



Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

Principles and Strategies 2020

Guiding Principles:

1. Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring.

- a. Rare: Prevention resources must be available to prevent eviction. Diversion programming must be available to those leaving institutions such as treatment facilities or prison.
- b. Brief: Outreach, shelter and rapid rehousing programs must be in place to minimize the amount of time any person spends without permanent housing.
- c. Non-recurring: Supportive services must be free/affordable and accessible in-home if necessary for families and individuals who require additional behavioral health and/or financial management support. Long-term housing plans ensure needs are assessed and services assigned to maintain stable housing.

2. Emergency shelter is an unacceptable strategy to end homelessness.

- a. Homeless interventions should focus on permanent housing rather than temporary shelter. Emergency shelter can provide a stop-gap measure to save lives, but cannot end homelessness.

3. In order to bring homelessness in Juneau to functional zero, both short and long-term strategies must be enacted.

- a. While we recognize that street homelessness is dangerous for the people living outside and is concerning to our community for a variety of reasons, this situation has been decades in the making. We value short term strategies that save lives, while preserving the goal of affordable and supportive housing options to end homelessness.

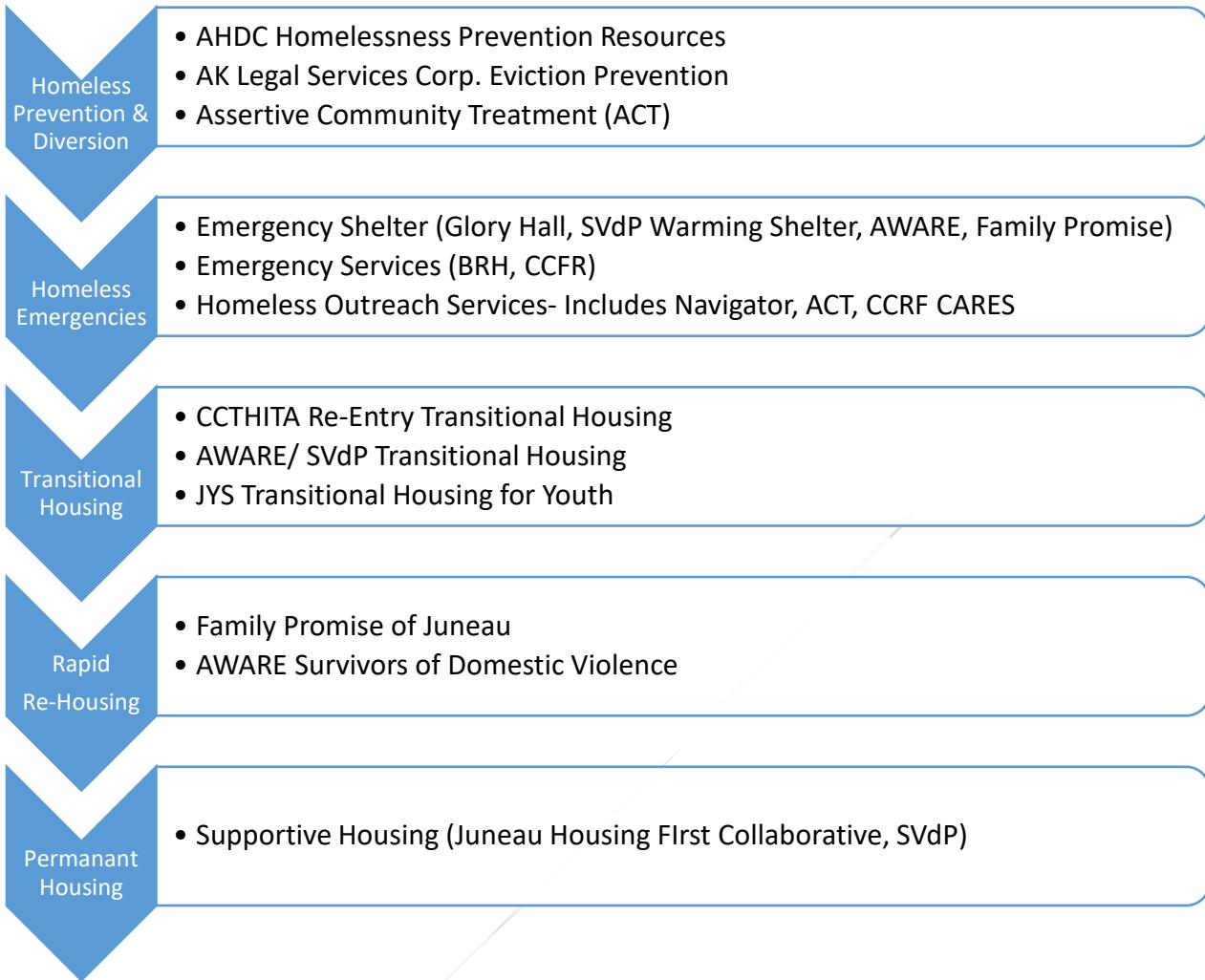
4. Data & Infrastructure is the “backbone” of our homelessness response.

- a. We cannot plan and prioritize projects without reliable data, including information gathered via Juneau’s Coordinated Entry system:
 - i. Who is experiencing homelessness
 - ii. What are the barriers to housing
 - iii. What and how many units are available and appropriate for those seeking housing

5. Housing strategies are a community matter; shelter and housing providers must work in tandem with the CBJ to meet and prioritize needs.

- a. Our city’s continuum of care has been disrupted by COVID as well as an internal lack of communication regarding new services/program. The Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (JCHH) is a vehicle to reestablish strong collaboration between providers. CBJ can provide a critical role of facilitating directed conversations and ensuring coordination, rather than duplication, of programming.

Juneau Continuum of Care & Critical Coordination:



High Priority & Urgent Need

Cold Weather Shelter (short and long term):

- a. The JCHH is concerned about the number of individual users of the SVdP Warming Shelter. We understand that the COVID emergency has revealed a number of marginally housed individuals who needed additional assistance when their normal shelter situations were disrupted.
- b. We believe that the design of the Cold Weather Shelter- a temporary, low barrier, low cost shelter option for ~20-40 individuals that provides immediate life-saving intervention- should be preserved. We also believe it should be phased out as additional resources become available to provide stable, permanent solutions.
- c. The acquisition of a site for the Cold Weather Shelter should prioritize re-purposing in a 3yr time frame, ie., the site should be chosen with an eye toward future needs for permanent housing or, alternatively, other pressing public needs.

COVID-related Food Service/Day Service Site:

- a. The current Glory Hall site, which has traditionally fed those experiencing homelessness in Juneau, cannot currently accommodate the need while meeting COVID safety protocols. Patrons must eat outside, which makes eating difficult and causes disruption along Franklin street.
- b. There is a current site on Franklin identified for potential food/day services. JCHH urges prioritization of this immediate need, with support from COVID funding as appropriate.

High Priority & Long Term Need:

New Glory Hall and United Human Services Campus:

- a. The New Glory Hall provides emergency shelter with an emphasis on transition to permanent housing. This shelter will provide structure, privacy and co-location with the services needed to help individuals to access permanent housing solutions.
- b. The United Human Services Facility provides “one-stop shopping” for persons experiencing homelessness. The co-location of services (including disability, legal, and social supports) with shelter is designed to increase access to permanent housing

Youth Emergency Shelter:

- a. There are currently no emergency shelter options for unaccompanied youth in Juneau. Zach Gordon Youth Center (CBJ) has partnered with Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) to apply for a sheltering grant with services.

Transitional Housing for Re-Entry:

- a. Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) is developing two transitional housing projects to house formerly incarcerated persons reentering our community. We urge support for these projects as they provide unique, culturally-appropriate services to people who experience extreme housing barriers.

Community Outreach:

- a. JAMHI is developing an **Assertive Community Treatment** team. ACT consists of a transdisciplinary team of medical, behavioral health, and rehabilitation professionals who work together to meet the intensive needs of recipients with severe and persistent mental illness. ACT can help keep individuals housed, or assist in housing those who are currently in shelter or on the street.
- b. The **Juneau Navigator** program, funded by Juneau Community Foundation, is an outreach service for sheltered and unsheltered persons to connect with services.
- c. **CCFR CARES** program focuses outreach on those with immediate medical needs, and connects them with needed services for longer-term stabilization.

Rapid Re-Housing

- a. For people experiencing homelessness who have fewer barriers (ie. a medium score on Vulnerability Index), rapid re-housing may prevent them from having lengthy shelter stays. Currently, Family Promise and AWARE have rapid re-housing funds, and are implementing programming. Rapid Re-housing requires funds to support tenancy, as well as support personnel and relationships with public or private landlords who are willing to engage in the program.