Addressing Homelessness in Our Towns and Cities

December 3, 2019
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CCEH
About the CT Coalition to End Homelessness

• Founded in 1982 in response to surge in homelessness
• State-wide Hartford-based 501c3
• Coalition of more than 100 members – emergency shelter providers, transitional housing providers, community and business leaders, and strategic partners – who share the goal of ending homelessness

Collective mission is to prevent and end homelessness in Connecticut

Our goal is to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.
About the CT Coalition to End Homelessness

- **Training and TA**: Working with providers to help them build capacity, implement best practices, troubleshoot.

- **Data and Analysis**: Providing the data and analytical tools that inform and influence practice, policy, and funding decisions related to ending homelessness.

- **Advocacy**: Educating elected officials (state and federal), the public, philanthropic partners about the problem, the solutions, and the resources we need to end homelessness.

- **Community Impact**: Dedicated staff support and coordinate work in specific communities.

- **Emergency Assistance**: Raise money to fill gaps in emergency resources that frontline workers can access to help clients.
A high-level diagram of the coordinated access process from entry to exit

Outreach plays the critical role of ensuring those outdoors or unlikely to use the 2-1-1 process are put on the By-Name List.

Conduct VI-SPDAT when/if appropriate, which adds client to By-Name List.

Begin identifying clients who are Chronically Homeless.

Housing Placement Meetings

Rapid Re-Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing

By-Name List

Staying in Shelter

Waitlist for Shelter

Diverted or Self-Resolved

2-1-1

Household in Need of Assistance

CALL

OUTREACH
211 / Outreach

- 72,525 calls related to housing needs
- 1,370 clients served by homeless outreach

CAN Referral and Assessment

- 27,399 CAN appointments scheduled
- 13,371 attended and assessed

Emergency Shelter/Assistance

- 5,133 households diverted from shelter
- 6,483 people used emergency shelter
- 928 people self-resolved or received one-time assistance

Housing

- 361 people exited homelessness through Rapid Re-Housing
- 47 people exited with subsidy only
- 208 people exited with permanent supportive housing
Homelessness in Connecticut

Number of people who utilized CT shelters and transitional housing

- 14287 in 2012
- 13663 in 2013
- 12918 in 2014
- 10932 in 2015
- 10083 in 2016
- 9478 in 2017
- 8545 in 2018

40% decline since 2012

Number of people counted in the annual Point-in-Time Count

- 4482 in 2007
- 4627 in 2008
- 4605 in 2009
- 4316 in 2010
- 4456 in 2011
- 4209 in 2012
- 4449 in 2013
- 4450 in 2014
- 4047 in 2015
- 3911 in 2016
- 3387 in 2017
- 3383 in 2018
- 3033 in 2019

32% decline since 2007
Homelessness Affects Every Town/City in Connecticut

- Using HMIS data, CT Mirror created an interactive map to show the number of people per 10,000 residents who listed each town as their last permanent address before staying in a shelter.

- Homelessness is often viewed as a big city problem, but HMIS data shows that homelessness originates from nearly every town in CT.

- Comments on See, Click, Fix and other message boards illustrate growing public concern about homelessness and search for answers.
Neighbors raise red flag about homeless encampment

MAY 31, 2018 BY JILL DON

"...City officials, including the police chief and the mayor’s chief of staff, say a homeless task force established last year to address an increasing homeless population in Milford is making some headway. And they say the task force is addressing concerns on Wampus Lane.

“The city is actively working to address the concerns of the neighborhood while approaching the individuals in the Wampus area with compassion and understanding, as well as presenting them with the availability of social services,” said Justin Rosen, Mayor Ben Blake’s chief of staff. “The city has partnered with several area groups and organizations to address the issue of unsheltered homelessness city wide and we are making good progress in getting individuals the help that they need to transition to housing...”

Meriden examines ways to reduce panhandling on city streets

MERIDEN — The city is looking at ways to curb a perceived rise in panhandling.
City Manager Tim Coon has asked the Law Department to examine what ordinances, if any, the city can adopt to address panhandling. Past court decisions, including a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, have made it “crystal clear” that panhandling cannot be banned by municipalities because asking for money is protected as free speech, Coon said.

The city, however, could create an ordinance addressing “aggressive” panhandling or panhandling that poses traffic safety risks.
The city currently has adopted ordinances for “soliciting” and “peddling” but doesn’t have a panhandling ordinance, according to Corporation Counsel Michael Quinn.
The goal, Coon said, is not to ban panhandling but develop “common sense” ordinances “to deal wth the behavior associated with (panhandling) so that the city doesn’t become a magnet for panhandling.”
Opportunities to Align Resources to Maximize Impact

Targeted Homelessness Grants
- Balance of State Continuum of Care ($37.5 million)
- Fairfield County Continuum of Care ($11.5 million)

Affordable Housing / Community Development Grants
- 23 CDBG Entitlement Communities ($110 million)
- 51 Public Housing Authorities ($508 million)

The Numbers: A Snapshot
- Public Housing Units: 14,544
- Section 8 Vouchers: 41,229
- Multifamily Project Based Section 8: 36,270 at or below market rate
- HOME (project based): 6,210
- HOME (tenant based): 877
- TOTAL: 99,130 Units
• CCM and CCEH partnered in Fall 2019 to explore how to support municipalities to take further action in addressing homelessness

• CCM formed Municipal Task Force, co-chaired by Milford Mayor Ben Blake and New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart, including over a dozen other municipal leaders

• Task force will be launching a new campaign to support towns and cities to replicate best practices

• Modeling effort after Sustainable CT with resolutions, voluntary actions, best practice sharing, training and technical assistance, and recognitions
NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT I, [INSERT NAME & TITLE OF CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL], do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to prevent and end homelessness in my municipality, coordinate municipal efforts with our regional Coordinated Access Network, commit to sharing lessons learned with other municipalities in my state, and encourage all municipal officials and staff to support this effort.

We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources provided by CCM and CCEH to: (LIST OF ACTIONS)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Category</th>
<th>Specific Actions</th>
<th>Examples</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services Coordination</td>
<td>• Locations for CAN appointments</td>
<td>• Norwich</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Designated/trained municipal staff</td>
<td>• Wethersfield</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Outreach task force</td>
<td>• Milford homeless outreach</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Train librarians</td>
<td>• Middletown</td>
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<td>Align Resources</td>
<td>• Federal block funding</td>
<td>• Guilford Small Cities CDBG grant</td>
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<td>• PHA set-asides</td>
<td>• City of Hartford voucher preference</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provide emergency assistance</td>
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<td>Reduce Arrests and Hospitalizations</td>
<td>• Enlist police officers</td>
<td>• Milford PD</td>
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<td>• Review laws/ordinances</td>
<td>• Meriden City Council</td>
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<td>• Partner w/hospitals to create Community Care Teams</td>
<td>• Norwalk</td>
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<td>Data Sharing and Integration</td>
<td>• McKinney-Vento tracking</td>
<td>• Waterbury Public Schools</td>
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<td>• Mobilize PIT/YC volunteers</td>
<td>• Hartford mobilizes PIT volunteers</td>
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<td>• Enter data in HMIS</td>
<td>• New Haven and Bridgeport ensure HMIS data entry</td>
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<td>Public awareness</td>
<td>• Townwide comm. conversations</td>
<td>• South Windsor</td>
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<td>• Ensure high schools use toolkit</td>
<td>• Torrington</td>
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<td>• Be homeful/SW lesson plans</td>
<td>• West Hartford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Fundraising drives</td>
<td>• Manchester</td>
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Stay tuned for more information to come!

Richard Cho
www.cceh.org