

KENAI PENINSULA

2024 PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT REPORT



No one deserves to lose hope



The Homeless Action Coalition is proud to report on the Kenai Peninsula's 13th Annual Project Homeless Connect event held on January 30, 2024. 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: Greg Meyer
 Provider Services/Vendors: Leslie Rohr
 Publicity: Jodi Stuart
 Transportation: Jessica Schultz & Taylor Cochran

Donations: Melissa Kline
 Volunteers: Beth Selby
 Check Out: Melissa Kline
 Fundraising: Kathy Gensel
 Logistics: Kathy Gensel & Frank Alioto

Steering Committee

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Abby Struffert | Gitano Morales | Mary Starrs Armstrong |
| Alecia Gottlob | Greg Meyers | Matt Law |
| Amanda Perez | Hadassah Knight | Melissa Kline |
| Anna Eason | Jason Warfle | Missy Martin |
| Annie Garay | Jennifer Randleas | Pascale Dilley |
| Becky Friedman | Jessica Schultz | Karen Martin-Tichenor |
| Beth Selby | Jodi Stuart | Paul Whitney |
| Brent Hibbert | Julie Bunch | Raquel Eisenmann |
| Carolyn Potter | Kathy Gensel | Ronda Oglesby |
| Cheri Smith | Kellie Bartelmay | Sean Neil |
| Cinda Martin | Leslie Rohr | Sheryl Cook |
| Dixie St. John | Levi Sutton | Tamera Guth |
| Dolly Wiles | Lindsey Anasogak | Taylor Cochran |
| Ellen Grasso | Margie McCord | Tim Navarre |
| Foote | Marquitta Andrus | Tonya Silk |
| Frank Alioto | Mary Bell | |

Demographics of Population Served

One hundred forty (140) individuals participated in the PHC event. The total household number based on participant input was 203.

A total of 73 individuals (58%) who completed an Exit Survey reported this was their first time participating in the Kenai Peninsula Project Homeless Connect event.

Additionally, six dogs received pet services at the event and an additional 15 participants received assorted pet supplies.

Gender

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Male | 70 | 50% |
| Female | 70 | 50% |
| Transgender | 0 | 0 |
| Non-Binary | 0 | 0 |
| Questioning | 0 | 0 |
| Culturally specific identity | 0 | 0 |
| Different identity | 0 | 0 |
| NA / DK | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Age

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------|-----------|---------|
| Under age 18 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 - 24 | 3 | 2% |
| 25 - 34 | 23 | 16% |
| 35-44 | 36 | 26% |
| 45-54 | 28 | 20% |
| 55-64 | 35 | 25% |
| 65 and older | 14 | 10% |
| NA / DK | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Race / Ethnicity

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| American Indian / AK Native | 44 | 31% |
| Asian / Asian American | 4 | 3% |
| Hispanic / Latino | 1 | 1% |
| Black, African American | 0 | 0 |
| Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander | 1 | 1% |
| Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino | 1 | 1% |
| White | 86 | 61% |
| Middle Eastern or North African | 0 | 0 |
| NA / DK | 3 | 2% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Veteran

| | Frequency | Percent |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| Yes | 13 | 9% |
| No | 126 | 90% |
| NA / DK | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Branch of Service

| | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| Air Force | 2 | 14% |
| Army | 7 | 50% |
| Navy | 3 | 22% |
| Marine Corps | 1 | 7% |
| Coast Guard | 0 | 0 |
| National Guard | 0 | 0 |
| NA / DK | 1 | 7% |
| Total | 14 | 100% |

Slept Prior Night

| | Frequency | Percent |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Street / Homeless camp | 1 | 1% |
| Abandoned property | 4 | 3% |
| Vehicle / car | 7 | 5% |
| Homeless shelter | 15 | 10% |
| Friends / family | 43 | 31% |
| My apartment / house | 47 | 34% |
| Hotel / motel | 4 | 3% |
| Jail / institution | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 19 | 13% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Household

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|
| By Myself (single) | 68 | 49% |
| With Household | 72 | 51% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

How long Homeless

| | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Less than 1 year | 55 | 39% |
| 1 year or more | 57 | 41% |
| Don't know / Refused | 28 | 20% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Number times homeless in past 3 years

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|------|
| 1 st time | 39 | 28% |
| 2 – 3 times | 28 | 20% |
| 4 or more times | 44 | 31% |
| NA / DK | 29 | 21% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Number Months spent 1 day homeless in past 3 years

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|------|
| Fewer than 12 months | 52 | 37% |
| 12 months or more | 58 | 42% |
| NA / DK | 30 | 21% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Disability

| | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| None | 42 | 30% |
| Alcohol Use Disorder | 16 | 17% |
| Chronic Health Condition | 29 | 31% |
| Developmental | 5 | 5% |
| Drug Use Disorder | 20 | 21% |
| HIV/AIDS | 1 | 1% |
| Mental Health Disorder | 40 | 43% |
| Physical Disability | 50 | 53% |
| NA / DK | 4 | 2% |

***Percentages above based on 94 individuals (67%) who disclosed one or more disabling conditions.*

Survivor or Victim of Domestic Violence

| | Frequency | Percent |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| Yes | 59 | 42% |
| No | 80 | 57% |
| NA / DK | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 140 | 100% |

Participant Exit Survey = 125 (89%)

| Rating | Excellent | Very Good | Fair | Poor |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|
| The event was helpful to me. | 105 (84%) | 16 (12%) | 2 (2%) | 2 (2%) |
| I felt respected and supported. | 110 (88%) | 7 (6%) | 3 (2%) | 1 (1%) |
| NA | 4 (3%) | | | |

How did you hear about the event?

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Friend | Freedom House | Kasilof Church |
| Flyers | Love, INC. | Vet administration |
| Facebook | Food Bank | Social-media |
| Newspaper | FCS | Family |
| Neighbor | PCHS | Kenaitze |
| Word of mouth | Job Center | Doctor's office |
| Church | Diamond Willow | Shelter |
| Cab driver | MAAST | |

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

- Yes = 109 (87%) No = 13 (11%) NA = 3 (2%)

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 | 57 |
| Age 14 - 24 | 16 |
| Age 25 and Over | 130 |
| Total | 203 |

Primary Reason for Homelessness+

| | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Loss or lack of Job | 19 | 15% |
| Work hours cut | 0 | 0 |
| Lack of or no money | 13 | 10% |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----|------|
| Rent / Utility Increase | 2 | 2% |
| Lease Violation | 0 | 0 |
| Illness / Injury | 13 | 10% |
| Substance Abuse | 12 | 10% |
| Domestic Violence | 4 | 3% |
| Family Dispute | 1 | 1% |
| Aged out Foster Care | 0 | 0 |
| Jail / Prison Release | 4 | 3% |
| Treatment Center Release | 0 | 0 |
| Loss of Roommate | 1 | 1% |
| Divorce | 2 | 2% |
| Eviction | 1 | 1% |
| New to Community | 4 | 3% |
| **Other (see below) | 25 | 20% |
| NA / Refused | 24 | 19% |
| Total | 125 | 100% |

*****Other includes: cost of living, landlord passed away, lost apartment, disabled, fire, bad things happen, senior and low income, bad choices, house fire, lack motivation, medical issues, bankrupt, lack services, can't find a home, no where to go, political, no place to rent, living in seasonal housing, no transportation, living with family, house burned down, the place I was in didn't work out.***

Zip code of last permanent address

| | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Kenai | 44 | 35% |
| Soldotna | 40 | 32% |
| Nikiski | 5 | 4% |
| Sterling | 10 | 8% |
| Kasilof | 9 | 7% |
| Anchor Point | 1 | 1% |
| Seward | 1 | 1% |
| Shageluk | 1 | 1% |
| Anchorage | 4 | 3% |
| St. Paul | 1 | 1% |
| Glenallen | 1 | 1% |
| Texas | 1 | 1% |
| Spokane | 1 | 1% |
| Refused / don't know | 6 | 4% |
| Total | 125 | 100% |

Form of Transportation

| | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Own Vehicle | 47 | 38% |
| Friend/Family Member | 22 | 18% |
| Public Transport | 15 | 12% |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----|------|
| Taxi | 8 | 6% |
| Walk / Ride Bike | 24 | 19% |
| Hitchhike | 2 | 2% |
| NA / Refused | 7 | 5% |
| Total | 125 | 100% |

Besides housing what is your primary need right now?

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Food | Driver's license | Propane | Heat assistance |
| Clothing | Car insurance | Laundry / shower | Help with storage |
| Transportation | Dentist | Counseling | Child care |
| Money | Rental assistance | Baby items | Home essentials |
| Housing/low -income | Fire wood | Children's clothing | Gas vouchers |
| Employment | Insurance | Glasses | Pubic assistance |
| Heat | Utility assistance | Haircut | Treatment |
| Basic hygiene items | Dentures | Job | |
| Housing that allows pets | Electric assistance | Medical | |

****Food (32) clothing (13) and transportation (8) were the top requests**

First Project Homeless Connect event? Yes = 73 (58%) No = 52 (42%)





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

VOLUNTEERS

Abby Struffert
Alaska Cab
Alaska Christian College
Alex Xavier
Alexander Roider
Alicia Morgan
Allie Taylor
Allison Bushnell
Amanda McKinley
Amanda Motonaga
Amanda Perez
Anderson Fannon
Andy Knapp
Angelia Brandt
Angie Hicks-Clary
Angie Holland
Anna Eason
Annalea Lott
Annette Barngrover
Annette Schultz

Ellen Grasso
Ellen Sheehan
Ellie Ford
Francine Mchinney
Frank Alioto
Gail Kennedy
Gitano Morales
Greg Meyer
Hal Smalley
Hanna Mahaffey
Hayley White
Hunter Morrison
Issac Cryer
Jade Hootch
Jake Dye
Jane Misner
Jaylynn McWilliams
Jennifer Flores
Jennifer Randleas
Jodi Stewart

Makayla Usuqf
Margaret Gilman
Martha Merry
Mary Hobbs
Mary May
Matthew Lay
Maureen DiFranco
Melissa Crawford
Melissa Kline
Mersha Tamrat
Michelle Fellows
Michelle Jardine
Monica Kyle
Natasha Mallett
Nicki McTrusty
Nikita Monyahan
Nikki Marcano
Nila Sanchez
Nora Ribbens
Pat Kelley

Ashley Blatchford
Becky Friedman
Bentley Hamilton
Bessie Phillips
Beth Selby
Bexx Geleide
Bobbi Stelljes
Breanna Mahaffey
Brent Hibbert
Caleb Smith
CARTS
Casandra Storm
Cayla Boettcher
Celestia Clark
Chelsey Carter
Cheri Smith
Cheryl Coppe
Christianne Beiger
Cindy Long
Clint Hagel
Clint Hall
Corey Colella
Courtney Mitchell
Deb Canavan
Deidra Lamping
Dennis Alder
Edan Rochford

John Henry, Jr.
John Webster
Jon Johnson
Joshua Gorenflo
Julie Bunch
Karen Davis
Karla Evarts
Kate Cooper
Kathy Gensel
Katie Cowgill
Kaye Reed
Kaylie Williams
Kellie Bartelmay
Kenia Belter
Kiara Bravo-Moe
Kim Fannon
Kim Lewis
Kay Gorenflo
Laine Povelite
LaShon Evans
Laurie Cowgill
Leslie Rohr
Linda Tannehill
Lindsay Anasogak
Lisa Hutchens
Lyndzi Gaucin
Lynnette Haas

Pat Young
Patty Eissler
Paula Lee
Peggy Rogers
Rachel Parra
Rebecca Geleide
Rhonda Dolifka
Ronda Oglesby
Sarah Rigsby
Saundra Wellborn
Shelly Ramsey
Sheri Boggs
Sherry Martinovich
Shyla Mae Walton
Sofia Costales
Stan Steadman
Summer Sheldon
Summer Trefon
Susie Smalley
Tamera Mapes
Tasha Gilila
Taylor Andrew
Taylor Cochran
Tim Linder
Tim Navarre
Vicky Hodgins

VENDORS

ABC Life Choices
AK. Breast & Cervical Screening/S.A.F.R.
AK. Housing Finance Corporation
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights
Breathe Free Coalition
CARTS
Change 4 the Kenai
Cook Inlet Counseling
Freedom House
Frontier Community Services
Independent Living Center
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic
Kenai Lions Club
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank

Love, INC.
Narcotics Anonymous
Nikiski Shelter of Hope
Pastoral Care
Peninsula Community Health Services
Peninsula Job Service
Peninsula Spay and Neuter
Raw Cuts
Salvation Army
SinShearly
SNAP
SOA DMV
SOA Public Assistance
Soldotna Family Search Center

Kenai Public Health
Kenai Vet Center
Kenaitze Indian Tribe
KPAL

Susan Smalley
Tamera Mapes
The LeeShore Center
Veteran's Affair, Kenai Peninsula

CASH AND IN-KIND DONATIONS

AIH
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alaska Mental Health Trust
Beckaroo & The Bread Guy
Breath Free Coalition
Bishop's Attic
Central Peninsula Hospital
Christ Lutheran Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
City of Kenai
City of Soldotna
Cook Inlet Counseling
Fine Thyme Café
Fred Meyer
Home Depot
Independent Living Center
Jennifer Randleas
Kenai Middle School
Kenai Peninsula Interfaith Group
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Kenai Peninsula Foundation
Kenai Public Health
Kenai Safeway
Kenai Spenard Builders Supply

Kenai United Methodist Church
Kenaitze Indian Tribe
KPAL
Midnight Son SDA Church
Ministry of the Living Stones & Mamma
Nikiski United Methodist Church
Odom Corporation
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church
Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church
Peninsula Community Health Services
Peninsula Dog Obedience Group
Project Homeless Connect
Safe Kids
Serenity House
Soldotna Animal Hospital
Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
Soldotna Church of God
Soldotna Regional Sports Complex
Soldotna Rotary Club
Soldotna Safeway
Soldotna United Methodist Church
Three Bears
Walmart

We sincerely apologize if we have missed any donor or volunteers

Endnote: Data was secured through the PHC event on January 30, 2024.