

# ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

## Resolution #2024-07

### **A resolution in support of changes to HUD regulations to increase participation of Alaska local governments in HUD-funded programs.**

WHEREAS, Alaska's existing housing stock is overcrowded, energy inefficient, and aging rapidly, while new housing construction is unable to keep up with demand, leading to a growing housing shortage across the state; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of housing means families struggle to find safe, stable, affordable housing, straining their physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, the shortage of housing affects the ability of communities to recruit and retain professionals, including teachers, public safety officers, and healthcare workers, leading to worsening economic outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program exists to create transformative impact within communities, improve the lives of residents, especially those with low- and moderate-income levels, and develop strategies that bring partners and resources together; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage is the only Alaska city large enough to receive money directly from this program, receiving \$1.9 million in 2022, or 0.05% of the national total; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is awarded funding for the balance of the state, receiving \$2.7 million in 2022, or 0.08% of the national total;

WHEREAS, HUD's 2022 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress shows that with a rate of 31.7 homeless individuals per 10,000 people, Alaska finds itself in the 8th position nationwide and that Alaska has seen a notable increase, with a 19% growth in homelessness since 2020, the 10th highest increase among all states; and

WHEREAS, in many communities across the state there are no emergency shelters, no vacancies of habitable structures, and the environmental conditions are so harsh that living outdoors results in freezing to death; and

WHEREAS, local governments continue to develop innovative solutions to the housing crisis, yet find themselves unable to access CDBG funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development update the CDBG funding formulas and expand other programs to address the needs of small and rural communities in Alaska that are otherwise excluded.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 8, 2023.

**STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**