

What Does it Mean to End Homelessness In CT?

Ending Homelessness in CT means that every community will have a response system to prevent homelessness whenever possible and to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring when it does happen.

To end homelessness in Connecticut, we are building a strong homelessness response system (or Coordinated Access Network – CAN) in every community that will have the capacity to:

- ☑ Quickly identify and engage people experiencing homelessness.
- ☑ Divert people to housing solutions that will allow them to avoid entering the homelessness services system whenever possible.
- ☑ Provide immediate access to emergency shelter and crisis services, without barriers, when needed.
- ☑ Connect people quickly to housing assistance and services – tailored to their unique needs and strengths – when they need help to secure and maintain stable housing.

Ending homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again. Changing economic realities, the unpredictability of life, and unsafe or unwelcoming family environments may create situations where individuals, families, or youth will still experience homelessness. However, with the right resources in place, working in full coordination, we aim to make these episodes of homelessness brief and non-recurring.

To do so, we are building the skillsets of our frontline providers and strengthening their coordination in every community. Adequate resources (from targeted short-term housing assistance to supportive housing and affordable housing stock) will underpin the success of this effort.

Ending homelessness is the right thing to do for Connecticut residents in urgent need, and the smart thing to do for our state. When homelessness persists, our public systems – including emergency services, hospitals, jails, and schools – incur heavy costs, without resolving the homelessness of those cycling in and out of their systems.

- ➔ Studies show that communities can save up to 70% of the public costs incurred by providing appropriate housing and supports to the chronically homeless (those who live with severe disabilities and have long histories of homelessness).
- ➔ Children who experience homelessness have higher rates of physical illness, emotional trauma, and learning difficulties than their housed peers – forcing heavy costs on healthcare, schools, and other community services.

Are We Making Progress on Ending Homelessness in CT? YES!

Check out our data on the next page...

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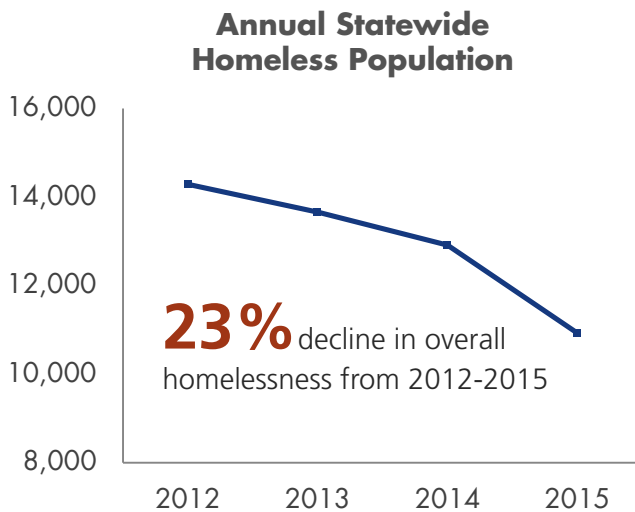
Can we end homelessness in Connecticut? Yes!

We are making progress toward this goal every day:

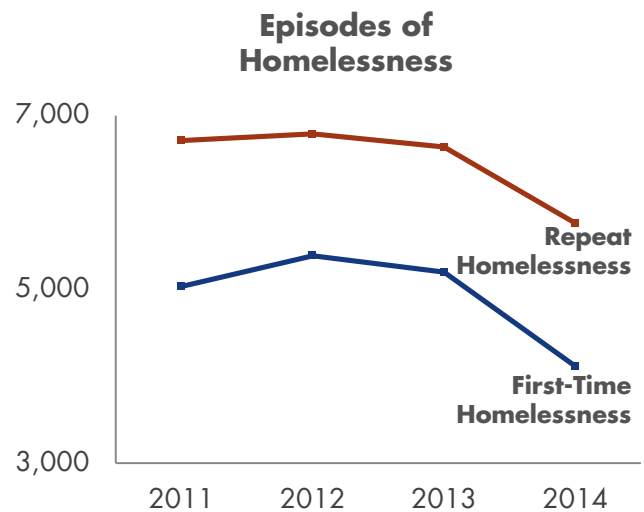
- ✔ Connecticut was the second state in the nation recognized by the federal government for ending homelessness among all veterans, and the first state to end chronic veteran homelessness.
- ✔ Connecticut is on track in the Zero: 2016 Campaign to end high-cost chronic homelessness by the end of this year.
- ✔ Nonprofits and their local, state, and federal partners are working in closer coordination than ever before to ensure that critical services are available and to avoid duplication of efforts.

Data indicates our efforts are working

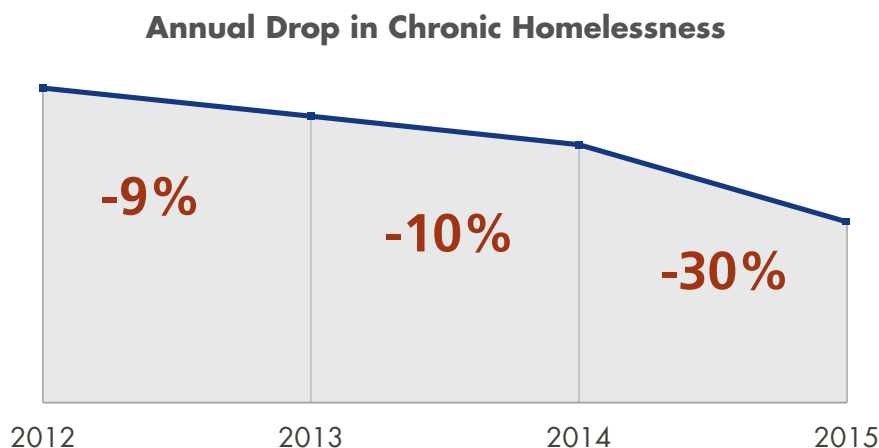
Total numbers of people experiencing homelessness are falling...



There are fewer new and repeat episodes of homelessness...



And we have made significant strides in ending chronic homelessness...



Source: Homeless Management Information System Annual Data