

Why Housing First model?

- ▶ Evidence Based Approach(cost effective and positively impacts quality of life and community functioning)
- ▶ Support services (case management, behavioral health, primary care) are a key component
- ▶ This model is supported by federal and local governments
- ▶ Reduces length of time someone experiences homelessness and reduces the utilization of public safety resources

FOR EXAMPLE

- A) For every \$10 invested in Housing First services resulted in an average of savings of nearly \$22. (National Alliance to End Homeless & National Low Income Housing Coalition *January 2020*
<https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-First-Research.pdf>)
- B) Forget Me Not Manor (a HF project in Anchorage) showed reduced usage of emergency services after one year in housing (Brocius, UAA SSW, 2019)
 - ER visits reduced by 45% (230 fewer visits)
 - Contacts with police reduced by 66% (2 fewer contacts per day)
 - Sleep off center visits reduced by 99% (fire and rescue services decreased transports by 54% or 2.3 fewer transports per week)

Nome's Housing First project

- ▶ 15-studio apartment complex using a Housing First approach--an effective strategy that combines affordable housing with intensive coordinated support services.
 - ✓ Addresses a part of Nome's housing shortage
 - ✓ Housing is the first step in helping Nome's most vulnerable chronically homeless individuals
 - ✓ Reduces the unproductive and costly cycle of ambulance services, escorts to the hospital for evaluation, Department of Corrections holds and treatment
 - ✓ is one permanent solution toward ending homelessness in Nome
- ▶ This project will cost \$10 million to build with annual operating costs of roughly \$300,000; it is sustainable with preapproved project based housing vouchers

Tentative Timeline:



Design phase – January 2022

Site preparation – April 2022

Construction – May 2022 thru November 2023

Substantial completion – December 2023

The Nome Housing Coalition meets every other month to address housing issues and solutions that agencies in Nome are tackling.

An advisory committee of approximately five key supporters, specifically for the Housing First project, to advise and offer expertise to the project.

Homelessness is a community and municipal concern

- ▶ 25-30 estimated chronic homeless individuals wandering the streets of Nome everyday
- ▶ Of the 225 individuals that used NEST shelter last year, 23 individuals fit HUD's description of chronic homelessness
- ▶ Annual PIT Count (Point-in-Time) of the homeless on a given day in Nome
 - Year 2021 = 23
 - Year 2020 = 39
 - Year 2019 = 25

These counts do not include the “hidden homeless” (those that do not participate in the count or are living in overcrowded homes)

- ▶ Affordable housing does not meet the demand of Nome's population

Economics in Nome

INTOXICATED PERSON DOWN IN NOME

A five-year average of 1,196 police calls for 'intoxicated person down' according to Nome Police Chief Mike Heintzelman, an average of 3.27 calls per day

For Comparison:

In Anchorage, it is reported to cost \$50 K per year for each homeless individual (<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2018/05/02/anchorage-hardest-to-house-homeless-cost-50000-a-year-on-the-street-could-that-money-be-better-spent/>)

PRESENTED TO THE NOME CITY COUNCIL
BY THE NOME COMMUNITY CENTER
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