



ONAP and ACF National Best Practice Webinar Partnerships Serving Homeless American Indian and Alaska Native Youth

FEATURING THE COVENANT HOUSE DENA'INA
HOUSE AND SHÉIYI XAAT HÍT

MARCH 10, 2022

OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS (ONAP)



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Deputy Assistant Secretary

Office of Native American Programs

Department of Housing and Urban Development

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Agenda

- ❑ **Runaway and Homeless Youth Program**

Christopher Holloway **HHS/ACF, Division of Homeless and Runaway Youth**

- ❑ **Youth Homelessness in Alaska**

Brian Wilson, **Director, Alaska Coalition on Housing & Homelessness**

- ❑ **Dena'Ina House, Rights of Passage Program**

Colin Haughey, **Director, Data Management and Quality Assurance, Covenant House**

Melissa Craig, **Case Manager, Rights of Passage**

- ❑ **Shéiyi Xaat Hít**

Jorden Nigro, **Youth Development and Services Manager, City and Borough of Juneau**

Jacqueline Pata, **President/CEO, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority**

ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS (ANA)



Hope MacDonald LoneTree

Deputy Commissioner

Administration for Native Americans

Administration for Children and Families

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

homepage: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/>

ACF Tribal and Native Americans Affairs

homepage: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/tribal-affairs>

Administration for Native Americans (ANA)

- Grant opportunities - Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) are discretionary grant funding for community-based projects that can include support for homeless or runaway AIAN youth as well as other social and economic development projects.
 - ANA project funding is available in short-term development terms of 12, 24, or 36 months, depending on the specific Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).
 - All ANA community projects must be completed by the end of the project period or supported by alternative funds.
- SEDS NOFOs currently open:
 - Closes April 15, 2022
- Training and Technical assistance
 - Project planning, reporting, and application-related assistance
- Upcoming events:
March 22 – 24, 2022, ACF Indigenous Programs Conference
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/event/acf-indigenous-programs-conference>

Family Youth Services Bureau

Division of Runaway and Homeless Youth

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Family and Youth Services Bureau

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Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Information

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth>



Runaway & Homeless Youth Program

Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Program

- The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) administers four programs authorized under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), which provides funding to public and non-profit entities to establish and operate local services for safe and stable housing for runaway and homeless youth and families of homeless youth.
 1. Street Outreach Program (SOP)
 2. Basic Center Program (BCP)
 3. Transitional Living Program (TLP)
 4. Maternity Group Home Program (MGH)
- In FY 20, RHY programs served 38,483 youth across all four programs.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Tenets

- Young people, because of their age and situation, are urgently in need of shelter/housing and services that are trauma-informed, developmentally and age appropriate and culturally sensitive.
- Services to young people should be developed and provided using a positive youth development approach.
- Comprehensive screening and assessment tools focus on the prevention and intervention of homelessness among youth and young adults
- Services and linkages for youth to make that successful transition to adulthood and obtain self-sufficiency.
- Services include life skills, interpersonal skill building, educational advancement, job attainment skills, mental and physical health care, parenting skills, financial planning, and referrals to other needed services.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Service Model

- Comprehensive screening and assessment tools focus on the prevention and intervention of homelessness among youth and young adults
 - Early identification and referral to services
 - Focus on trauma-informed care
 - Positive Youth Development Approach (incorporating youth voice)
- Wrap around community-based support services that address key skills needed to achieve self-sufficiency
 - Safe and stable housing
 - Education and employment
 - Physical and emotional well-being
 - Lasting connections to community and family (social capital)
- Delivery of robust training and technical assistance to build the capacity of RHY-funded grantees to improve outcomes for youth and young adults experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Interagency coordination at federal, state and local levels to enhance services and supports to youth and young adults

Street Outreach Program

Provides street-based aid and prevention services to street youth who have been subjected to or are at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- Number of Current Grantees: 127
- Grant Duration: 3 years
- FY 2021 Funding: \$18.9 million



Basic Center Program

Addresses the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth under age 18 by providing an array of services including shelter, food, medical care, and counseling.

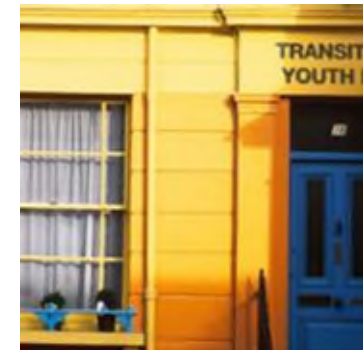
- Number of Current Grantees: 294
- Grant Duration: 3 years
- FY 2021 Funding: \$54.9 million



Transitional Living Program

TLPs provide longer-term residential services to homeless youth ages 16 through 21, including shelter, life skills, educational opportunities, and career counseling.

- Number of Current Grantees: 204
- Grant Duration: 3 years
- FY 2021 Funding: \$53.7 million



Maternity Group Homes

Support homeless pregnant and/or parenting young people, as well as their dependent children with an array of comprehensive services to teach parenting skills, child development, family budgeting, and health and nutrition.

- Number of MGH Grantees 45
- Grant Duration: 3 years
- FY 2020 Funding: \$10.6 million



RHY Four Core Outcome Areas



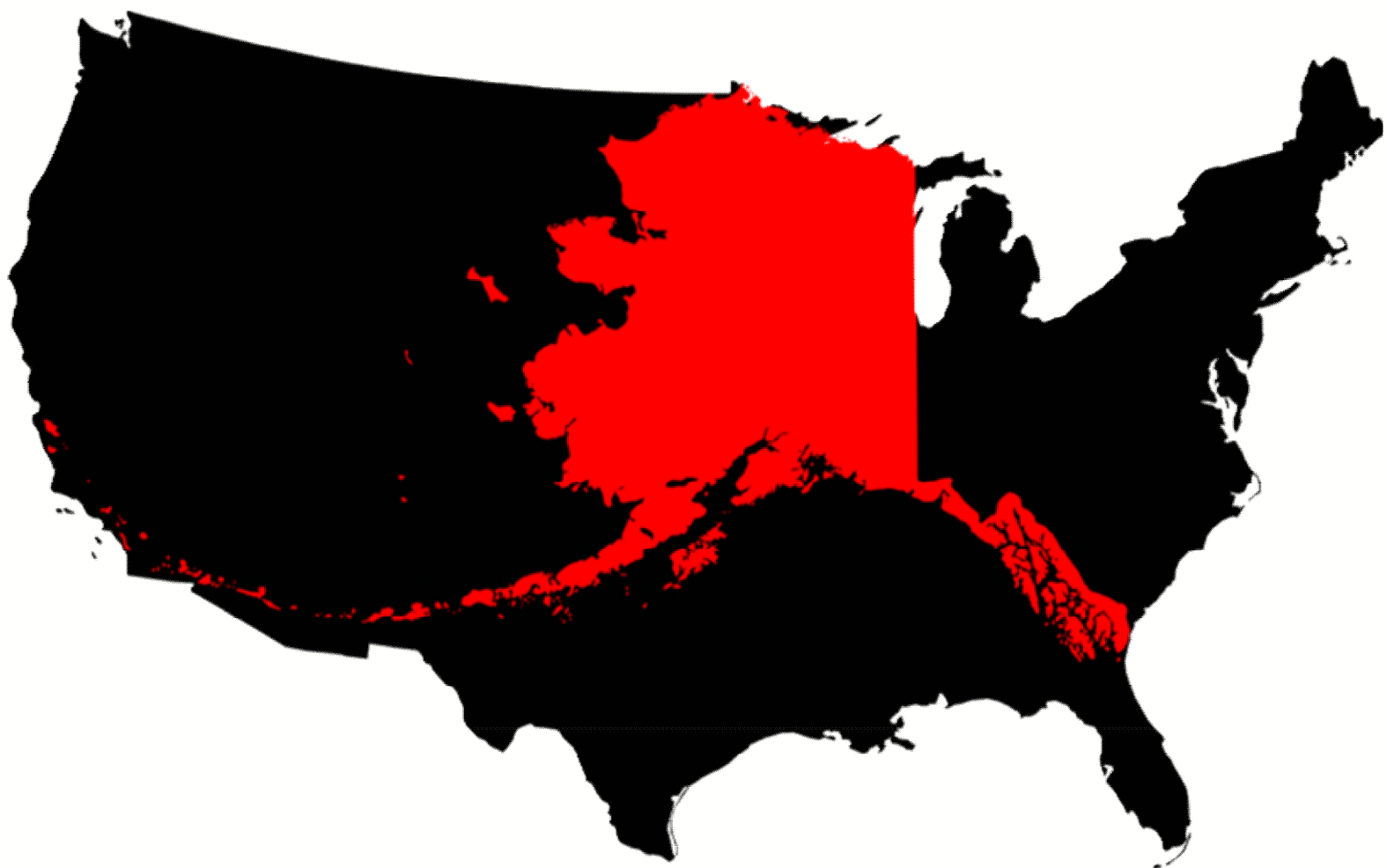


Homelessness in Alaska

BRIAN WILSON, ALASKA
COALITION ON HOUSING AND
HOMELESSNESS



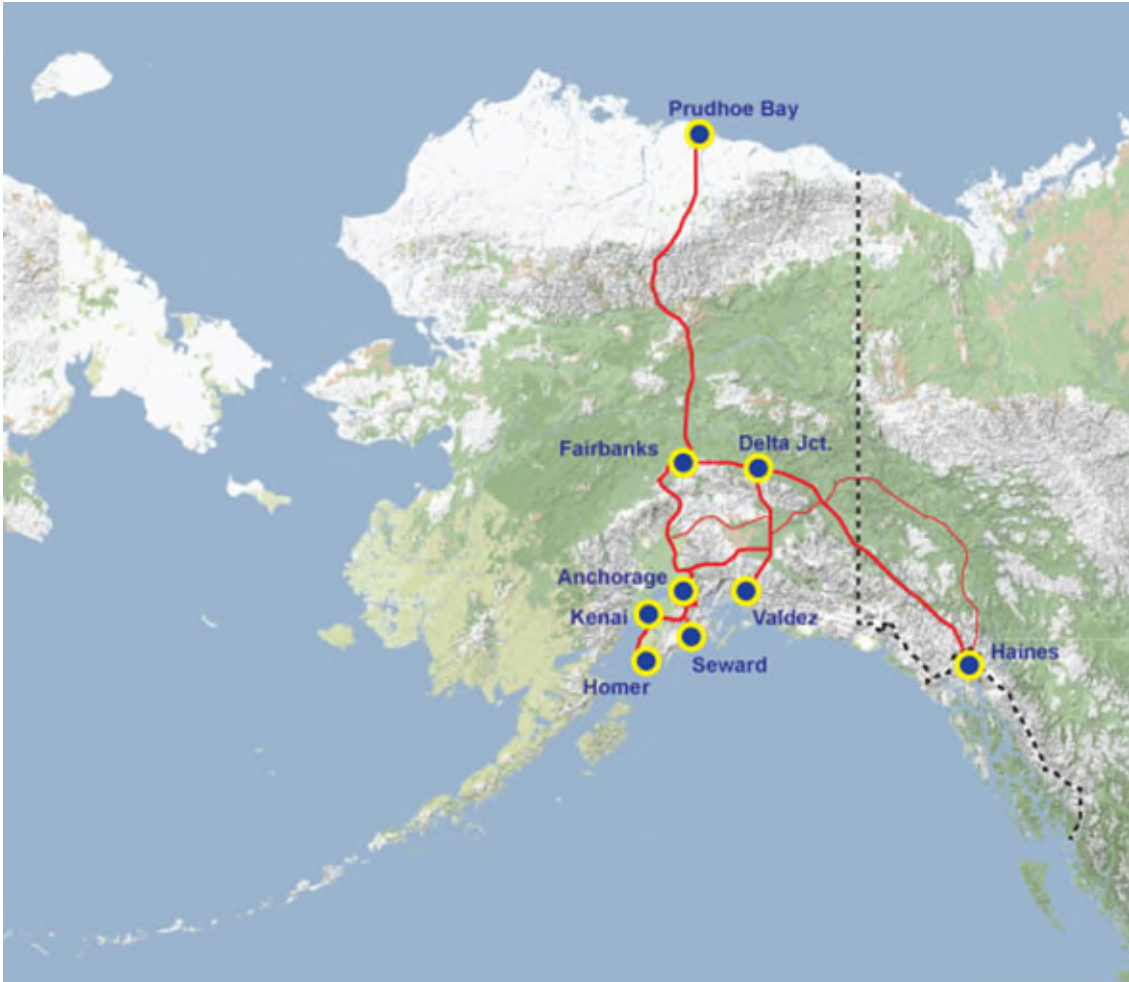
Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
Alaska's Really Big!





Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

Alaska's Road System





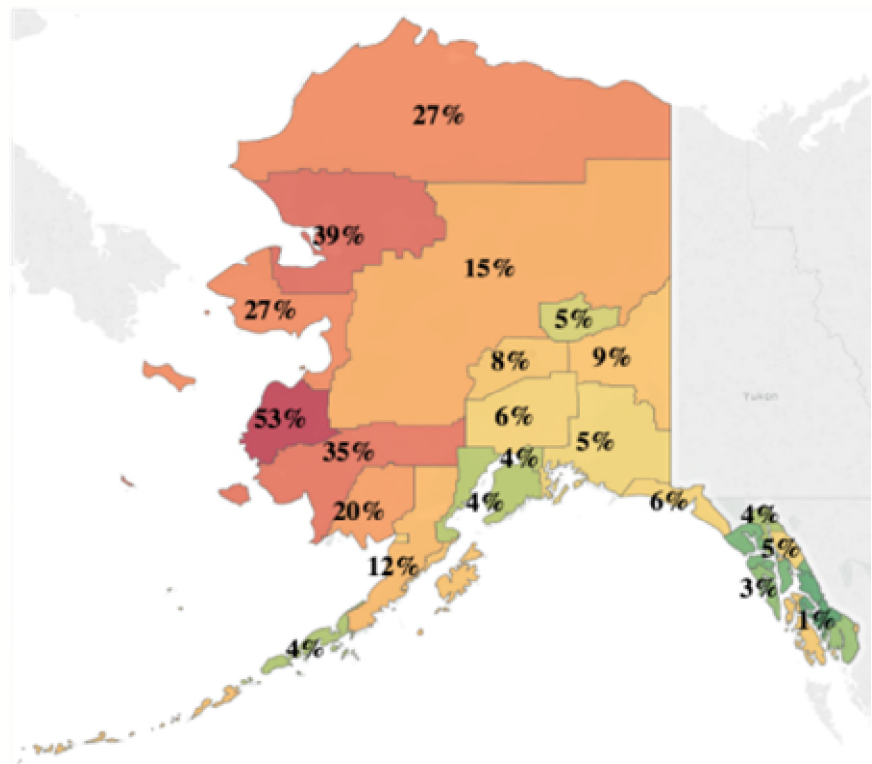
Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

What is Homelessness in Alaska?

Homelessness Looks Different Depending on the Community



Point in Time Count, 2020



Overcrowding Rates by Census Area
(Source: HUD)

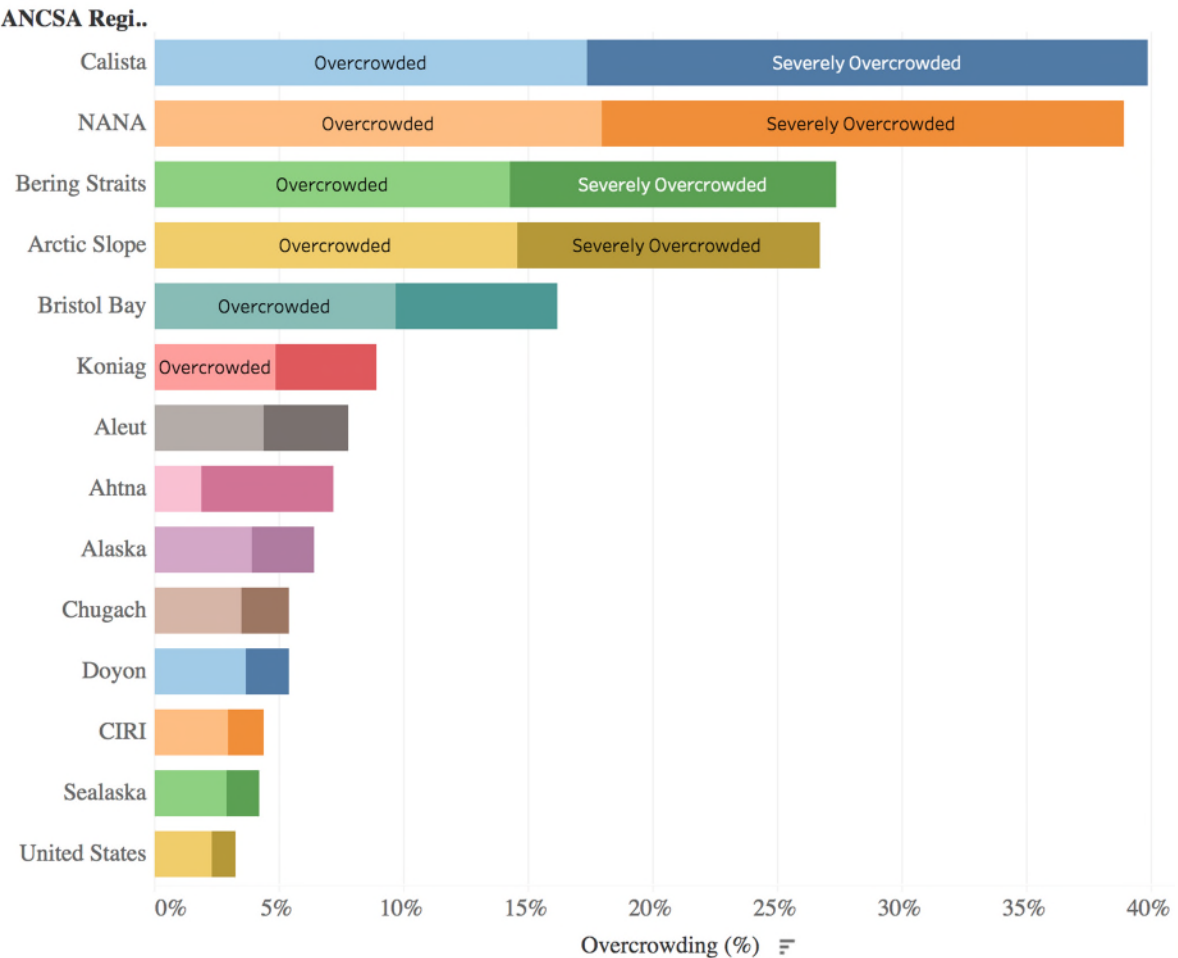




Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness

Overcrowding Rates by ANCSA Region

Overcrowding Rates



Partnerships Serving Homeless American Indian and Alaska Native Youth

DENA'INA HOUSE

RIGHTS OF PASSAGE PROGRAM

TODAY'S FEATURED GUESTS

Colin Haughey

Director, Data Management and Quality Assurance,
Covenant House

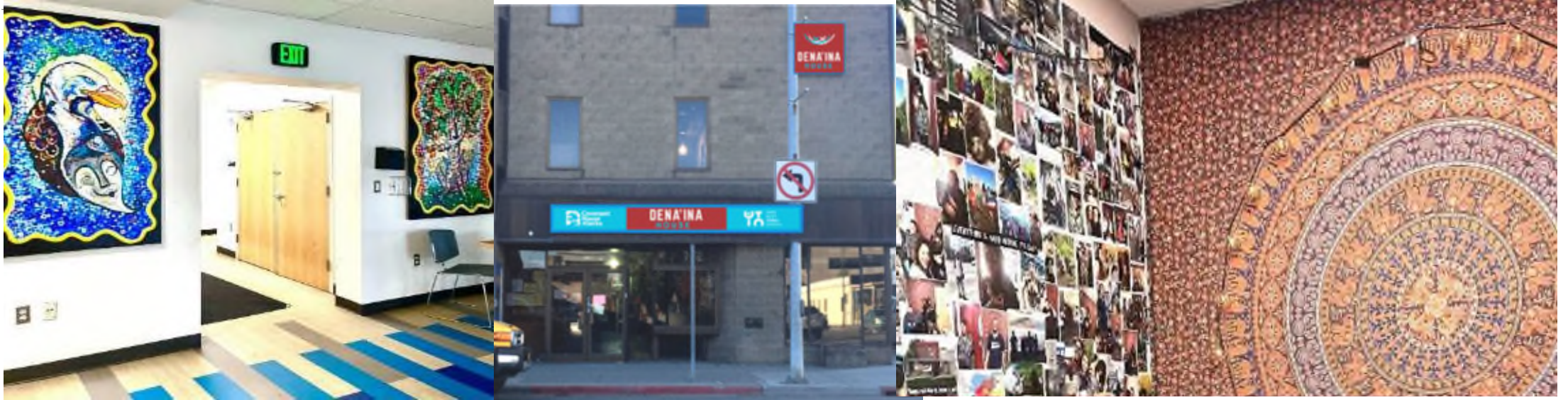
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Melissa Craig

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Covenant House Dena'ina House

Collaborative effort of long-time partners homeless service provider, Covenant House, with Alaska Native Cook Inlet Tribal Council. Transitional living program, Rights of Passage, for youth aged 18-24 in Anchorage.

ABOUT COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL

- Tribal nonprofit organization serving Alaska Native and American Indian people residing in the Cook Inlet region of southcentral Alaska
- Support services include education, employment and training services, family preservation, and support for individuals recovering from addiction, substance abuse, or incarceration.



ABOUT COVENANT HOUSE ALASKA

- Global program – here focus is on Covenant House Alaska (CHA)
- Provides transitional housing programs, shelter services, education and employment services, pastoral ministry
 - Youth Homeless Demonstration Project (2018)
- Opened 1988

PARTNERSHIP

- Partnership 15+ years
- For Covenant House, partnership came in part as a recognition of disproportionate need and desire to build more services to address culture specific needs
- Supports CITC's 2025 ThriveAbility Plan three values contributing to Our People's ThriveAbility: People. Partnership, Potential
- Dena'ina House Rights of Passage – transitional housing program

“CITC's partnership with Covenant House Alaska has created a strong ribbon of support for the Alaska Native and American Indian youth in the community. “

Youth Coming to CHA

28% HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING



26% ARE PREGNANT OR ALREADY HAVE
CHILDREN ON ARRIVAL (GIRLS)



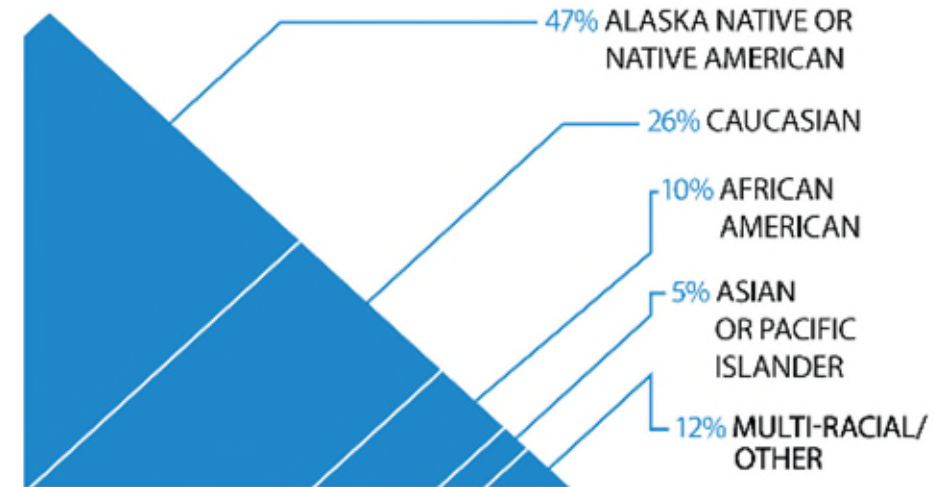
46% HAVE BEEN
SEXUALLY ABUSED



40% HAVE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

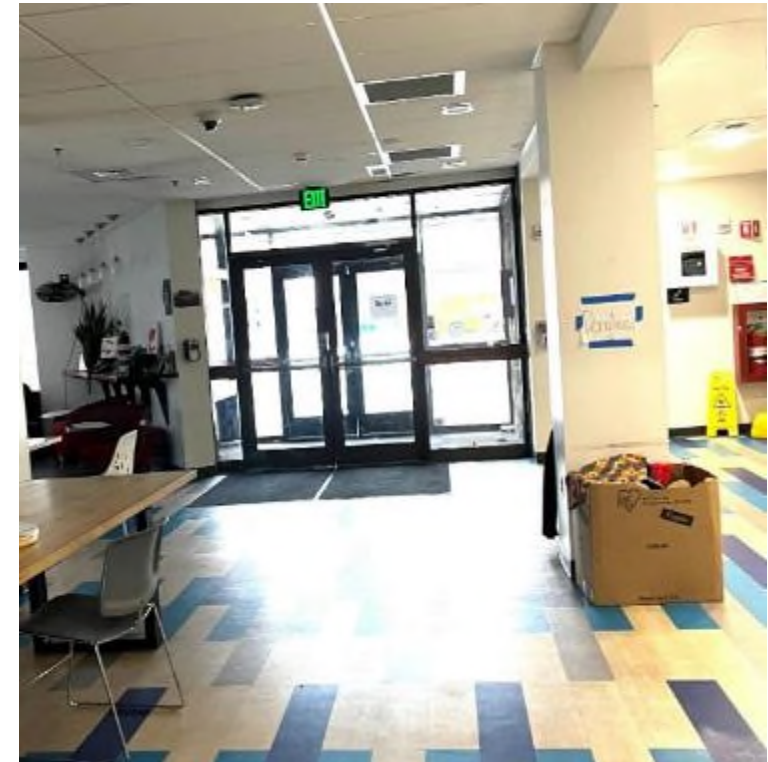


50% HAVE BEEN IN FOSTER CARE



Rights of Passage Program

- 18-month program
- Ages 18-24
- 25-beds
- Housing First model
- ROP also includes Passage House for mothers and children and Charlie Elder House, supportive housing for men 16-19.



Examples of Programming and Services



- Transportation
- Appointment advocate and follow up
- Medical appointments including vision and chiropractic appointments
- Application assistance for identification, drivers licenses, programs
- Personal and environmental hygiene
- Connection with other community services and organizations, such as:
 - VOA Alaska (behavioral health, substance misuse, public health and education, mental health)
 - Nine Star education and employment services (such as high school graduation, GED, employment training, job search assistance)
 - Mental health breaks including cross country skiing, playing chess.

Rights of Passage (ROP) Dena'ina House

- Number of AIAN youth among participants was low compared with representation among shelter residents.
 - Changed criteria from having a job and having completed education to assist a more vulnerable population.
 - Focused intentionally on meeting cultural and other needs of an AIAN client
 - Note: significant diversity also Pacific Islander, Black
- Now approx. 50% of residents are AIAN
- Two missions – can lead to complexity for staff
 - CITC: move into recovery
 - Covenant House: move into independence, relationship with family if feasible

Rights of Passage (ROP) Dena'ina House: Partner Roles

Covenant House

- Funds this program and other services that support young people who will eventually enter the ROP
- On-Site staffing
- Programming

CITC

- Capital development funds for housing
- Funds a half position (case manager)
- Annual general financial support

Dena'ina House Development

- CITC purchased Dena'ina House for \$1.5 million
 - Allowed CHA budget for operations and other strategic needs.
 - Included HUD and State of Alaska funds
- CHA and CITC partnered on two smaller transitional housing programs:
- CITC purchased buildings; CHA operates
 - CITC completed a \$2.1 million renovation on Dena'ina House to increase the capacity and functionality for the critical youth transitional housing needs in Anchorage.

SOURCES OF FUNDS

Dena'ina House

REVENUES:

Contributions-Corporations	6,000
Contributions-May & Stanley Smith Year2	100,000
Governmental Grants	596,565
Other Revenue	135,000



TOTAL
837,565

- In 2017, CITC/Cook Inlet Housing Authority and CHA entered into a 10-year lease for below-market rate.
- At two 5-year renewal options rent is to be negotiated. The below-market rate for the lease payment saves additional funds for operations.
- Case Manager salary is supported 50% CITC and 50% CHA
- CHA receives RHY Transitional Living Program funds for ROP.
- It also receives RHY Basic Shelter, Street Outreach, and Maternity Group Home Programs funding
- CHA has the option to buy the building at the end of the lease at market cost.

RIGHTS OF PASSAGE RESULTS

- Approximately 50% of the residents of Dena'ina House were AIAN
- Referrals included
 - 20 young adults referred to recovery services for substance use or Transition to Independence program
 - 10 to Youth Services for paid internships in the community
 - 10 to CITC's employment and training services division, which only serves AIAN persons

In 2019, ROP served 79 youth.

- 60% exited to stable or permanent housing
- 100% remained housed after leaving ROP



FUTURE PLANS

- Strategic ways to increase impact with youth served:
 - Strategy 1: Additional resources in the form of regular on-site Prevention activities and youth employment and education resources.
 - Strategy 2: As Covenant House opens its Covey Academy this year, CITC is committed to help with supportive services and youth employment opportunities through our Alaska's People program.
- Partnership Plans:
 - Incorporate more cultural ways of life into programming, such as regular Elders meetings, drum making, foodways

LESSONS LEARNED

- An advantage of the partnership is the opportunity to leverage our different strengths to stand side-by-side to provide support for vulnerable youth.
- Acknowledging and incorporating culture is critical. It needs to move from an add-to more central to the support of the person's health and well-being.
- Communicate! If partners are not both onsite or share staff, they must be that much more intentional to set regular meetings, support staff person and provide clear lines of supervision.
- Track the participants' journeys. There are many ways of defining and documenting success. You may also see where efforts are not reaching potential and changes are needed. Numbers are not the whole story, but they can support grant-seeking activities.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Allow for institutional change: The way we have always done things, does not have to be the way we always do things.
- Focusing on the overall goal can help organizations which may have different perspectives or priorities.
- Youth in these programs bring a lot of energy and many different goals. Allow them to find their own success.
- Bring along your funders as you find new ways to measure success.

SHÉIYI XAAT HÍT (SPRUCE ROOT HOUSE)

COLLABORATIVE EFFORT INCLUDING THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF
JUNEAU AND TLINGIT-HAIDA REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY TO
CREATE EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR YOUTH AND TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING FOR YOUTH AGED 18-22

TODAY'S FEATURED GUESTS



Jacqueline Pata

President/CEO, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority

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Jorden Nigro

Youth Development and Services Manager, City and
Borough of Juneau, Zach Gordon Youth Center and Shéiyi
Xaat Hít

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Connecting to Connect

Youth Navigation, Shelter, and Rapid
Rehousing in Juneau



**ZACH GORDON
YOUTH CENTER**



Regional Housing Authority

VIDEO

SHÉIYI XAAT HÍT (SPRUCE ROOT HOUSE)

- *6-bed facility for youth 10-18 who have run away or are homeless*
 - *Focus on supporting youth to resolve the crisis that lead to placement*
 - *Provide after care*
 - *Advocates and navigators on site*
- *Transitional Housing*
 - *4 bedroom apartment*
 - *Ages 18-21*
 - *3-6 month average stays*



RAPID RE-HOUSING

- *18-24 year old young folks – Focus on Alaska Native and LGBTQ+ youth.*
- *Supportive services provided by ZGYC navigators*
- *Rental assistance provided by THRHA*
- *Low barrier access to apartments in the community Rental Assistance for up to 7 youth*
- *Employment and educational supports*

PROGRAM FUNDING



Shelter

- DHSS - Family & Youth Services Bureau – RHY Basic Center Grant
- Juneau Community Foundation
- Alaska Mental Health Trust
- City and Borough of Juneau
- Individual and Business Donations

Rapid Rehousing

- Department of Labor/AK Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- Housing and Urban Development

FACILITY FUNDING

- Tlingit Haida Central Council Indian Tribes of Alaska (THCCITA) Indian Imminent Threat Community Development Block Grant – Covid funding.
- Alaska Community Foundation
- Juneau Community Foundation
- THCCITA Indian Housing Block Grant – CARES Act funding.
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- National American Indian Housing Council – Covid funding



WHY THE MODEL WORKS

- Community buy in
- Connecting providers
- Relationships / Lifting each other up
- Shared funding / shared load carrying
- Cultural connections and building trust
 - One of our largest referrals is a tribal youth program



CHALLENGES

- Securing a location
- Tight rental market (RRH) / Willing landlords
- Governance requirements from HUD
- Money to make an old facility run
- Staffing
- Ongoing funding

Data

The Numbers

- 62 youth served
- 29 ages 18-24
- 33 under age 18
- **Youth Identify As...**

- 68% Alaska Native
- 22% White
- 5% African American
- 5% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

Outcomes

- 100% of youth exited shelter to safe permanent or transitional housing
- 9 youth 18-24 have safely moved into permanent or transitional housing

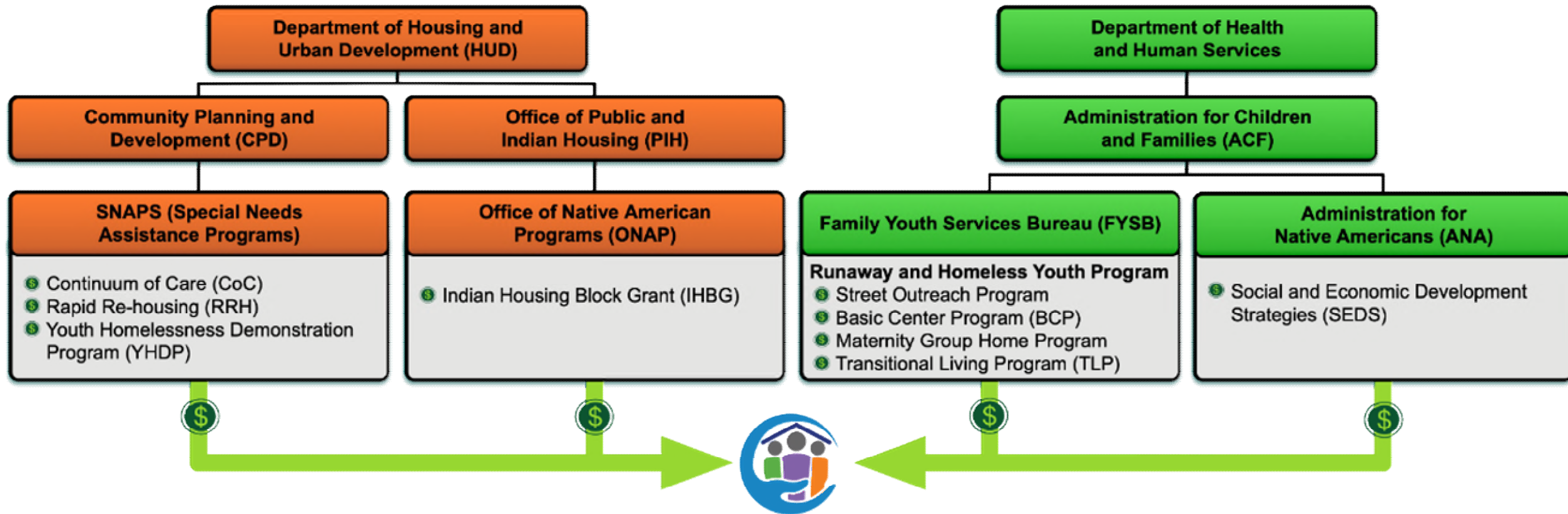
Youth identify as...

- Over 50% of youth served identify as LGBTQ+

CONVERSATION WITH HEIDI

QUESTIONS?

Recap Funding Sources



Resources

National Runaway Safeline

<https://www.1800runaway.org/> or 1-800-RUNAWAY

Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) –

<https://www.rhyttac.net/>

National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families (NCHYF)

<https://rhyclearinghouse.acf.hhs.gov/>

Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) Website <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb>

Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Information

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/runaway-homeless-youth>

Upcoming ANA Events

March 22 – 24, 2022, ACF Indigenous Programs Conference

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ana/event/acf-indigenous-programs-conference>

Supports for RHY Program Grantees

National Runaway Safeline – operates the federally-designated national communication system (NCS) for homeless and runaway youth. NRS provides 24/7 confidential crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, education and prevention services to runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth and their families.

Runaway and Homeless Youth Training and Technical Assistance Center (RHYTTAC) is the training and technical assistance provider for all federally-funded runaway and homeless youth (RHY) grantees. RHYTTAC assists organizations in developing and implementing effective approaches to serving young people who have run away and/or are impacted by homelessness.

National Clearinghouse on Homeless Youth and Families (NCHYF) is a national resource for organizations that support runaway and homeless youth and their families with programs and services.

Thank you for joining us!!!

Webinar and case study will be posted on the
Office of Native American Programs homepage:
www.hud.gov/codetalk

Email comments to: Codetalk@hud.gov