

KENAI PENINSULA

2020 PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT REPORT



No one deserves to lose hope

The Homeless Action Coalition is proud to report on the Kenai Peninsula’s 9th Annual Project Homeless Connect event held at the Soldotna Sport’s Center on January 29, 2020. 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	Provider Services: Leslie Rohr
Check In/Out: Cheri Smith & Melissa Kline	Publicity: Jodi Stuart
Donations: Melissa Kline & Kellie Bartelmay	Volunteers: Beth Selby
Transportation: Brent Hibbert & Taylor Cochran	Food: Sharon Kelly
Fundraising: Kathy Gensel & Marta Taylor	Logistics: Kathy Gensel & Frank Alioto

Vendors and individuals providing services to homeless individuals (34):

ABC Life Choices	Kenai Public Health
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Kenai Vet Center
C.A.R.T.S	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
CICADA	Ladies First
Change 4 the Kenai	Love, INC.
Division of Public Assistance	Mountain Magic Massage
Division of VOC Rehab	Peninsula Community Health Services
Division of Voter Registration (DVR)	Peninsula Job Center
Freedom House	Peninsula Spay & Neuter
Friendship Mission	Peninsula Youth Encouraging Alaskan’s Health
GCI	Soldotna Professional Pharmacy
Independent Living Center	Soldotna Rotary
Kenai/Soldotna Lions	The LeeShore Center
Kenai Peninsula College	Twin Cities Veterinary Services
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank	Sinshearly
Kenai Peninsula Massage Therapy	Susan Smalley
Kenai Peninsula Re-Entry Coalition	2020 Census

Demographics of Population Served

One hundred forty-eight (148) individuals participated in the PHC event. *Data compiled below is based on 147 individuals who provided a signed Release of Information.* The total household number based on participant input was 316. There were a total of 13 dogs that received care during the event.

A total of 67% reported this was their first time participating in the Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect event.

Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	71	48%
Female	76	52%
Trans Female	0	0
Trans Male	0	0
Gender Non-Conforming	0	0
Total	147	100%

Age

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 18	0	0
18 - 24	4	3%
25 - 44	59	40%
45 – 64+	84	57%
Total	147	100%

Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian / AK Native	37	25%
Asian	0	0
Black / African American	1	1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	1%
White	106	72%
Don't Know/Refused	1	1%
Total	147	100%

Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	10	7%
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino	135	92%
Don't Know/Refused	2	1%
Total	147	100%

Veteran

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	11	8%
No	136	92%
Total	147	100%

Household Type

	Frequency	Percent
Adult Household (no children)	126	86%
Household w/adults & children	21	14%
Household w/only youth	0	0
Total	147	100%

Head of Household

	Frequency	Percent
Self	144	98%
Head of Household's partner	2	1%
Head of Household's child	0	0
Other relation member	0	0
Non-relation member	1	1%
Total	147	100%

Health Insurance

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	129	88%
No	18	12%
Total	147	100%

Disabling Conditions

	Frequency	Percent
Alcohol Abuse	7	7%
Chronic Health Condition	44	43%
Drug Abuse	9	9%
Mental Health Problem	48	47%
Both Alcohol / Drug Abuse	17	17%
Developmental	10	10%
HIV/AIDS	1	1%
Physical	30	29%

***Percentages above based on 103 individuals (70%) who disclosed one or more conditions affecting ability to retain housing.*

Income Received Last 30 Days

	Frequency	Percent
Alimony/Spousal Support	0	0
TANF	6	9%
Child Support	0	0
Earned Income	15	23%
General Assistance	21	32%

Pension/Retirement	2	3%
Private Disability Insurance	0	0
SSDI (Disability)	15	23%
SSI (Supplemental)	15	23%
Retirement from SSI	1	1%
VA Service Disability Compensation	2	3%
VA Non-Service Disability Compensation	0	0
Unemployment	5	7%
Worker's Compensation	0	0
Other	3	4%
No Income	81	55%

****Percentages are based on 66 individuals (45%) who responded with one or more income source**

Victim of Domestic Violence

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	67	46%
No	79	53%
Refused	1	1%
Total	100	100%

****Of those who responded as victims: 79% were female and 21% were male**

If Yes to Above, Fleeing Domestic Violence

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	13	19%
No	54	81%
Total	67	100%

****Percentages are based on 67 individuals who responded as victims of domestic violence**

Primary Alaska Regional Corporation

	Frequency	Percent
Ahtna Corp.	2	1%
Aleut Corp.	1	1%
Arctic Slope Regional	0	0
Bering Straits	0	0
Bristol Bay Native Corp.	6	5%
Calista Corp.	9	6%
Chugach Alaska Corp.	0	0
Cook Inlet Regional	5	3%
Doyon Limited Corp.	2	1%
Koniag Incorp.	2	1%
NANA Regional Corp.	0	0
Sealaska	3	2%

13th Regional Corp.	0	0
N/A	117	80%
Total	147	100%

Eviction Notice Received This Month

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	5%
No	140	95%
Total	100	100%

Ever in Foster Care System

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	29	20%
No	118	80%
Total	147	100%

Years in Foster Care

	Frequency	Percent
Weeks	1	1%
Months	1	1%
Year(s)	24	16%
N/A	121	82%
Total	147	100%

****Range in years spent in foster care: 1 to 18 years**

Prior Project Homeless Connect Events Attended

	Frequency	Percent
1st Time (0 prior)	98	67%
1Time	24	16%
2 Times	11	7%
3 Times	6	4%
4 Times	4	3%
5 Times	3	2%
6 Times	0	0
7 Times	0	0
8 times	0	0
9 times	1	1%
Total	147	100%

Slept Prior Night

	Frequency	Percent
Homeless:		
Place not habitable	20	14%
Emergency Shelter	4	3%
Institutional:		
Foster Care / Group Home	1	1%
Jail/Prison, Juvenile Facility	1	1%
Psychiatric Hospital / Facility	0	0
Long-term care/nursing home	0	0
Substance Abuse TX Center	4	3%
Transitional/Permanent		
Residential or Halfway house	0	0
Motel or Hotel	3	2%
Transitional Housing/youth	14	9%
Host home (non-crisis)	2	1%
Staying w/friends	34	23%
Staying w/family	19	13%
Rental – GPD TIP subsidy	1	1%
Rental – VASH subsidy	2	1%
Permanent housing for formerly homeless	4	3%
Rental w/RRH or subsidy	0	0
Rental w/HCV voucher	1	1%
Rental – public housing unit	7	4%
Rental – no subsidy	18	12%
Rental - subsidy	4	3%
Owned by client	4	3%
Owned - subsidy	2	1%
Refused	2	1%
Total	147	100%

Duration of Homelessness

Homeless		
One night or less	0	0
Two to six nights	1	1%
1 week or more (less 1 month)	3	2%
1 month or more (less 90 days)	1	1%
90 days or more (less 1 year)	5	3%
One year or more	13	9%

Institutional		
One night or less	0	0
Two to six nights	0	0
1 week or more (less 1 month)	2	1%
1 month or more (less 90 days)	2	1%
90 days or more (less 1 year)	1	1%
One year or more	1	1%
Temporary/Permanent		
One night or less	4	3%
Two to six nights	12	8%
1 week or more (less 1 month)	12	8%
1 month or more (less 90 days)	16	11%
90 days or more (less 1 year)	25	17%
One year or more	46	31%
N/A	3	2%
Total	147	100%

Homeless Episodes – Past 3 Years

	Frequency	Percent
1 time	35	24%
2 times	12	8%
3 times	9	6%
4 or more	35	24%
N/A	56	38%
Total	147	100%

Total Number of Months Homeless in past 3 years

	Frequency	Percent
1 – 3 months	23	16%
4 – 6 months	12	8%
7 – 11 months	4	2%
12 or more months	45	31%
N/A	63	43%
Total	147	100%

Supplemental Questions

Number of Individuals in Household

Age 18 and Over	268
Age 17 and Under	48
Total	316

Primary Reason for Homelessness

	Frequency	Percent
Loss of Job	30	20%
Work hours cut	4	3%
Rent / Utility Increase	4	3%
Lease Violation	0	0
Illness / Injury	16	11%
Substance Abuse	10	7%
Domestic Violence	17	12%
Family Dispute	2	2%
Aged out Foster Care	1	1%
Jail / Prison Release	7	4%
Treatment Center Release	3	2%
Loss of Roommate	4	3%
Divorce	5	3%
Eviction	9	6%
New to Community	3	2%
**Other (see below)	27	18%
N/A or Refused	5	3%
Total	147	100%

***Other includes: Loss of property, lack money, loss of spouse, lost green card, probate issues, health related, mental health, family issues, unemployed, lack resources, can't afford to rent month to month, house condemned by earthquake, borough dispute about dwelling and location, family member passed away, lost veterans benefits, can't afford anything.*

Form of Transportation

	Frequency	Percent
Own Vehicle	61	42%
Friend/Family Member	33	22%
Public Transport	3	2%
Taxi	3	2%
Walk / Ride Bike	42	29%
Hitchhike	2	1%
N/A	3	2%
Total	147	100%

How did you get to event today?

	Frequency	Percent
Bus	0	0
Drove Self	55	37%
Drove w/Others	68	47%
Walk / Ride Bike	13	8%
Hitchhiked	3	2%
Taxi	7	5%
N/A	1	1%
Total	147	100%

Would you use a community bus route system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	140	95%
No	3	2%
N/A	4	3%
Total	147	100%

Interested in Narcan Kit

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	45	31%
No	102	69%
Total	147	100%

Participant Exit Surveys = 122 out of 148 individuals (82%)

Rating	Excellent	Very Good	Fair	Poor
The event was helpful to me.	93 (76%)	26 (21%)	3 (3%)	
I felt respected and supported.	99 (81%)	21 (17%)	2 (2%)	
Service Providers were friendly and helpful.	105 (86%)	15 (12%)	2 (2%)	
I learned about more resources and services in community.	91 (75%)	28 (22%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)

Participant Exit Questions

Most helpful Services: housing, firewood options, Lion’s Club, Love, INC., massages, PCHS, the volunteers feeding us, all services were helpful, food, spay & neuter, Alaska housing, haircuts, Freedom House, dog food and vet, Food Bank, GCI, SNAP, clothing, Job Center, Re-Entry program, medical assistance, veterinarian services, men’s haircuts, CARTS, laundry voucher, Kenaitze, everyone we visited was very helpful, KPC, Independent Living Center, Ladies First, Quitline, Prayer area, blanket, towels, hygiene, clothing, VOC Rehab, PAO, Narcan, gynecology exam, Change 4 the Kenai, talked with a gentleman about my grieving and where to get support, Public Health, flu shot, disability, information to get my cat neutered, LeeShore, ABC Pregnancy, ADRC, shower vouchers, medical.

Services Needed but Not Provided: Chiropractic, boots, legal help, mental health, men’s housing, fuel/gas, ID, foot care, women’s snow boots and jackets, lifeline phone, clothing, PCA, information on how to direct homeless people to the right resources, care coordinator, replace lower dentures.

Heard about the Event from: friends, newspaper, word of mouth, mom, Love, INC., flyers, AA, church, Facebook, family, Pastor Karen Tichenor, radio, TLC, people and from last year, Food Bank, Kenaitze, police department, ILC sign, Department of Labor, boyfriend, staff, went last year, Freedom House, email from vocational office, PCHS counselor, community, been coming 5 years, flyers through VA rep., friend I rode with, flyers by bathrooms, signs by intersection lights, the shelter I live in, we spread the word by whispering ear to ear – you open and we will come, this is my third year, Friendship Mission.

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

- Yes = 109 (90%)
- No = 8 (6%)
- NA = 5 (4%)

Suggestions for notifying people about the Cold Weather Shelter: Radio station, KSRM, social media, word of mouth, keep in programs of AA, NA and churches, haircuts, bulletin boards at Safeway and Frey Meyer, phone, notice at Kenai Job Service, text, posters, pamphlets, jail, Food Bank, signs, cab drivers, the business next to the old Italian Garden (next to Salvation Army), post everywhere, cousin's friend, emergency contact memo,

Other Comments:

- It's very good to see the community and the homeless connect with each other in these times of hardships. A blessing to all. Thank you.
- Was happy to attend.
- Thank you all!
- Amazing job – thank you!
- I got here late but this event is critical for the area – thank you!!
- Thank you!
- Thank you – God Bless!
- Thanks and volunteers were awesome.
- Great job – excellent food.
- Very helpful to my needs.
- Overwhelming crowd.
- This was very nice. Thank you all.
- Keep up the good work.
- Love how the community gets together to help those in need.
- It's a good thing for the community.
- Just want to say thank you.
- Food was helpful.
- Love the program.
- Community needs public bus services.
- Questions too personal at intake – last 4 of social too personal.
- All are awesome.
- Ya'll are awesome!
- Really wish there were a cold weather shelter and local bus route.
- Thank you so much to all who donated time and items – very grateful.
- Thank you very much!
- Thank you for your time – it was absolutely amazing.
- Need buses and GCI in Kenai.
- Great job.
- Thanks for the help.
- I love this program – thank you.
- Very good to have.
- First time to an event like this – it was great, thank you!
- Very good event for the community and thank you all for everything.

- Everyone was so helpful and happy.
- Need more supplies for babies.
- This is amazing service.
- This is my third year and look forward to it.
- Women and children's shelter for women that aren't domestic violence.
- We really like all the services.
- Keep up the excellent job.
- Thank you all and God bless.
- It was all very helpful – thank you so much!
- This was very helpful and I will be here next year.
- The organization of this activity has been much better than in the past.
- Wonderful experience.
- Thank you - so very helpful for the community!



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

VOLUNTEERS

Abby Struffert	Fred Koski	Marti Slater
Adele Tracey	Gail Kennedy	Marquitta Andrus
Alaska Christian College	Georganne Roberts	Mary Bell
Alecia Gottlob	Grace Richmond	Mary Madera
Alexis Cole	Greg Meyer	Mary Starrs Armstrong
Alexis Wells	Haiden Wilkinson	Mathyas Smith
Allie McGahan	Hal Smalley	Megan Silta
Allison Bushnell	Hallie Fisher	Melissa Cline
Amorette Payment	Hanah Burrell	Melissa Daugherty
Amy Lynn Burdett Belue	Hannah Leaders	Melody Buhr
Anastasia Monyahan	Heather Rasch	Michelle Blackwell
Andrew Pieh	Howard Hill	Mike Major
Andy Knapp	Jackie Scurlock	Mike Petty
AnnaMae Gilliam	Jason Bohac	Missy Nelson
Annette Hubbard	Jeannette Kimes	Morganette Finch
Annie Burns	Jeannine Morse	Nancy Henning
Anthony Alvey	Jenipher Young	Natalie Merrick
April Hall	Jenna Barry	Natalya Oskolkoff
Ashley Blatchford	Jennifer Aamodt	Pamela Howard
Ashley Fann	Jennifer Beckmann	Patricia Haywood
Ashley Kreider	Jennifer Waller	Patrick Tassell
Audre Hickey	Jennifer Wood	Patty Eissler
Avery Ciufo	Jennifer Youngberg	Paul Echin
Bailey Conner	Jerri Scott	Raven Willoyz-Williams
Barbara Norbeck	Jill Dufloth	Rebecca Hall
Barbara Trombley	Jolene Riske	Regan Evans
Bessie Phillip	Jodi Stuart	Renee Lipps
Beth Selby	Josie Josephson	Rick Oelrich
Bethany Warner	Judy Dexter	Robin Barry
Betty Harris	Judy Fandrei	Roger Branson
Bill Kelley	Judy Nugent	Ron Engebretson
Bobbi Jedlicki	Justin Ruffridge	Ronda Oglesby
Bobbi Stelljes	Kaitlyn Farmer	Rose Kimbrell
Brenda Chamness	Kambree Whitton	Sally Oelrich
Brent Hibbert	Karen Martin-Tichenor	Samantha Haakenson
Briana Hoge	Kasilof Community Church	Sarah Rozak
Brooke Walters	Kathy Gensel	Sarge Truesdell
Caitlin Sparks	Katie Cowgill	Scott Belue
Cami Zifko	Katie Derleth	Scott Pitsch
Carol Anderson	Kaytlin McAnelly	Selena Payment
Charles Kuhlmann	Kelley Kress	Shannon Logan
Chelsey Carter	Kellie Bartelmay	Shannon Schjoll
Cheri Smith	Kelly Whitmore	Shari Connor
Cindy Rombach	Kiara Forkner	Sharon Kelly
Claire Calhoun	Kimberly Earll	Sheilah-Margaret Pothast
Clayton Dempster	Kimberly Haviland	Sherly Carroll

Dan Gensel
Danika Buffan
Danyelle Wight
Dawn Kelly-Larson
Debra Martin
Denise Owens
Derek Black
Derrick Jones
Diane Fielden
Don Thompson
Donn Wells
Doreen Borkowski
Doug Grzybowski
Duane Jennings
Emily Alvey
Emily Knight
Erik Gordon
Erin Martin
Frank Alioto

Kit Hill
Lara McGinnis
Laurie Walters
LeeAnne Crafton
Leonardo Bongolto
Leslie Rohr
Lexi Wells
Lin Kennedy
Linda Kendall
Linda Sipes
Linda Tannehill
Lindsey Anasogak
Linzey White
Lucas Netherland
Lydia Hopper
Madison Govin
Margie Outterson
Mark Larson
Marta Taylor

Sherra Pritchard
Sherry Martinovich
Sonia Seay
Stacie Hopper
Stephanie Hunt
Susan Smalley
Susie Allen
Tatum Rozak
Taylor Cochran
Taylor McNeel
Terri Kunz
Terri Scott
Tiffany Blanchard
Tiffney Carlson
Timothy Cole
Twyla Bentley
Valerie Rosin
Zachary Buckbee

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Addie Camp
Alaska's Best Water
Alaska Cab
Arby's
Bark Appeal, Inc.
Bearly Threaded Quilting Too
Bishop's Attic
Central Peninsula Hospital
City of Soldotna
Christ Lutheran Church
Coca Cola of Alaska
Coffee Express
Everything Bagels
Fine Thyme
First Baptist Church
Fred Meyer
Friendship Mission
Gold Paw Series
Hilcorp
Independent Living Center
Jeanne Acton
Kaladi Brothers
Kenai Chamber of Commerce
Kenai Kennel Club
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Kenai Peninsula Re-Entry Coalition

Kenai United Methodist Church
Kendall Ford/Chrysler
KPAL
Louie's Restaurant
Marathon Petroleum
Midnight Son Seventh Day Adventist Church
Moira Pyhala
Odom Corporation
Odie's
Papa John's Pizza
Pizza Boys
Quilters for Cause
Save U More
Shellie Saner
Skyview Middle School Student Council
Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
Soldotna Church of God
Soldotna Trustworthy Hardware and Fishing
Soldotna United Methodist Church
Sophie Sorensen - Miss Alaska Collegiate 2020
Terri Kunz
The LeeShore Center
Three Bears
Twin Cities Veterinary
Wildwood Inmate Program

CASH DONATIONS

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
American Legion Auxiliary 20
Bishop's Attic
City of Kenai

Kenai Peninsula CHARR, Inc.
Kenai Peninsula Foundation
North Star United Methodist Church
VFX Auxiliary Post 10046

We sincerely apologize if we have missed any donor or volunteer

Endnote: Data was secured through the PHC event held on January 29, 2020.