



# Taking The Next Steps

Building on our Community's  
Successes to Address  
Homelessness



downtown soup kitchen  
**HOPE**  
CENTER

 Catholic  
Social Services

**Southcentral  
Foundation**



**RASMUSON  
FOUNDATION**

**Partners For  
Progress**



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO  
**END HOMELESSNESS**



**NeighborWorks®**  
ALASKA

 ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

**United  
Way**  
United Way of Anchorage



ALASKA  
NATIVE  
HERITAGE  
CENTER

 Alaska Department of  
Health and Social Services

children's  
lunchbox  
a program of Bean's Cafe

 **AEDC**  
Anchorage Economic  
Development Corporation

**UT** COOK  
INLET  
TRIBAL  
COUNCIL



**Rural CAP**  
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

 ANCHORAGE  
PARK FOUNDATION



 **Covenant  
House**  
Alaska

**Shiloh**  
COMMUNITY  
HOUSING  
INCORPORATED



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**ANCHORAGE**

 **CIRI**

 **PROVIDENCE**  
Health & Services

**AG** LOVE  
**RM** ON  
A  
MISSION

01

WHY HAVE A  
CENTRALIZED  
NAVIGATION  
CENTER



# Anchored Home: Strategic Action Plan to Solve Homelessness in Anchorage, 2018 - 2021

## VISION



Homelessness is  
rare, brief, & one-time



## KEY PILLARS



# Anchored Home: Strategic Action Plan to Solve Homelessness in Anchorage, 2018 - 2021

## Public Health and Safety

1. Assess capacity and demand for emergency shelter, transitional housing or other short-term options for individuals living in encampments to identify housing alternatives and **supports needed to make camping in public spaces unnecessary.**
2. **Stabilize and maintain citywide safety net services including adequate emergency shelter (for all seeking shelter)** and other basic services including food and healthcare (including reviewing existing services to look for opportunities for improvement).
3. **Identify adequate and long -term cold weather shelter during the winter months.**



# Anchored Home: Strategic Action Plan to Solve Homelessness in Anchorage, 2018 - 2021

## Public Health and Safety

4. Establish a proactive and transparent system, with citizen input, for continuously identifying, monitoring, and reporting the notice and abatement status of unauthorized camps within the Municipality along with the actions taken connect campers to services.
5. **Increase camp and street outreach and provide mobile assessments for Coordinated Entry System.**
6. Establish policies in municipal code and annually budget for **rapid and efficient year -round notice, abatement, and cleanup of unauthorized camps**, especially when camps present imminent health or

# Anchored Home: Strategic Action Plan to Solve Homelessness in Anchorage, 2018 - 2021

## Public Health and Safety

- Collect data on individuals living in encampments to determine demographics, trends and to develop appropriate service options and collaborate with outreach workers to warmly transfer campers to interim shelters or transitional housing.
- Create active outreach to connect people panhandling and camping with the Coordinated Entry System to access housing, supports and case management.

# Municipality Must Own Health and Safety





# Gap Analysis

	Single Adults	Families	Youth & TAY	Veterans	Gap <i>(units needed - current capacity)</i>
<b>Shelter</b>	400	30	20	0	<b>450</b>
<b>Transitional Housing</b>	154	(40)	(30)	1	<b>155</b>
<b>Rapid Rehousing</b>	1,510	23	162	(17)	<b>1,695</b>
<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	557	28	95	20	<b>700</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3,000</b>

“Ensuring sufficient shelter capacity, especially during winter, is critical for public health and safety.”

# Practical Considerations, How Outreach Currently Works

*Goal: Increase outreach capacity across Anchorage to ensure all unsheltered hotpots (reported camps, libraries, and other public locations) have regular outreach year -round, including both initial engagement and data collection and also capacity for intensive outreach to those with higher acuity needs.*

<b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• [...] Ensure <b>capacity to outreach the entire Anchorage community</b> including locations where unsheltered individuals congregate [...]</li></ul>
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support/ invest in staff capacity to provide outreach services to communities in the greater Anchorage area [...]</li></ul>
<b>Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with [...] the APD to coordinate outreach to areas scheduled for abatement and to ensure safe transportation of individuals interested in shelter services</li></ul>

# Lessons Learned from Sullivan Arena



Photo: Bill Roth / ADN

“The current success with housing individuals during COVID-19 strongly suggests the need for resource and referral services at all local shelters and the need to keep shelters open 24 hours a day.”

# Why a Single Campus?

- Math – when the goal is everyone, simply too many shelters are required – more than we can staff and provide services to
- Shelters must be safe, secure, healthy, respectful, dignified, effective. They don't need to be convenient. They can and should be sited in the best location for their success
- But we agree smaller shelters have advantages...

# Where Has it Worked?

- A shelter alone has never ended homelessness
- We have not found a single example of a city that ended homelessness without shelter



# The Salt Lake City Experience

## Homeless crisis increasing in Salt Lake City, resource centers ineffective



## Utah is giving homeless services \$19 million to focus on emergency shelter



## Utah's homeless experiment

Closing of downtown shelter in Salt Lake caps off massive shift in helping poor: Will the new model work?

By Katie McKellar | @KatieMcKellar1 | Dec 1, 2019, 5:05pm MST

Utah was once lauded for solving homelessness — the reality was far more complicated



## Is Utah solving its homeless problem? The answer is complicated

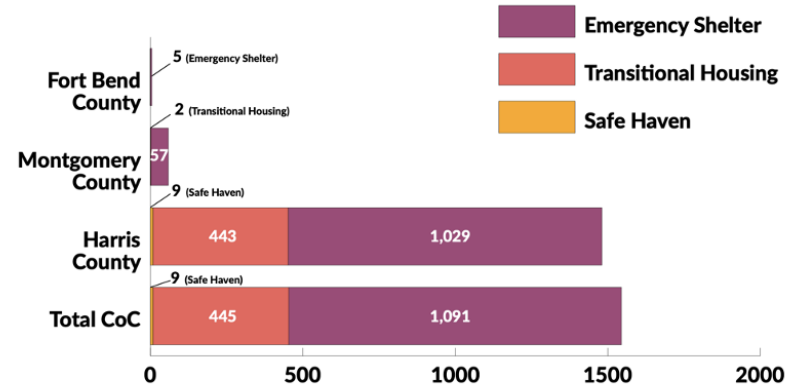
# The Houston Experience

**Houston is praised for its homelessness strategy – it includes a camping ban**



**“A carrot and a stick approach is the best approach,”** said Marc Eichenbaum, a special assistant to Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner on homelessness initiatives.

**Sheltered Persons Experiencing Homelessness by County and Type of Shelter, 2021**



The Way Home Continuum of Care 2021 Point-In-Time Homeless Count & Survey Independent Analysis



# 02

## THE PLAN

# The Plan

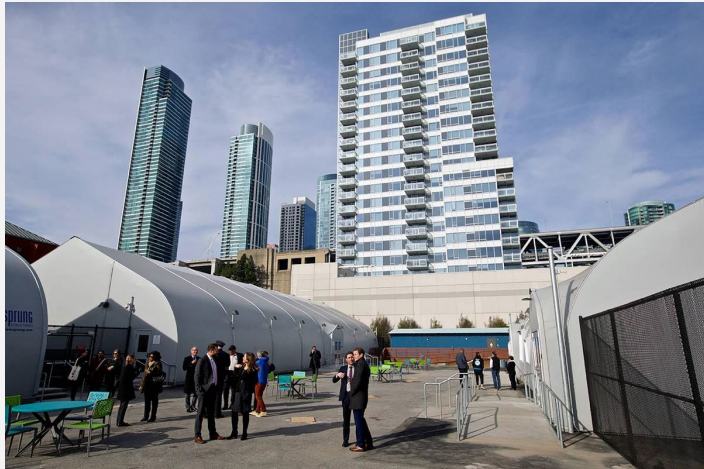
- We believe that providing shelter to the unhoused is a necessary first step
- We have examined existing available structures and found them unsatisfactory in terms of cost, function, and location
- We propose the construction of an intentionally designed, purpose built and strategically located Navigation Center

# What is a Navigation Center?

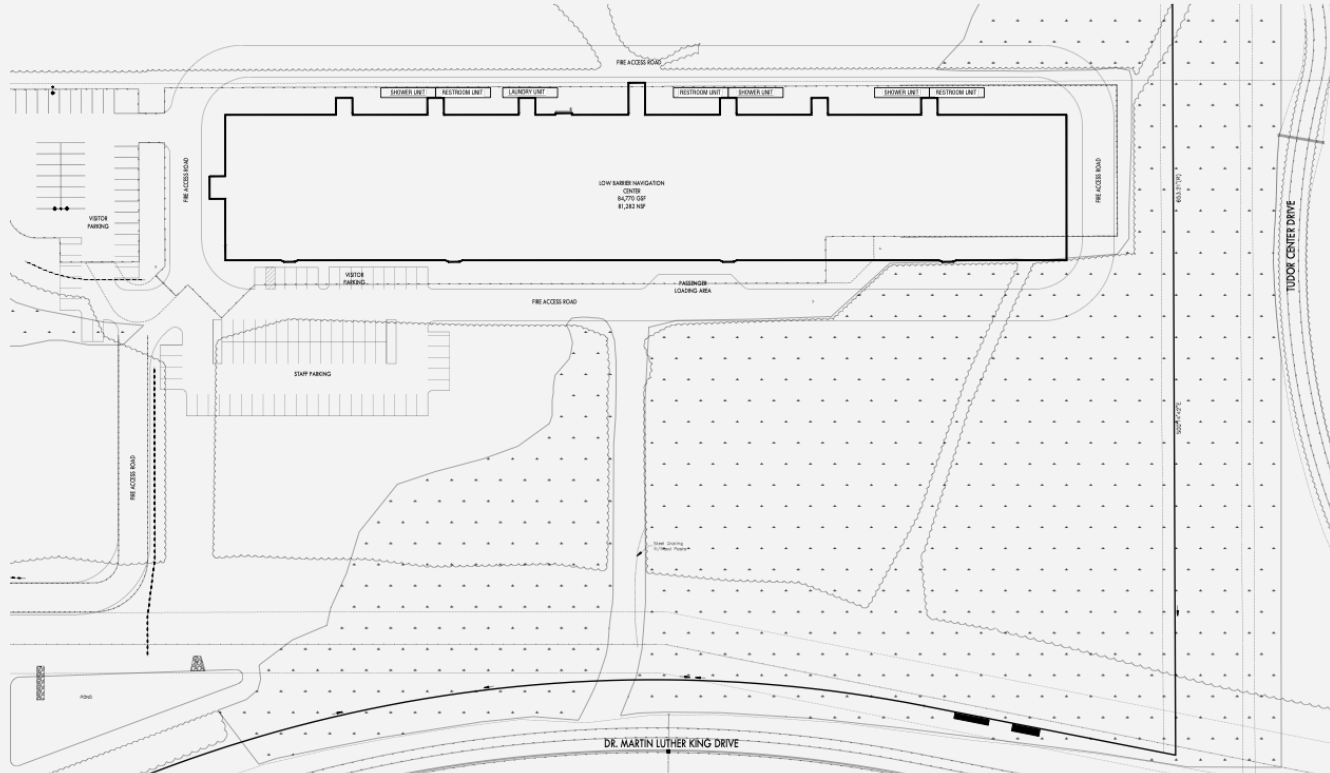
- Low barrier, high service
- Open and staffed 24 hours a day
- People do not have to line up to enter at night
- Open to partners, pets, and possessions
- Designed to help a person “Navigate” to permanent housing



# Navigation Center



# Site Plan





# Site Selection Criteria

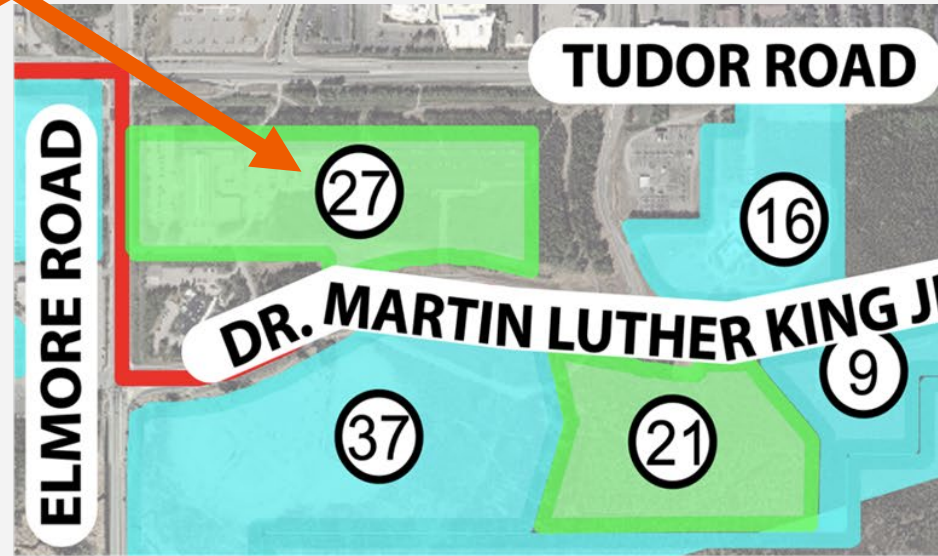
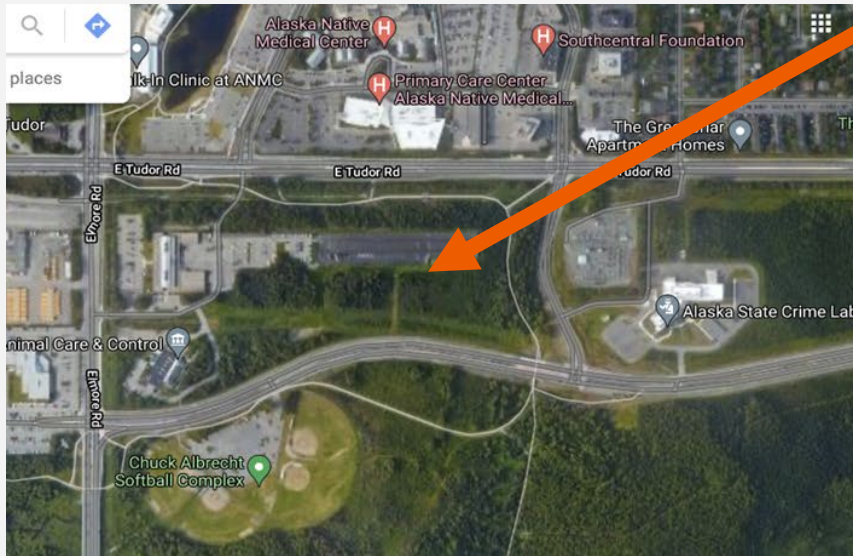
- Availability of healthcare resources
- Persistent law enforcement presence
- Minimize impact to neighboring residences and businesses
- Close to public transportation
- Secured Space for outdoor gatherings
- Municipal owned, PLI Zoned
- Existing Utilities



# Location

## Site 27

Near Tudor Rd and Elmore Rd





# Navigation Center Compared to the Alaska Club, By the Numbers

## Site 27

- Under \$15 million / designed for Sullivan sized population but capacity for significantly more – **less than \$37,500** per person (400 beds est.)
- **Persistent Adjacent Police Presence**
- **Major Hospital within walking distance** , with walking bridge over Tudor
- On bus routes
- **PLI Zoned**
- **Easily Fenced**
- **Away from residences and businesses**

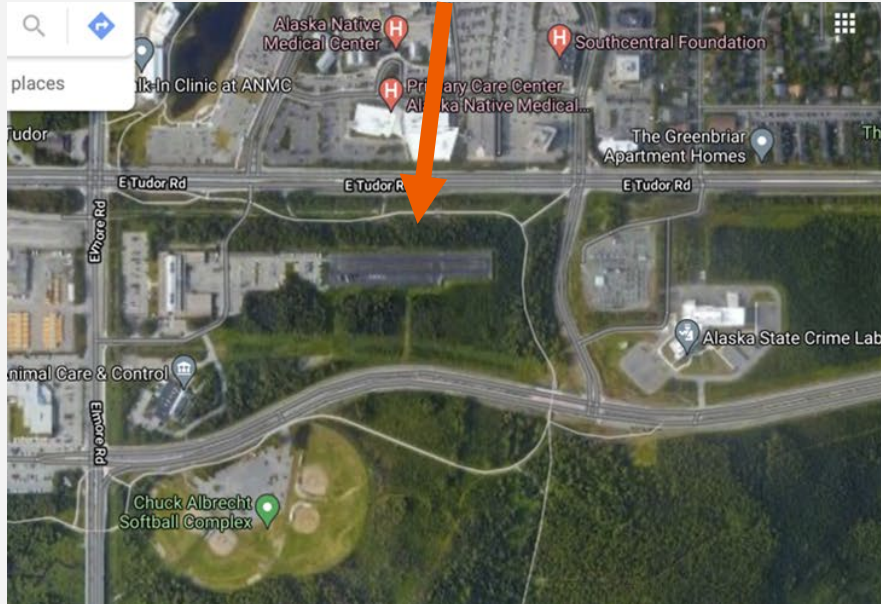
## The Alaska Club

- \$5.435 million/ 125 bed capacity requires renovation – **more than \$43,480** per person plus cost of new roof, plumbing and foundation repairs
- **University Police Department 2.4 miles away**
- **Hospital 2.9 miles away**
- On bus routes
- Not PLI Zoned
- Corner, **hard to fence** aesthetically
- **Surrounded by residences and businesses**

# Navigation Center to the Alaska Club, in pictures

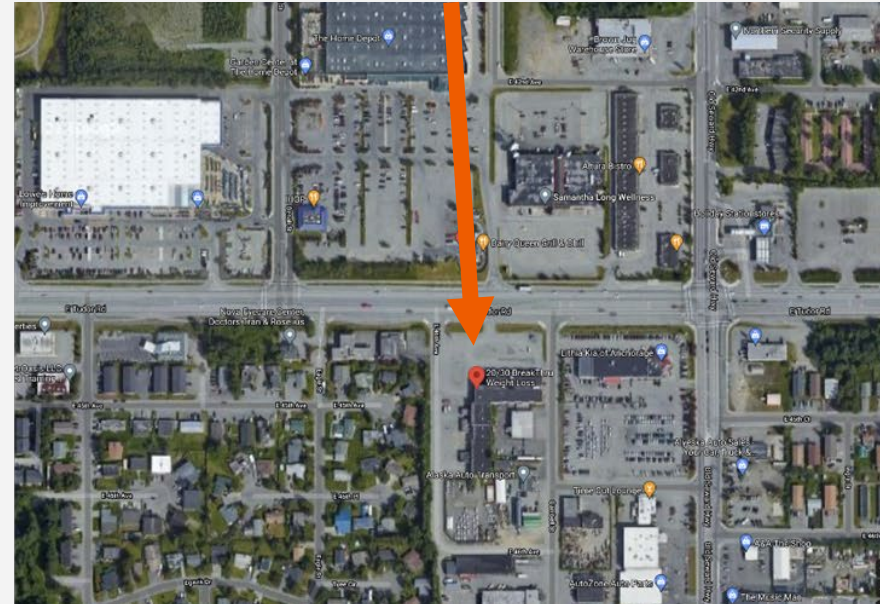
## Site 27

Near Tudor Rd and Elmore Rd



## Alaska Club Tudor

Red Pin Center of Screen



# The Law

## Supreme Court Lets Martin v. Boise Stand: Homeless Persons Cannot Be Punished for Sleeping in Absence of Alternatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Crys Letona

The agreement ensures people experiencing homelessness will not be cited or arrested for sleeping outdoors when no shelter is available, and the city will continue to take steps to put every person experiencing homelessness in Boise on a path to permanent housing.

The City will invest \$1,335,000 in preventing homelessness in our community in 2021, **at least one-third of which will be committed to rehabilitating or creating additional overnight shelter space.**

Judge orders L.A. city and county to offer shelter to everyone on skid row by fall



U.S. District Court judge David O. Carter tours skid row with LAPD Officer Deon Joseph on April 3, 2020. (Myung J. Chun / Los Angeles Times)

# Callahan v. Carey

- Why 95% of the homeless in NYC have shelter, and only 30% of those in California do
- Cases of severe hypothermia and death among homeless dropped dramatically after the decree.





# Applying to Anchorage

“In the past, the mayor and the municipality didn’t take a leading role in working on homelessness,” said Jasmine Boyle, head of the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. That changed in 2018, when the city announced an ambitious plan and began to play a bigger role.

“We have to have government partners as part of a core team in addressing homelessness,” said Boyle. “We don’t have control as homeless service nonprofits over mechanisms required to really get to a solution.”

## Anchorage is at a turning point on homelessness. The mayoral candidates differ on what to do next.

✍ Author: Emily Goodykoontz, Michelle Theriault Boots ◉ Updated: May 10 📅 Published May 6



Anchorage Police Department officer Jesus Rivera helps Parks and Recreation employee AJ Corraera remove belongings from a dugout at Davis Park on Wednesday. A woman had been forced to move from her camp in a nearby forested area after a recent zone abatement, and spent a few nights in the dugout before being told to move again. Officer Rivera is part of APD’s Community Action Policing team, which enforces illegal campsite abatement, coordinates cleanup with the Parks and Recreation department, and connects people experiencing homelessness with community resources. (Loren Holmes / ADN)



03

NEXT STEPS





Shelter is Not  
the Solution,  
rather the First  
Step for Public  
Safety

## VISION



Homelessness is  
rare, brief, & one-time



## KEY PILLARS



# Next Steps Together

■ PRE HFG 
 ■ ARRESTS POST HFG 
 ■ SAFETY CENTER INTAKES POST HFG 
 ■ SHELTER STAYS POST HFG 
 ■ EMS TRANSFERS POST HFG

\*To account for seasonality, analysis considered the time an individual was in housing during the pilot compared to the same period one-year prior<sup>1</sup>.

**85%** REDUCTION in Arrests



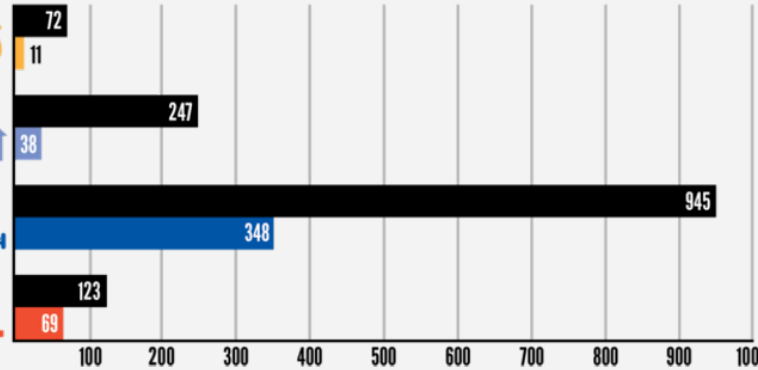
**85%** REDUCTION in Safety Center Intakes



**63%<sup>4</sup>** REDUCTION in Shelter Stays



**44%<sup>5</sup>** REDUCTION in EMS Transfers



**90%** REMAINED STABLY HOUSED

## 2021 Point in Time Count and Quality By Name List Announcement

Jun 10, 2021 | Press Release

### New Mobile Crisis Team to shift Anchorage mental health crisis response from police to behavioral health experts

By Kavitha George, Alaska Public Media - Anchorage - November 29, 2020



Entrance to Anchorage's Providence Hospital emergency room. (Josh Edge/Alaska Public Media)



# Ways the Municipality can Make it Easier to Build, Expanding the Affordable Housing Supply

- A comprehensive review of current policies which hamper directors and staff from quickly moving through the permitting process.
- Ensuring that current and new policies provide clear and distinct language which help in the implementation of code.
- Align department functions allowing permitting a seamless start to finish process.
- **Expand opportunities to incentivize affordable housing** .
- Come to a clearer understanding of private development improving public infrastructure based on the CIP.