

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

For more information, contact nscboard@googlegroups.com

Meeting Minutes
North Star Community Council
February 14th, 2024

Present:

Officers and Members	Other Folks:	Members Present:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Johnson, President and<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eiden Pospisil, Vice President<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jacob Powell, Secretary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abby O'Neil, Principal, North Star Elementary<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Rep Zack Fields<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kayla E from Sen Tobin's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kayla E<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gordan G

Introductions

- Round of Introductions
- Approval of Agenda
 - Approved January agenda
- Approval of Minutes
 - Approved December minutes

Reports

- Legislative Update
 - Senator Löki Gale Tobin
 - Efforts to come to a solution on education.
 - SB115, Physicians Assistant policy modernization
 - SB46
 - STIP monitoring process, working with DOT, including on sidewalk snow clearance.
 - Encourage constituents to report facilities issues via ADA compliance [via this link](#)
 - Constituent meetings
 - SB100 access to conviction records

- SB101 Renewable Portfolio Standard
 - SB109 Captive audience meeting
 - SB229 red flag law
 - Rep Zack Fields
 - Introduced bills to name landmarks and locations after Vic Fisher
 - HB89 Bipartisan childcare reform bill
 - 24 pages of errors in state STIP
 - To be voted on next meeting, grant proposed for funding pump track
 - Abby
 - New school start times: [https://www.asdk12.org/schoolstartimes](https://www.asdk12.org/schoolstarttimes)
 - Parent conferences next week
 - Diana Rhoades, Anchorage Park Foundation
 - Anchorage Park Foundation has two grant opportunities available. They are open until March 20. Apply! Information is available here. <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/grants/>
 - It's election season again, and park and trail bonds are on the ballot! Find more information about the bonds here. <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/bond/>
 - Lisa Demer, Anchorage Coalition To End Homelessness
 - Overview of current work, [the Next Step program](#)
 - [Data dashboards](#)
 - Efforts for housing first solutions, and finding housing for clients of emergency cold weather shelter
 - 2478 perm housing units needed to fill gap.
 - 3683 people experiencing homelessness actively as of Dec 2023
 - Call for landlords to join ACEH, jparks@aceh.org and for [wish list of donations](#)
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Old Business:

1. Joint Resolution to Fully Fund Education from ASD/Assembly
 - a. Executive board voted in support
 - b. Gordon motioned, Jacob seconded, passed.

Updates:

1. NSCC Committees
 - a. Fireweed Lane Redevelopment
 - i. No updates.
 - b. Noise in Northstar
 - i. No updates.
 - c. Constitution and Parliamentary Affairs
 - i. No updates.
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NSCC Reports

- President – Matt Johnson
 - Going to meet with North Star Elementary staff to make sure we can use library consistently
 - Vice-President – Eiden Pospisil
 - Secretary – Jacob Powell
 - Treasurer - Andre Camara
 - Members at Large, Susan Miller and Taylor Thompson
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From the office of Senator Tobin:

Senator Tobin's constituent meeting this Saturday On Saturday, February 17th
, Senator Tobin will be back in Anchorage and hosting
constituent meetings. She will be at New Sagayas Downtown at 11:30am and at
Kava's Muldoon at 1:30pm – please join us!
Visit igtobin.substack.com to register for both email updates and the podcast.

From Senator Tobin's office: Session Update

We anticipate that the omnibus education package, Senate Bill 140 will be on the House Floor next week. Senator Tobin along with two other Senate majority members have been negotiating with House members to address severe underfunding of our public schools and come to some agreement on reasonable education policy.

In Senate Health and Social Services, SB 115 regarding physician assistants' modernization will be heard again on Thursday where we anticipate it will move forward in the process onto Senate Labor and Commerce. Brian Injury Awareness Month (SB 46) has been passed out of House State Affairs and we anticipate that

bill will be voted on the House Floor soon.

Our office is monitoring the STIP process – we have been aware of the continued issues with this incredibly important document and are communicating with the Department of Transportation to get Alaskans federal transportation dollars we rely on. We will continue to work with the department to ensure close adherence to federal regulation and encourage best practices in multi-modal transportation. We have also been in communication with the Department of Transportation regarding snow clearing, and we want to give a shout out to the constituents who have advocated to our office for improved snow clearing on sidewalks. Senator Tobin would like to continue to stay in contact around these issues, and additionally we are encouraging constituents to report facilities issues via the Title VI/Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complaint form ([linked here](#)).

Personal Legislation

SB 27: Contraceptive Coverage (Ability to receive 12-months of birth control).

SB 46: Brain Injury Awareness Month (AK has the highest rates of traumatic brain injury).

SB 100: Access to Marijuana Conviction Records (expunging marijuana violations from court view from before personal use was made legal).

SB 101: Renewable Portfolio Standards

SB 109: Employee Rights and Employer Speech (prohibits an employer from requiring an employee listening to employer personal beliefs or opinions in a captive audience meeting).

SB 115: Physician Assistant Scope of Practice (improving patient care and access).

SB 229: Allows family members or law enforcement to petition a judge to remove a firearm from the environment of a person deemed at risk of harming themselves or others, also known as red flag laws.

Senator Löki Gale Tobin's contact info:

sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov

907-269-0224.

Discussed and voted on next meeting:

WHEREAS, Valley of the Moon is a valued park providing access to playgrounds, trails, picnic shelters, a dog park, and the Chester Creek trail for residents of North Star, South Addition, and other neighborhoods in the Chester Creek corridor; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Valley of the Moon master plan encouraged continued activation of Valley of the Moon with non-motorized activities including bike and pedestrian trails; and

WHEREAS, access to parks and trails is important for all neighborhoods in Anchorage, particularly for children and families who have limited access to automobiles and should be able to access parks by foot or bicycle; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage planned on constructing a pump track at Tikishla Park, but eliminated that portion of the project late in planning, and there is not currently a pump track in walking or biking distance of neighborhoods including North Star, South Addition, Forest Park, Downtown, Fairview, Rogers Park, and Airport Heights; and

WHEREAS, pump tracks are an increasingly common park amenity in communities across the country, and have proven to be very popular at Mirror Lake and Chantschnu parks in Anchorage; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the North Star and South Addition Community Councils are acting as sponsors submitting an Anchorage Parks Foundation Challenge Grant application, and request the support of the Municipal Parks and Recreation Department and Anchorage Parks Foundation to complete this project.



**The solution to
homelessness is housing.
Everyone is housing ready.
Housing First is the key.**



Team members from the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, Municipality of Anchorage leaders and Houston, Texas, visitors gather after a community conversation in December 2023.

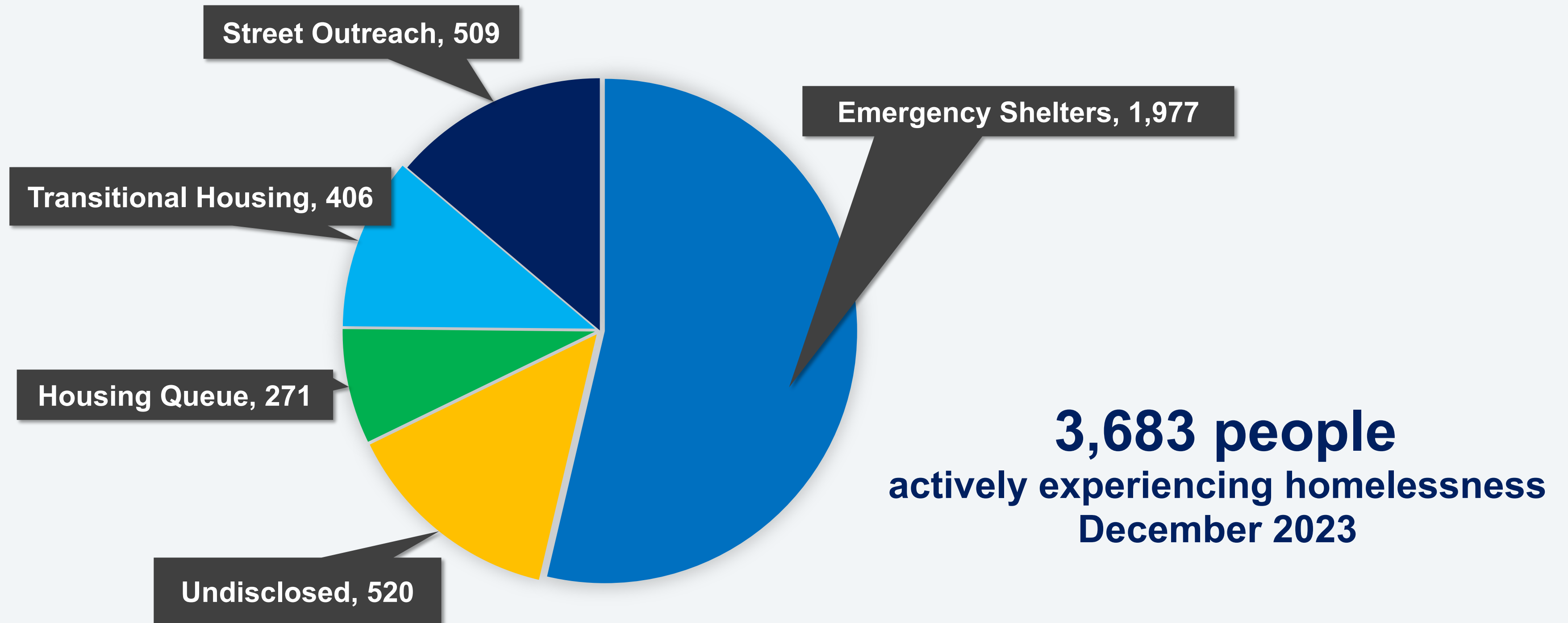
Collaboration and partnership
can drive down homelessness.

**HOMELESSNESS IS THE
RESULT
OF NOT ENOUGH HOUSING.
2,478 permanent housing units
are needed to fill the housing gap in Anchorage.**

Source: January 2023 Point-in-Time Count.



Where Anchorage people experiencing homelessness connect



New Approach to Housing

The **biggest barrier** to housing in Anchorage is finding affordable units.

What if the system bought its way into the market?

What if landlords received supports along with people experiencing homelessness?

What does that look like?

THE NEXT STEP



The Foundation for the NEXT STEP

- ✓ **Data:** Use of the Coordinated Entry housing needs assessment to match people with housing that is right for them.
- ✓ **Equity:** Shift to person-centered approach that identifies inequities in the housing system.
- ✓ **Funding:** Braided and leveraged funding to support housing.
- ✓ **Coordination:** Working with partners to identify high priority individuals as well as assets and barriers to housing.
- ✓ **Housing:** An acquisition strategy that works with landlords to identify units and provide supports.
- ✓ **Supportive Housing:** Streamlined process to access permanent supportive housing.
- ✓ **Support Services:** Diversified funding and a case management strategy to overcome workforce challenges

Next Step in action: More housing means less need for shelter

The **NEXT STEP PILOT** gives us a roadmap to quickly and sustainably move people to housing, creating flow in emergency shelter and other homelessness response services.

This financial model is the all-in cost for housing 150 individuals assuming no subsidies or outside contributions.

\$100 a day

Per person cost for shelter

\$85 a day

Average per person cost for housing

How do we pay for it?

The **NEXT STEP** is a public-private partnership model that uses existing investment in new ways coupled with individuals accessing subsidies and other person-centered supports.

Total Funding Needed	\$4,630,350
Assembly appropriation/ Municipal Alcohol Tax	\$1,500,000
ARPA and other funds	\$1,065,000
Individual Funding Sources	\$1,156,350
Funding Gap	\$909,000

MEASURING SUCCESS

The metrics below have been established to help gauge progress in the **NEXT STEP**:

- Number of people experiencing literal homelessness in Anchorage
- Percentage of people exiting to permanent housing destinations
- Returns to homelessness
- Percentage of people experiencing homelessness into HUD and other subsidized housing programs

Want to help?

Join us in taking the **NEXT STEP!**



The Coalition is seeking:



- ❑ Housing units at market rate. Landlords, connect with Jessica Parks, jparks@aceh.org.



- ❑ Donations of items for move-in kits. See the [wish list](#) and drop off food and new household goods at 3427 E. Tudor Road, Suite A.

Thank you for your interest
in **NEXT STEP!**

Everyone deserves a safe home.

Learn more: aceh.org/next-step