



## Entry Form 2018 Annual Awards for Program Excellence

**Entry Deadline: Friday, June 15, 2018, Midnight ET**

Each entry must include a completed entry form. Please complete a form for each entry your HFA is submitting. The completed entry form will become the first page of your entry.

This form is a fillable PDF. Type your information into the entry form and save it as a PDF. Please do not write on or scan the entry form. **Questions: Call 202-624-7710 or email [awards@ncsha.org](mailto:awards@ncsha.org).**

**Entry Title:** Enter your entry's title exactly as you wish it to be published on the NCSHA website and in the awards program.

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**Category:**

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**Subcategory:**

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**Entry Summary:** A 15-word (max) summary of the program, project, or practice you are entering.

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**HFA:**

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**HFA Staff Contact:**

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**Phone:**

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**Email:**

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**Visual Aids:**

Are you mailing to NCSHA 10 copies of any visual aids that cannot be included in your entry PDF?    Yes        No

**Payment:**

My HFA is mailing a check to NCSHA.  
My HFA is emailing the credit card authorization form to [awards@ncsha.org](mailto:awards@ncsha.org).

## **Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Moving to Work: Serving Low Income Alaskans**

To support Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's mission of providing all Alaskans access to safe, quality, affordable housing and to increase housing opportunities for low-income Alaskans, AHFC has used its Moving to Work designation to serve at-risk populations since 2008.

### **Background**

The public housing division at AHFC serves as the State's public housing authority. AHFC manages 1,612 rental units and administers approximately 5,000 housing vouchers, providing 11,000 Alaskans with decent, safe, and affordable housing each night.

Alaska has some of the highest housing costs in the nation. Many of Alaska's rural areas are only accessible by plane or boat, and separated by hundreds or even thousands of miles. AHFC understands that vulnerable Alaskans are at risk of overcrowding (an expression of homelessness). In many villages, a year-round shelter system does not exist. These challenges demand housing assistance that targets vulnerable, at-risk populations from above the Arctic Circle to coastal communities and rainforests. To meet that need in an innovative, creative and effective way, AHFC established the following programs in collaboration with other state or nongovernmental agencies:

- Moving Home
- Empowering Choice Voucher
- Returning Home
- Making A Home
- Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance

### **Moving Home**

The Moving Home program is a referral-based rental assistance program designed to enable low-income persons with disabilities, referred through the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Behavioral Health Division, to rent affordable housing that suits their needs.

Since 2014 when the program began, AHFC has increased housing assistance to 150 families statewide.

### **Empowering Choice Voucher**

In partnership with the State of Alaska Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), these vouchers exclusively serve families displaced due to domestic violence, providing families with

safe shelter. This is a time-limited (36 month) program for families referred directly from an ANDVSA member agency.

Alaska has high rates of domestic violence and through this program and with matching funding from the State of Alaska, AHFC has increased housing assistance available to 185 families statewide since the program opened in 2012.

### **Returning Home**

Formerly called “Prisoner Re-Entry,” this is a time-limited (two years), tenant-based rental assistance program targeting re-entry of individuals released from the correctional system. The purpose is to reduce recidivism due to prisoner homelessness that too often follows those released from incarceration while increasing their chances of finding employment and becoming financially self-sufficient.

The initial benchmark was to serve 10 families per year. AHFC set a new benchmark of 20 families per year in 2010 as eligibility criteria for families was expanded to include all families meeting State of Alaska Department of Corrections release criteria. The Anchorage program has been so successful that AHFC increased the number of vouchers from 20 to 30 in 2017. This increases the overall benchmark from 70 families per year to 100 per year. Since 2009, AHFC has increased housing assistance to 96 families.

### **Making a Home**

Previously named “Youth Aging Out of Foster Care,” this is a time-limited (three years), tenant-based rental assistance program serving Alaskans ages 18 to 24 who are aging out of the Alaska foster care system. The program serves those who are referred from the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children’s Services.

AHFC partnered with the State of Alaska Office of Children’s Services to respond to an unmet need for youth housing. The program was implemented in 2012 to serve 10 Anchorage youth every month. By helping young adults transition out of the foster care system, AHFC is providing them with a leg-up in workforce entry along with life skills that teaches them how to live independently. The State of Alaska provided funding in 2018 to increase the number of youth served to 15 each month.

### **Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance**

As the name implies, this program funds non-traditional rental assistance to support housing assistance for targeted at-risk populations through partnerships with service providers to provide supportive services to promote the family’s success. Programs include Housing First developments in Anchorage and Juneau and a housing program for homeless young adults.

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
Special Needs Housing/Housing for Persons w/Special Needs  
Entry: Moving to Work

These Moving to Work programs have resulted in housing assistance for more than 500 families statewide and have provided stability for low-income, at-risk populations. These programs allow AHFC to help Alaskans achieve more of their personal, educational and financial goals, ultimately moving into other subsidized housing without case management from state and non-governmental agencies, and ideally, onto full financial independence.