



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **FEBRUARY 11th is 2-1-1 DAY: How Can Alaska 2-1-1 Help You?**

**Anchorage, AK**– February 11th is 2-1-1 Day, in recognition of ALASKA 2-1-1, the valuable statewide service that helps thousands of Alaskans find the resources and referrals they need to live better lives in just one phone call.

Every day, someone somewhere in Alaska needs help to find essential community services, such as: an after school program, a food pantry or help with care for an aging parent. Many people face these challenges but don't always know where to turn for help. The Solution: Alaska 2-1-1.

“2-1-1 is a free and easy to remember telephone number that helps callers connect to local services that meet their needs. It’s everything from helping people find resources for the basics such as food or shelter for the night to helping with everyday information such as finding a support group for a loved one, how to locate job training or find a free tax prep service. Give us a call and see how we can help you.” said Sue Brogan, Vice President, Income/Health Impact, United Way of Anchorage.

February 11th (2-11) is the perfect day to get to know this useful tool and celebrate all the good that it does. You can participate in celebrating United Way’s Alaska 2-1-1 in several different ways:

- Help spread the word – Alaska 2-1-1 is for everyone.
- Advocate on behalf of a family member or friend who is having a difficult time, dial 2-1-1 to see what resources are available.
- If you are part of a non-profit organization, religious entity or government agency providing health or human service programs to the public, contact 2-1-1 to be added to our database.
- Call Alaska 2-1-1 and request free 2-1-1 materials (flyers, business cards) and put them on display where you work or at your church.
- View the Executive Proclamation signed by Anchorage Mayor Dan Sullivan making February 11, 2104 (2/11) Alaska 2-1-1 Day at [www.liveunitedanchorage.org](http://www.liveunitedanchorage.org)

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“2-1-1 Day also gives us the opportunity to honor our many partners who continue to strengthen and support Alaska 2-1-1 as another way to build stronger communities and create opportunities for all,” said Brogan. “And it’s a great way to say thank you to the many donors and volunteers who support the more than 3,200 resources/organizations we refer to that help make this service possible for all Alaskans.”

### **2013 Snapshot – Alaska 2-1-1 by the numbers**

- 26,570 callers served, an increase of 13% over 2012.
- 38,100 referrals given, a 26% increase over 2012
- 41,430 online searches conducted
- Top 3 caller Needs:
  - **Basic Needs: 37%**  
Getting help to make ends meet was the top priority during 2013. Calls for rent/utility assistance, food & housing have doubled since 2009.
  - **Health/Mental Health: 13%**  
1 in 8 callers to Alaska 2-1-1 needed help finding health care, including dental, mental health, women’s health, prescription expense assistance & substance abuse treatment.
  - **Employment & Income Boosts: 11%**  
Alaskans looked for job training & career development resources to help them get back to work. They also sought income tax preparation assistance to help them maximize tax refunds.

No matter where you live in Alaska, if you or someone you know needs help finding help you can speak directly with a trained information and referral specialist by dialing 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Alaska 2-1-1’s website is available 24/7 at [www.alaska211.org](http://www.alaska211.org).

Alaska 2-1-1 is a private-public partnership, operated by United Way of Anchorage. Partners include: Alaska Children’s Trust, Alaska Communications, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, GCI, Municipality of Anchorage, and State of Alaska.

#### **About United Way of Anchorage**

United Way of Anchorage is working to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on Education, Income and Health – the building blocks for a good quality of life. Learn more about our community changing strategies and goals at [www.LiveUnitedAnchorage.org](http://www.LiveUnitedAnchorage.org)

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