

Connecticut Coordinated Access

Background Information and Coordinated Access Network (CAN) Map

HEARTH ACT

- On May 20, 2009, President Obama signed the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009.
- **HEARTH = Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing**
- The HEARTH Act amended and reauthorized the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act with substantial changes, including an increase in emphasis on performance

HEARTH ACT

HEARTH is the legislation that governs HUD funding throughout the country to states and communities

- **Federal Plan to end Homelessness is “Opening Doors”**
- **“Opening Doors CT” = state strategy aligned with Federal Plan**
- **HEARTH requires new approaches to prevent, reduce homelessness: *Coordinated Access is a central element***

HEARTH Act Goals

- ***No one* is homeless longer than 30 days***
- ***Reduce new episodes of homelessness***
- ***Reduce return entries into homelessness***

*single adult or family

Coordinated Access is a HUD requirement

- **Under the HEARTH Act legislation, all Continuums of Care (CoC) are required to establish a Coordinated Access system which is comprehensive, accessible, and standardized**
- Coordinated access is required for all HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funded programs and for all Continuum of Care (CoC) funded projects
 - Applies to all shelter, rapid rehousing, prevention, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing funded by ESG or CoC
- Coordinated access will be required for all State of Connecticut funded Emergency Shelters, Rapid Re-Housing providers and Transitional Living Programs

Coordinated Access

Coordinated Access paves the way towards ending homelessness

This system change helps communities to focus on rapidly ending each person's homelessness and connecting them with permanent housing as quickly as possible – shift focus of resources away from **'managing homelessness'**

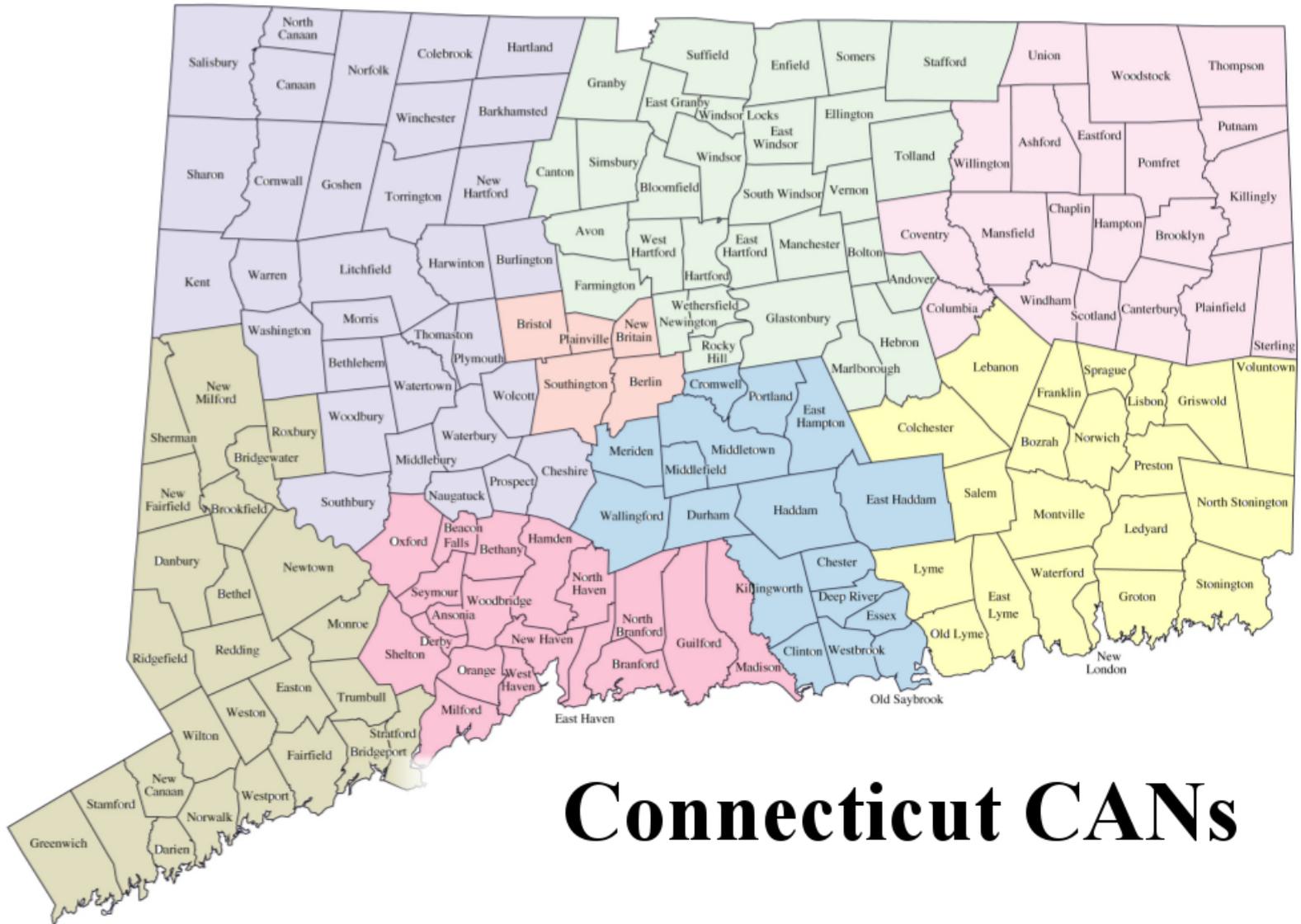


What is Coordinated Access?

- **Access:** ease access for people facing housing crisis through single “front door” to community resources
- **Assessment:** assess for *eligibility* and *need* in a standardized way across communities
- **Assignment/Referral:** assign based on need and local resources (e.g. diversion, shelter, rapid re-housing, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing)
- **Accountability/Oversight:** establish policies/procedures; monitor process and outcomes; modify program as needed

Coordinated Access Networks

- **Client-centric focus:** is at the core of the Coordinated Access. The goal of the system is for community resources to come together around the client.
- **Coordinated Access Networks (CANs):** in order to help providers to come together around clients consistent with the geographic areas in which clients tend to travel, the CT Department of Housing (DOH) and CCEH developed a map of eight Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) – *map next slide*.
- **CAN Collaboration:** providers within CANs will work together from the front door of shelter through housing resources to help each client exit homelessness.



Connecticut CANs