

# KENAI PENINSULA

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## 2025 PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT REPORT



*No one deserves to lose hope*



The Homeless Action Coalition is proud to report on the Kenai Peninsula’s 14th Annual Project Homeless Connect event held on January 28, 2025. 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  
 Intake: Cheri Smith  
 Food: Kenai Peninsula Food Bank  
 Provider Services/Vendors: Leslie Rohr  
 Publicity: Jodi Stuart & Ellen Grasso  
 Transportation: Taylor Cochran & Jessica Schultz  
 Alioto

Donations: PHC Chairs  
 Volunteers: Beth Selby  
 Check Out: Teresa Vick, Andy Knapp, and  
 Sheri Boggs  
 Fundraising: Kathy Gensel  
 Logistics: Kathy Gensel & Frank

**Steering Committee**

Abby Struffert	Frank Alioto	Margie McCord
Alecia Gottlob	Gitano Morales	Marquitta Andrus
Alyssa Stanton	Janice Nightingale	Mary Bell
Amanda McKinley	Jason Warfle	Mary Starrs Armstrong
Annie Garay	Jennifer Randleas	Matt Forester
Ashlyn O’Hara	Jessica Schultz	Melanie Luna
Becky Friedman	Jodi Stuart	Melissa Martin
Becky T.	Julie Bunch	Paul Whitney
Beth Selby	Justin Works	Raquel Eisenmann
Brent Hibbert	Karla Evants	Shelby West
Carolyn Potter	Kathy Gensel	Sheri Boggs
Claire Jones	Kathryn Dunagan	Sheryl Cook
Cheri Smith	Ken Velotta	Tami Marsters
Desmeranda Napoka	Krista Schooley	Taylor Cochran
Dolly Wiles	Leslie Rohr	Tim Navarre
Dylanrose Edwards	Levi Sutton	Tonya Silk
Ellen Grasso	Lindsey Anasogak	

**Demographics of Population Served**

One hundred fifteen (115) individuals participated in the PHC event. The total household number based on participant input was 185.

A total of 49 out of 97 individuals (51%) who completed an Exit Survey reported this was their first time participating in the Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect event.

Fifteen (15) dogs and 1 cat received pet services at the event; 11 dogs were vaccinated. A total of 22 participants received assorted pet supplies.

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Male</b>	54	47%
<b>Female</b>	60	52%
<b>Transgender</b>	0	0
<b>Non-Binary</b>	0	0
<b>Questioning</b>	0	0
<b>Culturally specific identity</b>	0	0
<b>Different identity</b>	1	1%
<b>NA / DK</b>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

### Gender

### Age

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Under age 18</b>	3	3%
<b>18 - 24</b>	4	3%
<b>25 - 34</b>	20	17%
<b>35-44</b>	27	24%
<b>45-54</b>	21	18%
<b>55-64</b>	26	23%
<b>65 and older</b>	13	11%
<b>NA / DK</b>	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

### Race / Ethnicity

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>American Indian / AK Native</b>	33	28%
<b>Asian / Asian American</b>	1	1%
<b>Hispanic / Latino</b>	0	0
<b>Black, African American</b>	1	1%
<b>Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander</b>	2	2%
<b>Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino</b>	0	0
<b>White</b>	77	67%
<b>Middle Eastern or North African</b>	0	0
<b>NA / DK</b>	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

### Veteran

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Yes</b>	14	12%
<b>No</b>	101	88%
<b>NA / DK</b>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

### Branch of Service

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Air Force</b>	1	7%
<b>Army</b>	10	72%
<b>Navy</b>	2	14%
<b>Marine Corps</b>	0	0
<b>Coast Guard</b>	0	0
<b>National Guard</b>	1	7%
<b>NA / DK</b>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	14	100%

### Slept Prior Night

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Street / Homeless camp</b>	6	5%
<b>Abandoned property</b>	0	0
<b>Vehicle / car</b>	14	12%
<b>Homeless shelter</b>	13	11%
<b>Friends / family</b>	30	26%
<b>My apartment / house</b>	36	32%
<b>Hotel / motel</b>	3	3%
<b>Jail / institution</b>	0	0
<b>Other</b>	13	11%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

*Other included sober living, undriveable travel trailer, camper and outpatient residential.*

### Household

	Frequency	Percent
<b>By Myself (single)</b>	60	52%
<b>With Household</b>	55	48%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

**Household total = 161**

### **How long Homeless**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Less than 1 year</b>	43	37%
<b>1 year or more</b>	43	37%
<b>Don't know / Refused</b>	29	26%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

### **Number times homeless in past 3 years**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> time</b>	38	33%
<b>2 - 3 times</b>	24	21%
<b>4 or more times</b>	33	29%
<b>NA / DK</b>	20	17%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

### **Number Months spent homeless in past 3 years**

<b>Fewer than 12 months</b>	46	40%
<b>12 months or more</b>	50	43%
<b>NA / DK</b>	19	17%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

### **Disability**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>None</b>	28	33%
<b>Alcohol Use Disorder</b>	7	8%
<b>Chronic Health Condition</b>	27	31%
<b>Developmental</b>	11	13%
<b>Drug Use Disorder</b>	12	14%
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	0	0
<b>Mental Health Disorder</b>	38	44%
<b>Physical Disability</b>	60	70%
<b>NA / DK</b>	1	1%

**\*\*Percentages above based on 86 individuals (75%) who disclosed one or more disabling conditions.**

### **Survivor or Victim of Domestic Violence**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	59	51%
<b>No</b>	55	48%

<b>NA / DK</b>	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	115	100%

*Of those who answered yes, 76% were female and 24% were male.*

**Participant Exit Survey = 97 (84%)**

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>The event was helpful to me.</b>	76 (78%)	18 (19%)	2 (2%)	
<b>NA</b>	1 (1%)			
<b>I felt respected and supported.</b>	79 (82%)	12 (12%)	2 (2%)	
<b>NA</b>	4 (4%)			

**How did you hear about the event?**

Friend/Family	Freedom House	Central Peninsula
Hospital		
Flyers	Love, INC.	Veteran’s Administration
Facebook	Food Bank	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Newspaper	FCS	The LeeShore Center
Neighbor	PCHS	Therapist
Word of mouth	Job Center	Doctor’s office
Probation office		

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

- Yes = 73 (75%)                                      No = 18 (19%)                                      NA = 6 (6%)

**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**

<b>Age 13 and Under</b>	36
<b>Age 14 - 24</b>	15
<b>Age 25 and Over</b>	134
<b>Total</b>	185

### Primary Reason for Homelessness

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Loss or lack of Job</b>	8	9%
<b>Work hours cut</b>	2	2%
<b>Lack of or no money</b>	8	9%
<b>Rent / Utility Increase</b>	1	1%
<b>Lease Violation</b>	0	0
<b>Illness / Injury</b>	13	13%
<b>Substance Abuse</b>	7	7%
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	4	4%
<b>Family Dispute</b>	0	0
<b>Aged out Foster Care</b>	0	0
<b>Jail / Prison Release</b>	2	2%
<b>Treatment Center Release</b>	0	0
<b>Loss of Roommate</b>	0	0
<b>Divorce</b>	0	0
<b>Eviction</b>	1	1%
<b>New to Community</b>	3	3%
<b>**Other (see below)</b>	39	40%
<b>NA / Refused</b>	9	9%
<b>Total</b>	97	100%

**\*\*Other includes: fire, death, disabled, seasonal rental or job, lack of work, unemployed, widowed, living in hotel, can't afford rent, lack income, lost home, no heat in home, family lifestyle, series of circumstances, financial, felon, lack of housing.**

**Have you had to move due to a seasonal rental unit? Yes = 16 (16%)  
No = 78 (81%) NA = 3 (3%)**

### Zip code of last permanent address

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Kenai</b>	48	50%
<b>Soldotna</b>	23	24%
<b>Kasilof</b>	6	6%
<b>Sterling</b>	5	5%
<b>Ninilchik</b>	1	1%
<b>Anchor Point</b>	1	1%
<b>Nikiski</b>	6	6%
<b>Clam Gulch</b>	2	2%
<b>Anchorage</b>	1	1%
<b>Fairbanks</b>	1	1%
<b>Palmer</b>	1	1%
<b>Oregon</b>	1	1%
<b>Kentucky</b>	1	1%
<b>Refused / don't know</b>	0	0

<b>Total</b>	97	100%
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### Form of Transportation

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Own Vehicle</b>	40	41%
<b>Friend/Family Member</b>	16	17%
<b>Public Transport</b>	4	4%
<b>Taxi</b>	5	5%
<b>Walk / Ride Bike</b>	28	29%
<b>Hitchhike</b>	1	1%
<b>NA / Refused</b>	3	3%
<b>Total</b>	97	100%

### Besides housing what is your primary need right now?

Food	Propane	Heat assistance
Clothing	Laundry / shower	Legal assistance
Transportation	Water	Home repairs
Money	Rental assistance	Gas vouchers
Housing	Fire wood	Children's clothing
Employment	Insurance	Glasses
Utility assistance	Haircut	Public assistance
Basic hygiene items	Dental	Dog services
Electric assistance	Medical insurance	Tires
Vehicle repair funds	Wood (heat home)	Help with bills & rent
Cold weather gear	Counseling	Porta potty
SNAP benefits	Heating oil	

**\*\*Food, clothing, and employment were the top requests**

**First Project Homeless Connect event?** Yes = 49 (51%) No = 45 (46%) NA = 3 (3%)





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

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Aaron Haskell  
Andrus

Francine McKinney

Marquitta

Abby Struffert McBride	Frank Alioto	Mary Ann
Alecia Gottlob	Gigi Roberts	Mary Bell
Alyssa Stanton	Gitano Morales	Mary Starrs Armstrong
Amanda McKinley	Hal Smalley	Matt Forester
Amanda Moran DiFranco	Hannah Smith	Maureen
Amelia Inman	Hans Hesse	Melanie Luna
Analise Goedeke	Isaac Cryer	Mersha Tamrat
Andy Knapp	Jane Parrish	Monique Shirley
Angela Coffell McTrusty	Janice Nightingale	Nicki
Angela Holland	Jared Penning	Nicole Anasogak
Anna Nick	Jason Warfle	Nikki Marcano
Annie Garay	Jaylyn McWilliams	Patricia Young
Anthony Long	Jennifer Randleas	Patti Eissler
Ashlyn O'Hara	Jerry Rombach	Paul Whitney
Autumn Carlson	Jill Abeor	Peggy Rogers
Barbara Norbeck	Joanna Samson-Sills	Rachel Parre
Becky Friedman	Jodi Lart	Raquel Eisenmann
Beth Selby	Jodi Stuart	Rayson Coffell
Bonnie Kashatok	Joe Kasper	Rebecca Friedman
Breanna Mahaffey	John Tuttle	Rick Oelrich
Captain Lyndzi Gaucin	Jon Johnson	Rhoda Dolifka
Carisa Anne Zeiger	Joshua Gorenflo	Ronda Oglesby
Carolyn Lopez	Julie Bunch	Roy Standerman
Carolyn Potter Truesdell	Justin Works	Ruthann
Cayla Boettcher	Karla Evants	Rylee Jackson
Charlie Fancyboy	Katie Cooper	Sally Oelrich
Chelsey Carter	Katie Cowgill	Sara Sproul
Cheri Smith	Kathryn Dunagan	Saundra Wellborn
Cindy Rombach	Kathy Gensel	Seryn Trammell
Claire Jones	Kaye Reed	Sharon Peterson
Clarissa Nayokup	Kayla Hanley	Shelby West
Clint Hagel	KC Long	Sheri Boggs
Cody Golant	Kelli Sullivan	Sherry
Martinovich	Ken Velotta	Sheryl Cook
Cody Walker	Kenai River Wolfpack	Soldotna
Courtney Mitchell		
Police Explorers	Rugby Team	Post
Cynthia Long #426		
Debi Johansen	Kim Fannon	Sofia Costales
Deborah Nyguist	Kim Christianson	Stacie McLeod
Dennis Murray	Kim Lewis	Steve Mussman

Desiree Foote	Krista Schooley	Susie Smalley
Desmeranda Napoka	Leslie Rohr	Tamera Mapes
Dolly Wiles	Levi Sutton	Tami Marsters
Don Schindler	Lieutenant Jacob Ries	Tamra
Daman		
Donna Cutman	Lindsey Anasogak	Tawnya
Barrickman		
Dr. Grady Austin	Lisa Hutchens	Taylor Cochran
Dylanrose Edwards	Liz Leduc	Teresa Vick
Elaine Larson	Louis Hubbard	Tim Navarre
Ellen Grasso	Lucas Netherland	Tonya Silk
Eric McDonald	Lynnette Haas	Twyla
Mundy		
Erin Martin	Marie Weller	William Riche
Explorer Owen Johnson	Marissa Wilson	

## VENDORS

ABC Life Choices	Kenai Vet Center/American Legion
AK. Breast & Cervical Screening/S.A.F.R. & Social	Kenaitze Indian Tribe Family
AK. DOL - Peninsula Job Center	Services
AK. Housing Finance Corporation	Kenaitze / Salamatof TDHE
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights	Lions Club
Breathe Free Coalition	Love, INC.
CARTS	Nikiski Shelter of Hope
Change 4 the Kenai	Pastoral Care
Cook Inlet Counseling Services	Peninsula Community Health
DMV	Raw Cuts - Mersha Tamrat
Freedom House	SOA Division of Voc. Rehab
Friendship Mission	SOA Public Assistance
Frontier Community Services	Soldotna Animal Hospital
Hospice	Susan Smalley
Ideal Options	Tamara Mapes
Independent Living Center	The LeeShore Center
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic	27 Red Salon
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank	US Dept. of Veteran's Affair,
KP	
Kenai Public Health	

## CASH AND IN-KIND DONATIONS

AIH	Kenaitze Indian Tribe
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Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	Knights of Columbus
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	Kroger / Safeway
Aspen Hotel	988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline
Breath Free Coalition	North Star United Methodist
Church	
Bishop's Attic	Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Catholic Church	
Cadre Feed	Our Lady of the Angels
Catholic Church	
Central Peninsula Hospital	Peninsula Community Health
Services	
Christ Lutheran Church	Peninsula Dog Obedience Group
Christ of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Project Homeless Connect
City of Kenai	Save U More
Cook Inlet Counseling	Serenity House
Evenson Heritage Lodge	Soldotna Animal Hospital/Dr.
Grady Austin	
Fred Meyer	Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
Frontier Community Services	Soldotna Regional Sports
Complex	
Imagination Library	Soldotna Rotary Club
Independent Living Center	Soldotna United Methodist
Church	
Jennifer Randleas	Spenard Builders Supply
Kenai Peninsula Interfaith Group	Sweeney's Clothing
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank	Three Bears
Kenai Peninsula Foundation	Toni Loop
Kenai Public Health	Walmart
Kenai United Methodist Church	

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

A special thank you to the City of Soldotna Parks & Rec Employees for all their hard work!

Endnote: Data was secured through the PHC event on January 28, 2025.