END 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 85% 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.

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
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.

**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.