methodist Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Ninilchik Traditional Council
City of Kenai	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church
City of Soldotna – Mini Grant	Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church
Coca Cola Bottling of Alaska	Peninsula Dog Obedience Group
Cook Inlet Counseling	Peninsula Community Health Services
Fine Thyme	Safe Kids
Fred Meyers	Soldotna Elks
Frontier Community Services	Soldotna Rotary Club
Home Depot	Soldotna Safeway
Independent Living Center	Soldotna United Methodist Church
Jennifer Randleas – Practicum Student	Walgreens
Kenai Middle School – Sources of Strength Students	

We sincerely apologize if we have missed any donor or volunteers

Endnote: Data was secured through the PHC event on January 31, 2023.