



Supporting State Efforts to Address Housing and Homelessness

WHEREAS, housing is recognized as foundational to human health;

WHEREAS, lack of housing leads to family disruption and entrenched poverty that impacts all aspects of human physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health;

WHEREAS, access to housing creates safe, livable, and sustainable communities and neighborhoods;

WHEREAS, successful housing production and preservation result in an adequate supply of ownership and rental housing that is safe, healthy, culturally meaningful, and affordable to all people regardless of income, background, gender, ethnicity, age, and ability; and

WHEREAS, challenges unique to Alaska, including cold weather exposures, wildlife encounters, and unequal access to services statewide, exacerbate the stresses and lived experiences of homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Public Health Association will promote and advocate support for the actions advanced by the state and local housing and homelessness coalitions to:

- Increase affordable housing stock
- Increase public funding available for housing supports for those in extreme poverty
- Expand access to housing case management services statewide to assure housing success for those experiencing homelessness and to prevent future homelessness
- Expand permanent supportive housing initiatives and innovative practices such as Housing First
- Utilize data sharing and social impact financing to make significant and radical system change;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Public Health Association will, as opportunities arise, contribute to the work of the statewide and local housing coalitions, evaluate the health impacts of current policy and practice, and support the work of state, local, tribal, and community-based non-profit organizations committed to ending homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the position of the Alaska Public Health Association until it is withdrawn or modified by a subsequent resolution.

FISCAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT STATEMENT: This action will result in minor costs associated with sending this resolution to ALPHA's federal, state, tribal and local partners. ALPHA's actions will help to address the substantial human and financial costs associated with lack of housing in the State of Alaska.

Adopted January 16, 2018