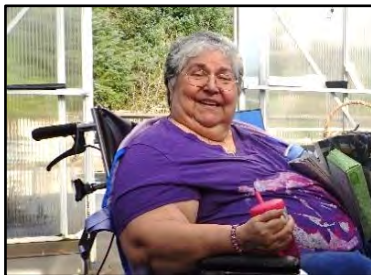


# About Our Homes

## Alaska Pioneer Homes

Mission: Providing elder Alaskans a home and community, celebrating life through its final breath.



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Alaska Department of Health & Social Services  
Governor, Michael J. Dunleavy  
Commissioner, Adam Crum  
Division Director, Clinton Lasley

# About Our Homes

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For answers to questions regarding the Alaska Division of  
Pioneer Homes programs, please call: **(907) 465-4416**

For answers to questions regarding costs and billing, please call our  
toll free number: **1 (888) 355-3117**

Updated December 2018

## ***Alaska Pioneer Homes Systems***

The Alaska Pioneer Homes have a proud history of service to Alaskans that predates statehood.

- In 1913 the territory established the use of a Marine barracks in Sitka as a home for indigent men.
- In 1915 the age requirement of 65 years was instituted.
- In 1934 a new building was built in Sitka to replace the Marine barracks.
- Women were first admitted in 1950 and housed in a nearby apartment building.
- The Fairbanks Home opened in 1967, followed by the Palmer Home in 1971, the Anchorage Home in 1977, the Ketchikan Home in 1981, and then the Juneau Home in 1988.
- In 2007 the Palmer Home became the first federally certified state Veterans Home in Alaska.

The Alaska Pioneer Homes are licensed to serve 497 elders at any time..

### **Our Mission**

*Alaska Pioneer Homes: Providing elder Alaskans a home and community, celebrating life through its final breath.*

Since the Alaska Pioneer Homes system began, the mission of the Alaska Pioneer Homes has continued to evolve to best serve the needs of the growing Alaska senior population. Today, many seniors who require assistance choose home and community-based services, and those who enter the Alaska Pioneer Homes do so later in their lives. As of 2018, the average age of residents in the Alaska Pioneer Homes is 86. Some residents have few needs for assistance, while others need extensive care. Many current applicants and residents seek care related to degenerative brain diseases like Alzheimer's and dementia related disorders.

## **“Eden Alternative®” Philosophy of Caring:**

The Eden Alternative® philosophy is learned and practiced by all Alaska Pioneer Homes employees. This philosophy, developed by Dr. William Thomas, seeks to eliminate loneliness, boredom and helplessness as the three major “plagues” of life in a long term care facility. This is accomplished by enhancing the work environment of all employees, while surrounding residents with the best possible human habitat. This habitat includes many plants, animals and children. In this supportive atmosphere, spontaneous and positive experiences occur for our residents.

## **Memory Care**

Many current applicants and residents seek care related to degenerative brain diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease and dementia related disorders. The physical and behavioral challenges of individuals with dementia often make it impossible for family members to provide necessary care on a 24 hour basis.

Alzheimer’s disease or dementia related disorders tends to strike older individuals, the number of persons entering the Alaska Pioneer Homes with these illnesses is continuing to increase. Due to the advanced age of the residents, memory care is a primary part of the services provided at the Alaska Pioneer Homes. Approximately 58% of Alaska Pioneer Home residents have some form of dementia.

## **Alaska Pioneer Home Locations**

There are six Alaska Pioneer Homes. The locations are shown on the map below.



Alaska Pioneer Homes are licensed assisted living homes owned and operated by the State of Alaska. They operate in accordance with all Alaska statutes and regulations pertaining to assisted living home licensure. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes is located in Juneau and administers all six Alaska Pioneer Homes. Individual Pioneer Homes are managed onsite by Assisted Living Administrators and licensed nurses who provide nursing oversight and consultation 24 hours a day.. Professional staff provides health-related services to all residents who require them. Other staff members include social service, activity, food service, housekeeping, and maintenance personnel.

### ***Alaska Pioneer Homes Services***

#### **What services are available to Pioneer Home residents?**

Services available to residents of the Homes include:

- Meal preparation
- Dietary assessment; medically prescribed diets
- Laundry/housekeeping
- Emergency call systems/assistance
- Assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, bathing, dressing, etc.
- Assistance with medications
- Health assessment
- Recreational opportunities/programs
- Social work services
- Opportunities for spiritual devotion
- Care during periods of illness not requiring hospitalization
- Care especially suited to the needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders

In 2014, Alaska Pioneer Homes began using an electronic health record called PointClickCare (PCC). Electronic health records offer several advantages, including improved elder care coordination, increased reporting capacity to drive quality improvement, and increased efficiencies for staff. Such advantages allow

staff to spend more time with elders, further enabling them to provide the best care possible for residents. In 2018, Alaska Pioneer Homes began using PointClickCare to manage the admissions waitlists (active and inactive). In 2019, PointClickCare will be used to send out monthly bills and statements to our elders.

## **Levels of Care**

The Alaska Pioneer Homes offers three levels of service. Each resident receives a comprehensive assessment to identify her or his appropriate service level.

- **Level I services** include housing, meals, emergency assistance, and opportunities for recreation, home activities, and events.
- **Level II services** include all Level I services plus medication administration, health related services, and staff assistance, including assistance with activities of daily living, supervision, and reminders. Level II does not provide routine assistance during the night shift.
- **Level III services** include all the services of Level I and Level II, with 24-hour hands-on assistance provided.

## ***Anchorage Pioneer Home***



The Anchorage Pioneer Home was established in 1977 and is a five-story building occupying one third of a city block overlooking an area known as the Park Strip. This greenbelt in the center of the metropolitan Anchorage area divides the business district from the oldest residential area of the city. The Anchorage Pioneer Home sits like a jewel in the crown of this historical community core. Behind the Pioneer Home the city of Anchorage extends to the south and the Chugach Mountains rise majestically to the east, easily visible from most floors of the Home. Mt. McKinley peaks out over the skyscrapers of the downtown area to the north and Cook Inlet lies to the west. The Home has accommodations for 168 residents.

Population *Municipality of Anchorage*: **297, 483\***

Average temperatures: winter ranges from 6° to 20°F and summer ranges from 50° to 70°

Annual precipitation: 16.57 inches of rainfall and 74 inches of snow.

\*State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2017 population estimate

## ***Fairbanks Pioneer Home***



The Fairbanks Pioneer Home is the second of the six Alaska Pioneer Homes to open. It began serving the community at the time of the big flood of 1967. The floodwaters were so dangerous that residents, along with many other Fairbanksans, were evacuated to higher ground up the hill at the University. After the floodwaters receded and clean-up was completed, operations normalized and new residents became a part of the Fairbanks Pioneer Home community. The Fairbanks Home has accommodations for 91 residents.

Population *Fairbanks North Star Borough*: **97,738\***

Average temperatures: winter ranges from -19° to 12°F and summer ranges from 27° to 73°F

Annual precipitation: 10.83 inches of rainfall and 65 inches of snow.

\*State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2017 population estimate



## *Juneau Pioneer Home*



The Juneau Pioneer Home was completed in 1988. The Home is nestled in the wetlands along Juneau's Egan Drive and has breathtaking views of nearby mountains and Gastineau channel that divides the mainland from Douglas Island. Living on the boundary of a true wilderness provides residents the opportunity to view wildlife such as black bears, eagles, ravens, blue herons, kingfishers, porcupines, deer, and squirrels. The Juneau Home can serve up to 48 residents.

Population *Juneau Borough*: **32,269\***

Average temperature: winter ranges from 25° to 35°F and summer ranges from 44° to 65°F

Annual precipitation: 62.24 inches of rainfall and 88 inches of snow.

*Note: Juneau is a "landlocked" community, accessible only by boat or plane.*

\*State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2017 population estimate

## *Ketchikan Pioneer Home*



The Ketchikan Pioneer Home opened its doors to residents in November 1981. The three story building is located on the local bus line, close to both the Alaska Marine Highway and airport ferry terminals. The convenient central location means the Home is a natural hub for family and friends to congregate and visit. The Ketchikan Home has the capacity to serve 45 residents.

Population *Ketchikan Gateway Borough*: **13,754\***

Average temperatures: winter ranges from 20° to 29°F and summer ranges from 51° to 65°F

Annual precipitation: 141.2 inches of rainfall.

*Note: Ketchikan is located on an island, accessible only by boat or plane.*

\*State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2017 population estimate

## ***Alaska Veteran's & Pioneer Home in Palmer***



The Palmer Pioneer Home first opened in 1971. In May 2004, the Alaska Legislature approved development of the state's first veteran's Home. After extensive remodeling and program development to meet U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) requirements, the facility was renamed the Alaska Veterans and Pioneers Home in 2007. Seventy five percent of the 79 beds in the Home are designated for veterans, and 25 percent are available for non-veterans.

Population *Matanuska-Susitna Borough*: **104,166\***

Average temperatures: winter ranges from 9° to 27°F and summer ranges from 47° to 65°F

Annual precipitation: 16.01 inches of rainfall and 54 inches of snow

\*State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2017 population estimate

## ***Sitka Pioneer Home***



The Sitka Home is the original Alaska Pioneer Home with a history stretching back to the late 1800s. The Pioneer Home program began in 1913 when a vacant Marine barrack was converted into the Sitka Pioneer Home. The program was created by the first territorial legislature to serve indigent elderly men. The Home initially provided housing, meals, and basic medical assistance. In the mid 1950s women and Native Alaskans also became eligible for admission. The Sitka Home currently has the capacity to serve 65 residents.

Population *Sitka Borough*: **8,748\***

Average temperatures: winter ranges from 23° to 35°F and summer ranges from 48° to 61°F

Annual precipitation: 86.72 inches of rainfall and 33 inches of snow.

*Note: Sitka is located on an island, accessible only by boat or plane.*

\*State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development 2017 population estimate

## ***Employment Opportunities***

Alaska Pioneer Homes' residents receive a high level of direct care and staffing levels often exceed national standards for long term care. Employee turnover is much lower than national figures for long term care facilities, with a significant number of employees serving their entire careers within the Alaska Pioneer Homes system.

**For a list of job openings and applications, please go to the State of Alaska's online recruitment system:**

[www.workplace.alaska.gov](http://www.workplace.alaska.gov)

**Labor Trade and Craft positions in housekeeping, food services, and maintenance jobs can be found at:**

[www.local71.com/home](http://www.local71.com/home)

## **Fun Facts**

*Governor:* Michael Dunleavy

*State capital:* Juneau

*State motto:* "North to the Future"

*State nickname:* "The Last Frontier"

*State mineral:* Gold

*State sport:* Dog mushing

*State dog:* Malamute

*State bird:* Willow Ptarmigan

*State tree:* Sitka Spruce

*State flower:* Forget-me-not

*49th State:* Became a state January 3, 1959

*Land area:* 570,373.6 square miles—largest in the U.S.; one-fifth the size of the "Lower 48"

*Extreme temperatures:* 100°F at Fort Yukon in 1915;- 80°F at Prospect Creek Camp in 1971

*Heaviest annual snowfall:* 974.5 inches at Thompson Pass near Valdez during the winter of 1952-53

*Tallest mountain:* Denali, 20,320 feet; tallest in North America

More than half of the world's glaciers are located in Alaska.

Alaska's name is based on the Eskimo word *Alakshak* meaning "great lands" or "peninsula".

## ***Contact Information***

For further information, please contact the Pioneer Homes Central Administrative office at:

### **Division of Alaska Pioneer Homes**

PO Box 110690

Juneau, AK 99811-0690

Phone: toll free at 888 355-3117 or (907) 465-4416

Fax: (907) 465-4108

Email: [alaskapioneerhomes@alaska.gov](mailto:alaskapioneerhomes@alaska.gov)

### **Contact Information for specific Homes**

#### **Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home**

250 E. Fireweed Ave.

Palmer, AK 99645

(907) 745-4241

#### **Anchorage Pioneer Home**

923 W. Eleventh Ave

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 276-3414

#### **Fairbanks Pioneer Home**

2221 Eagan Ave.

Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 456-4372

#### **Juneau Pioneer Home**

4675 Glacier Hwy

Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 780-6422

#### **Ketchikan Pioneer Home**

141 Bryant St.

Ketchikan, AK 99901

(907) 225-4111

#### **Sitka Pioneer Home**

120 Katlian St.

Sitka, AK 99835

(907) 747-3213

### **Other Important numbers:**

**Pioneer Home Pharmacy:** 1 (888) 546-7294 (toll free)

**This booklet is one of five providing information about Alaska Pioneer Homes.**

Other booklets in the series:

Admissions and Discharge

A Matter of Rights

Payment Assistance

Pharmacy Program

**State of Alaska**

Michael J. Dunleavy, Governor

**Alaska Department of Health and Social Services**

Adam Crum, Commissioner

**Division of the Alaska Pioneer Homes**

Clinton Lasley, Division Director

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