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A letter from Lisa Tepper Bates

Hello friends,

Providers across Connecticut are doing great work to move our state toward an end to chronic homelessness! We are grateful to you.

We are beginning the 90 in 90 challenge to reduce chronic homelessness with the goal of matching 90% of those verified as chronically homeless to housing resources within 90 days. With partners like you across the state contributing to this effort, this will be a big year for Connecticut.



While we are focused on Zero:2016, we know that we cannot lose sight of the other populations we serve, including youth and families. With that in mind, we ask you to sign on today to increase McKinney-Vento funding (see details below), and use the youth-help.org website to spread awareness and access tools to help vulnerable homeless and housing unstable youth.

For families facing homelessness, we know that shelter diversion is an important strategy. You'll find below updated information on upcoming shelter diversion and on the **be homeful** project, an effort to develop funds for frontline staff to access in helping families in need.

Though it is a busy time, we hope that you will find a few minutes to enjoy summer! Many thanks for all you do everyday to help those in need.

Best regards,



Zero 2016 Update: 90 in 90 Challenge!

We are so excited to announce the next big push to end chronic homelessness, the **90 in 90 Challenge**! Starting on July 5th, the 90 in 90 Challenge will have the Coordinated Access Networks (CAN's) across the state start working towards a goal of matching 90% of the verified chronically homeless on their by-name lists to housing resources within 90 days. Everyone who is matched through the 90 in 90 Challenge is to then be housed by November 1st! With this challenge coming up quickly we have made sure that the supports are going to be available for all CAN's achieve this goal!

The Zero: 2016 Rapid Response Team, which includes DOH, DMHAS, CCEH, PSC, and CSH, is here to support your efforts. DOH CAN Managers, Leigh Shields-Church and Kara Capobianco, will work closely with your community and to identify obstacles and barriers. The Rapid Response Team will provide technical assistance, work to remove policy barriers, and to shore up resources. Everyone involved will be working full steam ahead to achieve this goal and to ensure Connecticut will be the first state to end chronic homelessness.

Is it a big challenge? Absolutely! Will we have to work harder than ever before? Definitely! Is Connecticut going to be the first state in the nation to end chronic homelessness? Yes!

Let's make history and continue to make strides toward ending all forms of homelessness, making it rare, brief, and non-recurring!

Federal Advocacy Alert: Sign On to Increase McKinney Funding & Protect United States Interagency Council on Homelessness!

Thanks in large part to your hard work, both chambers of Congress - especially the House - provided significant increases to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program in their T-HUD bills. Now, we will need to continue our efforts to ensure that at least the House level is included in the

final FY 2017 spending bill. In addition, the existence and capacity of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is threatened, and we will need to work together to defend it.

Please sign your organization on to [this letter](#) by today! On Wednesday, July 6th we are asking appropriations leadership to fund McKinney-Vento at least at \$2.487 billion; and maintain funding for USICH at \$3.6 million and extend its sunset date from 2017 to 2020.

Click [here](#) for more on what you can do!

Making Higher Education Simpler for Homeless and Housing Unstable Youth & Young Adults

Homeless and housing unstable students face many challenges in accessing and affording high education. Higher education provides a long lasting path out of homelessness and can break the cycle for many of these students. The U.S. Department of Education announced policy changes effective this fall that will help to improve the process while allowing homeless youth to focus on their studies and their future.



1. Change will be made to the text of the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, to make it more accessible and supportive of unaccompanied homeless students.

2. The definition of "youth" will be removed next year to allow 22 and 23-year-old applicants who indicate that they are homeless or at risk of being homeless access to a much smoother

process for determining their independent status.

"I am very pleased that the Department [of Education] has announced a strong step forward to tackle some of the barriers that unaccompanied homeless students face in accessing higher education," said Senator Patty Murray, ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee.

For educational resources in higher education or to navigate the rights and assistance for homeless and housing unstable children and youth click [here](#).

Lessons from the Field: Document Ready

One of the most time-consuming processes in housing a client can be getting them document ready. Document readiness training is part of the **Zero:2016** initiative to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016.



Chronically homeless client can pose some of the most difficult challenges to staff in getting document ready. Our "Document-Ready" training focuses on tips to expedite the process as well as what each kind of program requires and how to lower the barriers to advocate for your client. The goal of this webinar is to help streamline and expedite connecting clients to housing.

Staff who are working with agencies funded by the Department of Housing and Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services funded agencies are strongly to view the recorded webinar or attend an in-person training.

The webinar on getting clients Document Ready, "Accelerating the Pace: Moving your Clients into Housing" can be found with all handouts and additional resources [here](#). To check for updates on in-person upcoming Document Ready trainings, click [here](#). Please contact Sarah Fox at sfox@cceh.org for any questions on this training or topic.

Training Overview: Re-Imagining Shelter Space

Some shelters may need to improve their facility's ability to serve the needs of different populations to comply with fair housing policies and regulations of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This is an opportunity for providers to improve their space for their clients.



Panelists included Steve DiLella from the Connecticut Department of Housing and Alanna Kabel from the HUD/Hartford, and Grace Whitney, from Connecticut Head Start, suggested

considerations when renovating shelter space to accommodate families with young children and how to create a plan of action. Co-founder of Cambridge, MA Youth Shelter "Y2Y Harvard Square", Sam Greenberg discussed how to make human-centered and trauma-informed renovations for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

A recording of this webinar can be found [here](#) as well as the training material and resources. For questions or comments regarding this webinar, please contact Sarah Chess, Training and Communications Coordinator at schess@cceh.org.

Upcoming Trainings and Events: Diversion Training Series

Tuesday, July 19th

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

[Click here to Register](#)

Tuesday, August 16th

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

[Click here to Register](#)

Tuesday, September 20th

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

[Click here to Register](#)

Tuesday, October 18th

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

[Click here to Register](#)

Shelter Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness at the front door by helping clients identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

Please note that the material will review the Diversion trainings from February 2016. CCEH will be hosting this Diversion training on a monthly basis. Lunch will be provided and the cost is \$20 for members and \$35 for non-members. Contact Training & Communications Coordinator Sarah Chess at schess@cceh.org for more information.

**be homeful challenge:
Match Funds extended through End of July!**

Congrats to all the CANs who have earned funds from the \$40,000 challenge match for shelter diversion funds raised through the be homeful project! There are still funds available so we are planning to extend the challenge through the end of July.



Please contact Madeline Ravich at mravich@cceh.org if your CAN would like assistance taking advantage of this matching funds opportunity.

CCEH & CCADV Meet with Rep. Joe Courtney

The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and the Connecticut Coalition against Domestic Violence met with CT Congressional Representative Joe Courtney on June 30th to discuss the needs of homeless and housing unstable domestic violence survivors and their families.



We look forward to future collaboration to improve education, advocacy and services for this population in Connecticut and as a model for the country.

New London Homeless Hospitality Center receives the 2016 Community Service Award!

We are so happy to congratulate our partners at New London Homeless Hospitality Center! They received the 2016 Community Service Award from the CT Hospital Association for their work on getting respite care for the homeless in Southeastern Connecticut.



They have been a model in their work and service to those homeless struggling with medical needs. We are grateful to have partners like NLHHC working with us toward caring for all homeless in Connecticut.

Click [here](#) to learn more about what they are doing in their community to care for those with the most need.

Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count: Request for Proposals

The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) will lead the 2017 Connecticut Point-in-Time Count during the last 10 days of January 2017, as required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CCEH plans to conduct the Count on January 24, 2017, and is seeking a qualified organization to assist in the unsheltered portion of this effort.

A complete Request for Proposal can be found [here](#), and questions can be directed to Jackie Janosko at jjanosko@cceh.org.

CCEH Data Updates

If you haven't subscribed to the CCEH data newsletter, you are missing out on a monthly dose of everything data-related that is coming from CCEH! You can **[click here to sign up](#)**, and never miss out on exciting data related releases like the **[Coordinated Entry Reports](#)**, Regional **[PIT Reports](#)**, or the upcoming supplemental youth count data report.

STAY CONNECTED

