
From: Amory Lelake
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:04 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Subject: FW: AHFC follow-up to HFIN hearing, 4/19/23

Good morning, Helen –

Please distribute.

Thanks,

Amory

Amory Lelake
Office of Rep. Bryce Edgmon
House District 37

From: Stacy Barnes <sbarnes@ahfc.us>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 11:00 AM
To: Amory Lelake <Amory.Lelake@akleg.gov>
Cc: Bryan Butcher <bbutcher@ahfc.us>; James Wiedle <jwiedle@ahfc.us>
Subject: AHFC follow-up to HFIN hearing, 4/19/23

Hi Amory,

In response to the questions about *Rental Assistance for Persons Displaced Due to Domestic Violence, Weatherization, and Rural Professional Housing* that came up during House Finance Wednesday for Bryan Butcher and James Wiedle of Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, I highlighted each of areas. Please let me know if the committee has follow-up questions.

From Rep. Colombe regarding access to *Rental Assistance for Persons Displaced Due to Domestic Violence*, AKA Empowering Choice (ECHP) voucher access:

This voucher program began in 2012 between AHFC, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, and the Council on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault. Participating Network members (shelters) receive an allocation of vouchers for each community and those shelters identify clients, then send AHFC a referral for the individuals or families. The referring shelter determines each person's qualification. AHFC applies the federally required screening criteria to each referral but does not have any additional qualifications for the referring shelter. Individuals receiving a voucher shop in the local community and rent from the private sector, with AHFC paying landlords directly for the cost of the monthly rent not to exceed federal cost standards.

Regarding Weatherization

Recent spending, including all sources (U.S. Department of Energy, federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, plus AHFC/state contributions) are as follows:

FY19 - \$6,087,021

FY20 - \$5,883,603

FY21 - \$4,480,429

FY22 - \$5,975,806

FY23 - \$8,688,334 (This includes the first wave of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding that is nearly half the total.)

Units Receiving Weatherization Services

In the period 2008-2018, nearly 21,000 homes received Weatherization services.

Funding has allowed us to complete an additional 1,200 units since that period:

FY19 - 348

FY20 - 290

FY21 - 312

FY22 - 300 unit anticipated.

The Home Energy Rebate program resulted in 26,587 participating homes during the period 2008-2018.

Like the [Weatherization](#) report previously shared with the committee, Cold Climate Housing Research Center also produced one for the [Home Energy Rebate](#) program.

Capacity for taking on more Weatherization.

In his response to Representative Galvin, Mr. Butcher noted that AHFC does not hire staff to do weatherization work. AHFC's grantees are capable of and in the position to scale services should conditions warrant. Three grantees currently administer the majority of program funds across the state (RuralCAP, Alaska Community Development Corporation, and Interior Weatherization). In addition, AHFC provides grants for eight Regional Housing Authorities to perform weatherization in their regions where approximately 3-10 units are completed annually per housing authority.

Housing Conditions

Here is a link to the Alaska Housing Needs Assessment, <https://www.ahfc.us/pros/energy/alaska-housing-assessment>, that was completed in 2018 and details conditions to include overcrowding, senior housing, energy efficiency needs and more. We anticipate an updated assessment be completed in the next calendar year.

Rural Professional Housing Projects

We have a map of Teacher, Health Professional & Public Safety units built across the state here:

<https://www.ahfc.us/pros/homelessness/development-grants/thhp>

Eligible projects generally follow the definition of small community for the State of Alaska. Eligible projects are those in a community with a population of 6,500 or fewer that is not connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks, or with a population of 1,600 or fewer that is connected by road or rail to Anchorage or Fairbanks and at least 50 miles outside of Anchorage or 25 miles outside of Fairbanks. The list of communities that meet the full definition and are eligible to receive funding is available at the same link.

Please let me know if I can provide additional follow-up for the committee.

Thank you!

Stacy



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