

# ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN ALASKA

Tough choices are ahead. We know prioritizing isn't easy when lives and livelihoods are at stake. What if we told you the state can keep services, eliminate waste and maximize partner dollars by fully funding three homeless services grants. Let us explain.

Catholic Social Services provides basic health and safety to more than 3,000 men, women and children each year through homeless and shelter services. We operate the two largest homeless shelters in the state which serve all Alaska residents.



## PROVEN SUCCESS

- More than 80% of clients housed with our case management remain in housing
- Cost savings of more than \$25,000 for every high need individual we place into permanent housing.



## EFFICIENCY

- Maximizing limited dollars
- Decreasing per-client costs



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- Leveraging partner investment
- Providing medical transport to appointments, referrals and treatment at a cost of 50K, and saving the community more than \$500K in emergency medical services



## INNOVATION

- Alaskanizing" evidence based best practices
- Data-driven case management
- Focus on permanent stability

## IMPACT OF PROPOSED REDUCTIONS

**By eliminating state assistance in CSS programs alone, there could be a 48% increase in homelessness.** Reduction or elimination of these grants would mean the number of homeless people will increase due to the loss of housing options provided by community programs such as Catholic Social Services. This would **immediately and directly threaten the health and safety of individuals in our state.**

The average homeless person costs Alaska taxpayers about \$48,000 per year due to their use of some of the most expensive public services in the state. If 527 additional people become homeless due to funding reduction for CSS' Homeless Family Services program, there could be an increase of \$25 million in cost to the state and municipality of Anchorage.

## GRANT REDUCTIONS WOULD SPECIFICALLY IMPACT THE FOLLOWING CSS SERVICES.

**Clare House:** A shelter for women with children. A 22% reduction would require the shelter to close for part or all of the day. This will likely lead to the use of additional emergency services without safe shelter in the day and their likelihood of finding permanent stability would decrease.

**HSCMG \$150,000**  
**BHAP \$49,531**  
**22% PROPOSED REDUCTION**

**Brother Francis Shelter:** largest shelter for adults experiencing homelessness in Alaska. A 13% cut would reduce the number of adults who could receive shelter nightly from 240 to 150 or fewer. This would more than double the number of adults sleeping outside at night, which in turn would increase the use of emergency services, public safety dollars and likely the use of corrections.

**HSCMG \$150,000**  
**BHAP \$119,844**  
**13% PROPOSED REDUCTION**

**Homeless Family Services:** Case management services to support permanent stability. A 27% reduction would significantly threaten the effectiveness of transitioning individuals needing ongoing assistance into permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Approximately 193 at-risk families in housing would become homeless due to the loss of prevention funds and an additional 132 households experiencing homelessness would not be able to move into stable and permanent housing.

**BHAP \$706,080**  
**SNHG \$197,186**  
**27% PROPOSED REDUCTION**

## IMPACT OF FULL GRANT FUNDING

By fully funding the HSCMG, BHAP and SNHG grants at the FY 19 levels, Catholic Social Services can continue this important work, **significantly easing the additional financial burden** the state and municipality of Anchorage would see from increased public safety, medical and emergency needs caused by an increase in homelessness. In short, these grants are significantly less costly than emergency and other public services needed in the wake of increased homelessness.

*HSCMG – Department of Health and Social Services Community Matching Grant | BHAP – Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Basic Homeless Assistance Program | SNHG – Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Special Needs Housing Grant*



## PROVEN SUCCESS

Since July 2018, CSS has housed more than 200 families. We are seeing more than 80% of clients remain in their homes more than a year after being housed, despite their experience with trauma and challenges. Those families now hold jobs, buy their own food and better support their family. This means there are fewer moms and kids sleeping in their cars, people on street corners and filling up our shelters, instead they are working and contributing to the community.



## EFFICIENCY

CSS is increasing effectiveness with limited dollars so the cost of serving each person decreases.

We've transitioned programs, such as the Charlie Elder House, to our partners to focus our efforts on ending homelessness.



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

CSS provides an excellent return on investment, leveraging both partner and municipal dollars to amplify effectiveness of state grant funding.

With partner support, CSS has implemented groundbreaking programs, such as the medical respite program at Brother Francis Shelter, that save more than \$1.5 million annually.



## INNOVATION

We changed our shelter services model to focus on long-term sustainability and permanent stability. Ultimately, this reduces the cost of serving each person and has allowed us to serve more clients without increased funding. It also has allowed CSS to effectively support a changing homeless population, which has shifted to a large aging population and those needing mental health services.



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Catholic Social Services is an excellent steward of state funds. We leverage state dollars with private philanthropy, our strong connections with faith-based organizations, and the use of additional local and federal funds. Supporting these grants to end homelessness makes good financial sense. By working together with our partners, we've made improvements to data collection, targeted our outreach and implemented permanent supportive housing strategies to sharply improve outcomes to keep people housed and off the street.