



FACT SHEET

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Like many urban communities, Anchorage is grappling with homelessness and a housing shortage. The causes of homelessness are complex, and solutions require a great deal of community cooperation, funding and creativity. The good news is that our community has a plan to end and prevent homelessness, and we're making progress.

Anchored Home - Anchorage's plan to end and prevent homelessness

The **Anchored Home** plan recognizes that ending and preventing homelessness requires a community-wide collaboration between nonprofits, faith communities, individuals, businesses and governmental agencies. Its creation in 2018 was an intensive effort with 75 organizations and 700 community members, including Anchorage Assembly members. **Anchored Home** identifies concrete actions to make homelessness a rare, brief and one-time event, emphasizing:

1. Promote Prevention & Diversion from homelessness
2. Grow the Housing & Support System
3. Improve Public Health & Safety
4. Increase Advocacy & Funding to bolster our efforts

The role of local government in housing and homelessness

The role of local government in the **Anchored Home** plan is to support public health and safety by providing first responders, helping community partners add affordable housing to the market, ensuring adequate emergency shelter exists, and using tax incentives to leverage private investment in housing.

Emergency shelter is expensive and is intended to be short-term, so the Assembly is focusing on helping to create a coordinated continuum of services that includes emergency shelter, but also leans heavily on providing services and affordable housing to give people a ladder up towards self-sufficiency. Our community is already incurring many indirect costs related to homelessness, so rerouting that funding toward housing and prevention saves money and helps our houseless neighbors.

The Municipality's recent investments in homelessness prevention

Since taking on a more active role in the community's homelessness prevention response in 2017, the Assembly has appropriated over \$100 million to support housing programs, with \$30M going to mortgage and rental relief during the pandemic and over \$50M going to rehabilitate rental units and fund nonprofit partners to build new housing units. Additionally, ongoing efforts to create an atmosphere conducive to development of affordable and attainable housing have resulted in multiple new tax incentives and comprehensive code changes.

The main funding sources for this work are the alcohol tax, which began in 2021, and federal COVID recovery funds delivered to the Municipality in 2020, 2021 and 2022. This major investment by the Municipality has leveraged additional millions of dollars in state, federal and private contributions.