

# KENAI PENINSULA

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## 2019 PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT REPORT



*No one deserves to lose hope*

The Homeless Action Coalition is proud to report on the Kenai Peninsula’s 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Project Homeless Connect event held at the Soldotna Sport’s Center on January 23, 2019. 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 & Kellie Bartelmay
- Publicity: Jodi Stuart, Melissa Kline & Maggie Winston
- Food: Terrie Kunz & Peggy Rogers
- Provider Services: Leslie Rohr
- Transportation: Brent Hibbert & Taylor Cochran
- Volunteers: Beth Selby
- Fundraising: Kathy Gensel & Marta Czarnezki

**Vendors and individuals providing services to homeless individuals (30):**

ABC Life Choices	Kenai Peninsula Massage Therapy
Alaska Department of Labor	Kenai Peninsula Re-Entry Coalition
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Kenai Public Health
Change 4 the Kenai	Kenai Vet Center
Child Care Assistance Program (LSC)	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Cook Inlet Council on Drugs and Alcohol	Love, INC.
Division of VOC Rehab	Pam Beard
Dr. Kris Lacy – Central Peninsula Hospital	Peninsula Community Health Services
Freedom House	Shannon Scholl
GCI	SOA Public Assistance
Independent Living Center	Susan Smalley
Kenai Lions	Sylvia Shelton
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	The Exchange
Kenai Peninsula College	The LeeShore Center
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank	Veterinary Services

**Demographics of Population Served**

One hundred twenty-six (126) individuals participated in the PHC event. The total household number based on participant input was 318. There were a total of 6 pets (5 dogs & 1 cat) accompanying participants during the event.

A total of 56% reported this was their first time participating in the Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect event.

### Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	51	40%
Female	75	60%
Trans Female		
Trans Male		
Gender Non-Conforming		
Total	126	100%

### Age

	Frequency	Percent
Less than 18		
18 - 24	9	7%
25 - 44	54	43%
45 - 64+	63	50%
Total	126	100%

### Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian / AK Native	34	27%
Black / African American	1	1%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1	1%
White	90	71%
Asian		
N/A		
Total	126	100%

### Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	6	5%
Non-Hispanic / Non-Latino	120	95%
N/A		
Total	126	100%

### U.S. Military Veteran

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	14	11%
No	112	89%
Total	126	100%

### Household Type

	Frequency	Percent
Adult Household (no children)	94	75%
Household w/adults & children	32	25%
Household w/only youth		
Total	126	100%

### Head of Household

	Frequency	Percent
Self	117	93%
Head of Household's partner	5	4%
Head of Household's child	1	1%
Other relation member		
Non-relation member	3	2%
Total	126	100%

### Health Insurance

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	113	90%
No	13	10%
Total	126	100%

### Disabling Conditions

	Frequency	Percent
Alcohol Abuse	13	15%
Chronic Health Condition	36	42%
Drug Abuse	19	22%
Developmental	8	9%
HIV/AIDS		
Mental Illness	40	47%
Physical	58	67%
Doesn't Know / Refused		

*\*\*Percentages above based on 86 individuals (68%) who disclosed one or more conditions affecting ability to retain housing.*

### Income Received Last 30 Days

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Alimony/Spousal Support</b>		
TANF	12	18%
Child Support	3	4%
Earned Income	11	16%
General Assistance	12	18%
Pension/Retirement		
<b>Private Disability Insurance</b>		
SSDI (Disability)	15	23%
SSI (Supplemental)	14	21%
Retirement from SSI	3	4%
Unemployment	1	1%
VA Service Disability Compensation	2	3%
VA Non-Service Disability Compensation		
Worker's Compensation	1	1%
Other	11	16%
<b>Doesn't Know / Refused</b>		
No Income	60	48%

*\*\*Percentages are based on 66 individuals (52%) who responded with one or more income source*

### Victim of Domestic Violence

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Yes</b>	56	44%
<b>No</b>	70	56%
<b>Total</b>	126	100%

*\*\*Of the 56 who responded they were victims: 84% were female and 16% were male*

### If Yes to Above, Fleeing Domestic Violence

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Yes</b>	9	16%
<b>No</b>	47	56%
<b>Total</b>	56	100%

*\*\*Percentages are based on 56 individuals who responded as victims of domestic violence*

### Eviction Notice Received This Month

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Yes</b>	9	7%
<b>No</b>	117	93%
<b>Total</b>	126	100%

### Prior Project Homeless Connect Events Attended

	Frequency	Percent
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Time (0 prior)</b>	70	56%
<b>1Time</b>	35	28%
<b>2 Times</b>	9	7%
<b>3 Times</b>	5	4%
<b>4 Times</b>	3	2%
<b>5 Times</b>	2	2%
<b>6 Times</b>		
<b>7 Times</b>		
<b>8 times</b>	2	1%
<b>Total</b>	126	100%

### Primary Alaska Regional Corporation

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Ahtna Corp.</b>		
<b>Aleut Corp.</b>		
<b>Arctic Slope Regional</b>		
<b>Bering Straits</b>		
<b>Bristol Bay Native Corp.</b>	5	4%
<b>Calista Corp.</b>	5	4%
<b>Chugach Alaska Corp.</b>		
<b>Cook Inlet Regional</b>	6	5%
<b>Doyon Limited Corp.</b>	2	1%
<b>Goldbelt</b>		
<b>Koniag Incorp.</b>	1	1%
<b>NANA Regional Corp.</b>	3	2%
<b>Sealaska</b>		
<b>Descendant BIA Card Only</b>	1	1%
<b>Other</b>	3	2%
<b>Doesn't Know/Refused</b>	1	1%
<b>N/A</b>	99	79%
<b>Total</b>	126	100%

### Slept Prior Night

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Category 1:</b>		
<b>Place not habitable</b>	31	25%
<b>Emergency Shelter</b>	8	6%
<b>Category 2:</b>		
<b>Foster Care / Group Home</b>	2	1%

Jail/Prison, Juvenile Facility	1	1%
Psychiatric Hospital / Facility		
Hospital		
Long-term care/nursing home		
Substance Abuse TX Center		
<b>Category 3:</b>		
Hotel or Motel		
Owned - subsidy	2	1%
Rental – no subsidy	19	15%
Residential or Halfway house	5	4%
Staying w/friends		
Owned – no subsidy	5	4%
Permanent Housing		
Rental – VASH subsidy	1	1%
Rental – other subsidy	9	8%
Living w/family	38	30%
Transitional housing	5	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Duration of Homelessness

<b>Category 1:</b>		
One night or less	1	1%
Two to six nights	2	2%
1 week or more (less 1 month)	9	7%
1 month or more (less 90 days)	3	2%
90 days or more (less 1 year)	8	6%
One year or more	16	13%
<b>Category 2:</b>		
One night or less		
Two to six nights		
1 week or more (less 1 month)		
1 month or more (less 90 days)		
90 days or more (less 1 year)	3	2%
One year or more		
<b>Category 3:</b>		
One night or less	7	6%
Two to six nights	4	3%
1 week or more (less 1 month)	6	5%
1 month or more (less 90 days)	10	8%
90 days or more (less 1 year)	17	14%
One year or more	40	31%

### Homeless Episodes – Past 3 Years

	Frequency	Percent
1 time	25	20%
2 times	12	10%
3 times	7	5%
4 or more	46	37%
Doesn't know / refused		
N/A	36	28%
Total	126	100%

### Total Number of Months Homeless in past 3 years

	Frequency	Percent
1 time	18	14%
2 times	10	8%
3 times	10	8%
4 or more	50	40%
Doesn't know / refused		
N/A	38	30%
Total	126	100%

### Ever in Foster Care System

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	23	18%
No	103	82%
Total	126	100%

### Years in Foster Care

	Frequency	Percent
Weeks		
Months	5	21%
Year(s)	16	70%
N/A	2	9%

*\*\*Percentages are based on 23 individuals who responded yes for living in foster care. Years in foster care ranged from 1 year to 18 years*



## Supplemental Questions

### Number of Individuals in Household

Age 18 and Over	229
Age 17 an Under	89
Total	318

### Primary Reason for Homelessness

	Frequency	Percent
Loss of Job	24	19%
Work hours cut	2	2%
Rent / Utility Increase	3	2%
Lease Violation	4	3%
Illness / Injury	18	15%
Substance Abuse	5	4%
Domestic Violence	17	14%
Family Dispute	3	2%
Aged out Foster Care		
Jail / Prison Release	4	3%
Treatment Center Release	1	1%
Loss of Roommate	3	2%
Divorce	5	4%
Eviction	3	2%
New to Community	3	2%
N/A	5	4%
**Other (see below)	26	21%
Total	126	100%

*\*\*Other includes: landlord issues, problem with current housing, loss of benefits, lost home to fire, no work, home not habitable, death in family, property taxes, lack of funds, asked to move out, own choice, can't find work, not enough summer work, natural disaster (earthquake)*

### Form of Transportation

	Frequency	Percent
Own Vehicle	57	45%
Friend/Family Member	23	18%
Public Transport	8	6%
Taxi	9	7%
Walk / Ride Bike	22	18%
Hitchhike	5	4%
N/A	2	2%
Total	126	100%

**How did you get to event today?**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Bus</b>	1	1%
<b>Drove Self</b>	54	43%
<b>Drove w/Others</b>	55	44%
<b>Walked</b>	4	3%
<b>Hitchhiked</b>	3	2%
<b>Taxi</b>	9	7%
<b>Total</b>	126	100%

**Would you use a community bus route system?**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	122	97%
<b>No</b>	4	3%
<b>Total</b>	126	100%

**Interested in Narcan Kit**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	51	40%
<b>No</b>	75	60%
<b>Total</b>	126	100%

**Participant Exit Surveys = 96 out of 126 individuals (76%)**

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>The event was helpful to me.</b>	79 (82%)	12 (13%)	5 (5%)	
<b>I felt respected and supported.</b>	85 (89%)	10 (10%)	1 (1%)	
<b>Service Providers were friendly and helpful.</b>	94 (98%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	
<b>I learned about more resources and services in community.</b>	71 (74%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	

*For question #4: NA = 10 (10%) and No = 12 (13%)*

**Participant Exit Questions**

**Most helpful Services:**

PCHS, Lions Club, haircuts, multiple resources in one location, Re-Entry, Needle exchange, Love INC., AHFC, LeeShore, Public Assistance, Narcan kits and phones.

**Services Needed but Not Provided:**

Transportation, Red Cross, low income housing, child care information, OCS, SSA

**Heard About the Event from:**

Prior participation, social worker, CICADA, Love INC., Facebook, flyer, probation officer, bulletin board, friend, PCHS, work.

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

- Yes = 85 (89%)                      No = 10 (10%)                      NA = 1 (1%)

**Suggestions for notifying people about the Cold Weather Shelter:**

Flyers, radio, word of mouth, internet, newspaper, cell phone alerts, agencies (CICADA, Love INC., LeeShore, Food Bank, Freedom House, Probation, doctor’s offices, PHCS, Public Assistance, Veterans), gas stations, liquor stores, churches, homeless camps, grocery stores, laundry mat.

**Other Comments:**

- Awesome event – appreciative
- Wonderful event
- You guys are awesome – more transportation

- 2 day event on weekend
- Good event – disappointed in Food Bank options
- Amazing event
- You guys are so good
- Need shelter in community
- Thank you
- Keep doing what you are doing – great work
- Thank you
- Keep it up
- Transportation – need buses
- Awesome job
- Great time
- One day a year is not enough; pathetic
- Awesome
- Thanks
- All was very good
- Good thing
- Have a Legal Aid booth
- Bus system
- Thanks to all
- Very happy
- Keep up the good work – twice a year



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

## VOLUNTEERS

Agnes Nunn	Grey Meyer	Sally Oelrich
Allie McGahan	Hal Smalley	Serena Borofsky
Andy Knapp	Kelly Whitmore	Sharon Isaak
Andrea Hopper	Kit Hill	Sharon Kelly
Annette Hubbard	Kris Harris	Howard Hill
Ariane Jasmin	Kris Lacy	Jacquelyn LaPlante
Ashley Blatchford	Lee Anne Clifton	Jane Dunn
Audrey Cucullu	Leslie Rohr	Janice Villegas
Bailey Buchholz	Lin Kennedy	Jeannie Morse
Barb Norbeck	Linda Kendall	Jenna Barry
Bessie Phillips	Lindsey Anasogak	Jenna Thomas
Beth Selby	Lizz Giver	Jerry Rombach
Bobbi Stelljes	Lona Lohmann	Jeryl Ann Aspelund
Brenda Ahlberg	Lucinda Martin	Jessica O'Reagan
Brenda Chamness	Maggie Winston	Jessie Huett
Brenner Musgrave	Margie McCord	Jodi Stuart
Bridget Appow	Marie Weller	Karen Martin Tichenor
Caitlin Sparks	Marilyn Pitts	Karen Tollackson
Carmen Romero	Mary Bell	Kate Veh
Carol Anderson	Marquitta Andrus	Kathy Gensel
Cayla Boettcher	Melissa Daugherty	Kaye Reed
Charles Simons	Melissa Kline	Kellie Bartelmay
Cheri Smith	Meredith Harber	Kelly King
Cindy Rombach	Michelle Blackwell	Shelly Saner
Calvin Bollig	Michelle Stewart	Sherra Pritchard
Colleen Evanco	Midnight Son Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Sherry Martinovich
David Ahlberg	Mike Morgan	Stan Saner
David Gruber	Mike Petty	Stan Steadman
Dawn Kelly	Morganette Finch	Summer Hall
Denise Tank	Nancy Henning	Susie Smalley
Derek Black	Natalya Oskolkoff	Taylor Cochran
Doreen Borkowski	Nathan Grilley	Tera Michlitsch
Doug Grzybowski	Pamela Howard	Terri Cowart
Eden Deatherage	Patty Eissler	Terri Kunz
Elaina Spraker	Paul Lorenzo	Tina Minster
Emily Alvey	Peggy Rogers	Todd Shumway
Emily Knight	Richard Oelrich	Tony Cloud
Emily O'Reagan	Richard Tews	Tonya Lee
Erin Martin	Robin Barry	Trudi Glenn
Felicity Giver	Robin Bennett	Twyla Mundy
Fred Koski	Ron Engebretson	Victoria Thompson
Gensel, Dan	Ronda Oglesby	Wendy Gruber
Georganne Roberts		

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Alaska Christian College	Kenai Lions Club
Alaska's Best Water	Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Arby's	Kenai Soldotna Imagination Library
Aspen Hotel	Kyle Kornelis
Bird's Eye View	Lauri Lingafelt
Bob Molloy	Lisa Parker
Brekke Hewitt	Melanie Imholte
Brenda Ahlberg	Merrill Sikorski
Bryan Taylor	Papa John's Pizza
Central Peninsula Hospital	Paul Whitney
Coke – Odem Corporation	Peninsula Clarion
Eden Alioto	Peninsula Pediatric Dentistry
Everything Bagels	Peter Mlynarik
Fine Thyme	Ridgeway Family Dentistry
Fred Meyer	Robert Peterkin
Funny River Community Center	Save U More
Gental Dental	Shellie Saner
Jamie Heinz	Soldotna Rotary
Barely Threaded	SportsMed Alaska
Jessica O'Reagan	Stormy Brown
John Czarnezki	Sue Linn
Kaladi Brothers Coffee	Three Bears
Katja Wolfe	Tim Cashman
Kayla Feltman	Tina Williamson
KDLL	Twin City Raceway Lions Club
Kenai Centennial Savvy Lions Club	Walgreens

## CASH DONATIONS

In Memory of Thomas Woodward	Kenai Peninsula Journey Home
GCI	Barclay Donation
City of Kenai	Duck Inn
Alaska Mental Health Trust	Fred Meyer's
Inmate Sculpture's sold at auction	Lorraine Rohloff
Kenai Peninsula Community Foundation	

*We sincerely apologize if we have missed any donor or volunteer*

Endnote: Data was secured through the PHC event held on January 23, 2019.