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Project Name: Pallet Shelter Proposal
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I. Introduction

For adults living in chronic unsheltered homelessness their path out of homelessness is often not simple or linear. Some of the highest users of emergency services, Anchorage Safety Center and low-barrier shelters have had permanent housing but lost it due to a wide variety of reasons. Many of these individuals have experienced extreme trauma. This trauma can contribute to mental health or addiction challenges. Many individuals who have lived in chronic unsheltered homelessness have developed incredible resiliency and coping skills that are needed to survive on the street, but are not able to live independently and/or alone in permanent housing.

Many who live outside in Anchorage are communal, where sharing and co-living is a way of life. Individuals in chronic unsheltered homelessness living in ‘survival mode’ need more than anything, a place to rest. By default, RRS estimates between 50-70 per night find places to rest nightly at Anchorage’s current safety net which includes Anchorage Safety Center, area hospital waiting rooms, the airport, covered bus stops, and in doorways or near warm buildings they cannot enter. Some choose these places to warm because they are unable or unwilling to access emergency cold weather shelter programs.

Interim Supportive Housing gives individuals the opportunity to build more agency- the ability to take more control of their lives. Some individuals living in chronic unsheltered homelessness who are moved directly into permanent housing may have a difficult time adjusting. Some individuals may move between survival mode and shelter many times before being ready to accept sustainable housing. Alaska is a **Housing First** state, but we must also recognize that it is a philosophy that is based on flexibility, individualized supports, client choice, and autonomy.

Pallet Shelter Communities provide an opportunity for **Interim Supportive Housing** that is cost effective, dignified, rapid response and adaptable. Anchorage Pallet Shelters will be operated with community partners who will collaborate with residents to provide a life-sustaining and safe environment. The Pallet Shelter community will be built using Pallet Shelter Dignity Standards including supportive services, hygiene facilities, transportation, safety and access to food and water.

II. The Current Challenge of Homelessness

- Chronic adult homelessness is a reality in Alaska, affecting individuals from all corners of the state, and concentrating in our urban areas including Anchorage.
- Existing infrastructure and system gaps hinder progress in providing timely, coordinated and collaborated support and housing to those in need.
- Services must be right time, right place, and right level- wait lists don't work.

III. An Integrated Homeless Response

An Integrated Homeless Response Matches Client Need with Level of Service



- We must establish touchpoints for people experiencing chronic adult homelessness so that individuals can move from survival to stabilization to sustainability. If an individual lapses, there should be safety nets in place so that they do not fall to complete unsheltered homelessness. A Pallet Shelter community will provide a valuable touch point for some of Anchorage's most vulnerable homeless.

IV. Pallet Shelter Proposal

Overview of the Proposed Budget

The proposed budget for Pilot capital and operating costs for one year to house 30 - 45 clients in Pallet Shelter Interim Supportive Housing is \$850,000:

1. Capital Budget \$350,000 (covered by community and philanthropic donations) and
2. First-year annual operating budget of \$500,000.

Sources of Revenue for Capital Costs:

Private Social Impact Funding

Philanthropy
Business Organizations
Community members, including local church groups, wanting to support innovative solutions to address homelessness

Capital costs:

Pallet Shelters x 30 @
Pallet Shelter Transport from Seattle to Anchorage
Pallet Shelter Community Room/Hygiene Room/Dining area (pre-existing building)
Site Preparation- Electricity to each Shelter
Installation of Pilot Pallet Shelter community

Operating Costs

Supplies	\$10,000
Food (approx. \$10/day/client)	\$110,000
Garbage/Utilities/Wi-Fi	\$46,000
Maintenance	\$100,000
Staffing (\$19,500/month)	\$234,000

TOTAL \$500,000 per year

As clients move to permanent housing, other clients would transition into Pallet Shelter and stability. Ongoing operating costs are estimate to be \$500,000 dollars annually or \$14,000 - \$17,000 per occupied unit per year.

V. Conclusion

A Pallet Shelter Community will provide a level of housing and services support for some of Anchorage’s most vulnerable homeless, moving from a place of survival to stabilization. These individuals are currently costing Anchorage a lot in emergency services. Investing in a Pallet Shelter community will be cost-effective and life-sustaining.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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