

'Moving Home Voucher Program' offers help with rent; application is process open

Service providers can offer assistance completing assessments and applications

More Alaskans will be sure a roof over their heads this winter thanks to a new program.

Nearly 150 Alaskans receiving Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS)-funded services in 12 communities across the state will receive rental subsidies this year in a new program. The "Moving Home Voucher Program," a partnership with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC), will help bolster supportive housing in Alaska.

The Moving Home Voucher Program will process applications on a first come, first served basis until all vouchers have been utilized within each community. A community's enrollment status will change to closed once all vouchers have been utilized.

Alaskans living in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su, Petersburg, Sitka, Soldotna, Valdez, and Wrangell are eligible to receive rental subsidies through the new program. The enrollment status remains open in all of the communities with the exception of Anchorage and Sitka.

Applicants must meet minimum eligibility requirements to be considered for the Moving Home Voucher Program. In addition, applicants must successfully pass AHFC screening criteria. Applicants will be assisted by DHSS-funded providers to access the program. Service providers will assist clients to complete an assessment, the client application, and sign agreements to make services available to maintain the client in housing.

To be eligible for this program, a person must meet the following criteria:

- Meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of a disabled family or be an Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority beneficiary;
- Demonstrate qualification as low-income, defined as less than 50 percent of Area Median Income;
- Be eligible for community-based, long-term services as provided through Medicaid waivers, Medicaid state plan options, state funded services, or other appropriate services related to the target population;



- Be currently homeless, be at risk of homelessness, be precariously housed, or lack the resources necessary to obtain or retain permanent housing;
- Score 8 or higher on the Vulnerability Index & Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool; or
- Be enrolled in one of the following Anchorage Division of Behavioral Health-funded programs: Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) or Intensive Case Management (ICM) Teams.

For more information or to enroll in Moving Home Voucher Program visit:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dbh/Pages/Initiatives/IntegratedHousing/Moving-Home-Voucher-Program.aspx>.

Supportive Housing and Services

The Division of Behavioral Health is working on developing supportive housing for people who experience mental illness and/or substance abuse. This integrated behavioral health housing resource, in the Department of Health and Social Services system, focuses on wrap-around services grants for serving people with complex behavior issues and homelessness. This effort uses the federal Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)'s Permanent Supportive Housing model.