



City and Borough of Juneau  
Mr. Rorie Watt, CBJ Manager  
RE: Juneau Housing First Collaborative Phase III

Dear CBJ Assembly Members and Mr. Manager:

This letter supports a funding request for the development and construction of Phase III of the Juneau Housing First Collaborative Project. Phase 3 would add 28 units of housing to the existing building. Three of the units will be used for the Juneau Medical Respite Program.

The Juneau Coalition of Housing and Homelessness (JHCC) is a partnership of local agencies and organizations who serve Juneau's most vulnerable residents, the homeless, and those most affected by limited housing and the high cost of living. These organizations participate in the Juneau Continuum of Care by providing emergency, transitional, permanent supportive, and supportive services to clients and are working together to develop solutions.

Phases I and II of the Juneau Housing First Collaborative Project have been in operation since 2017 and 2022 respectively. Both projects clearly demonstrate a dramatic reduction in the usage of emergency services such as BRH's Emergency Department and Capital City Fire and Rescue among the residents. In addition to reduction in emergency services utilization, a five-year study conducted by the University of Alaska using data from Bartlett Regional Hospital, CCRF, and program tenants demonstrates an improvement in the quality of life of residents as well. Social service agencies report improvements in service delivery as a result of the project coming online.

It is clear that Juneau has a housing crisis for all types of housing. People who need permanent supportive housing are highly vulnerable and are likely to die on the street. They are high utilizers of CBJ's emergency services. Juneau Housing First Collaborative has a great track record in developing and operating permanent supportive housing. Municipal support will help the development and construction of this project.

JCHH understands that the request is significant and the timeline tight. Phase 3 of housing first will reduce the housing crisis by adding to the stock of permanent supportive housing, will dramatically reduce emergency service use, improve the quality of life, and will bring millions of dollars in construction and operating funding to Juneau. Housing First Phase 1 and 2 have had a tremendous impact on our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Ringle".

Dave Ringle  
Co-chair of JCHH  
Executive Director  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Therese Conference

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hazel Lecount".

Hazel Lecount  
Co-chair of JCHH  
Executive Director  
Polaris House