

Advocacy Days Preparation Webinar

Reaching Home
February 21, 2018



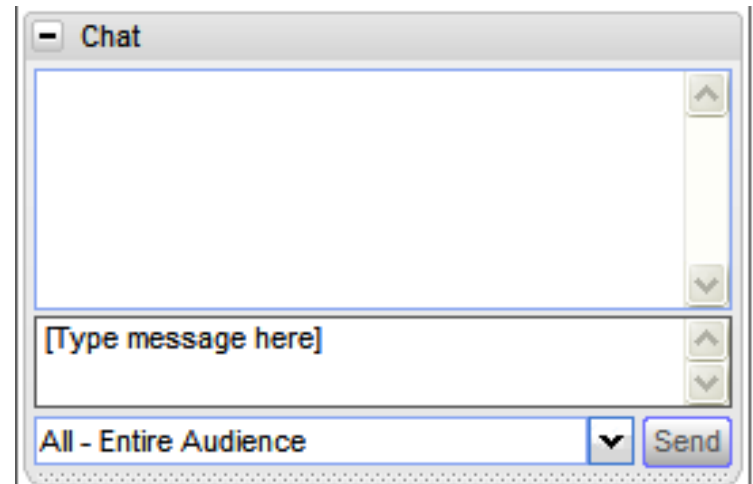
a campaign of the Partnership for Strong Communities

Gallo & Robinson, LLC
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



House Keeping

- Because this is a webinar, attendees are muted
- Please type any questions you have into the Chat Box
- We are recording this webinar and will send out the link to everyone who registered later today



Presenters

- Kate Robinson, Gallo & Robinson
- Terry Nowakowski, Partnership for Strong Communities
- Lisa Tepper Bates, CT Coalition to End Homelessness
- Lydia Brewster, St. Vincent De Paul, Middletown
- Sarah Fox, CT Coalition to End Homelessness

Agenda

- Legislative Session Update
- Review of *Reaching Home* Legislative Agenda
- Prepping for Advocacy Days
- Advocacy Days Logistics

Legislative Session Update

Kate Robinson

Gallo & Robinson

Biennium Cycle

- 2017 (Odd-Year) is the Long Session – January 4 – June 7.
 - This is the budget setting year.
- 2018 (Even Year) is the Short Session – February 7 – May 9.
 - This is the budget adjustment year.

Budget Timeline

February 8th – Governor's Budget Proposal

February 12-23– Appropriations Hearings (exact dates for each agency to be announced)

April 5th – Appropriations Committee Deadline

May 9th - Legislative Session Ends

Current Landscape – FY 2018

Fiscal Year 2018 : Now – June 30,2019

- Projected Deficit: - \$240,000,000

Legislative Leaders are meeting currently to plan how to close this gap.

Fiscal Year 2019: July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

- Projected Deficit: - \$1,900,000,000

Current DOH Funding

- Housing Homeless Services \$78,628,792
 - Gov Proposed \$77,548,308
 - Difference of -\$1,080,484

- Homeless Youth \$ 2,329,087
 - Gov Proposed \$2,282,505
 - Difference of -\$67,291

Current DMHAS Funding

- Housing Supports and Services \$23,269,681
 - Gov Proposed \$22,804,287
 - Diff of -\$465,394
- Legal Services for Housing \$700,144
 - No changes
- Grants for Mental Health Svcs. \$64,557,044
 - Gov Proposed \$ 62,570,365
 - Diff of -\$3,304,170
- Grants for Substance Abuse Svcs. \$17,432,464
 - Gov Proposed \$16,370,852
 - Diff of -\$1,417,377

Community Investment Act

- Supports work of the Coordinated Access Networks
 - There is no budget line item for CIA funds.
 - Funds raised through \$40 recording fee on all land transactions.
 - A portion of these funds go to DOH and support our coordinated system to end homelessness.

Appropriations Process

Public Hearings

- Advocates submit testimony for hearings and explain importance of maintaining momentum

Sub-Committee make recommendations to chairs

- Subcommittees on Health and Conservation and Development will make recommendations about the DMHAS and DOH Budgets to the Chairs

Committee Deliberation

- Appropriations Committee deliberates prior to the April 5th deadline

Negotiation

- Governor, leadership and Appropriations Chairs negotiate changes before the Session ends May 9th

Balancing the Budget

The Legislature will have to:

- 1) cut spending
- 2) raise revenue
- 3) some combination of 1&2.

The budget must balance.



Reaching Home Legislative Recommendations

Terry Nowakowski
Partnership for Strong Communities

Unified Legislative Agenda

More than **200** participating organizations are working together through **Connecticut's Reaching Home Campaign** to develop public policies, grow community support, and secure the resources to end homelessness in Connecticut.



DMHAS Housing Supports and Services line item

\$23.3

million

Supportive housing continues to be the most effective housing model to assist people experiencing chronic homelessness and is proven to cut public costs by up to 70%.



DOH Housing and Homelessness line item

\$78.6

million

Frontline homeless services, outreach, emergency shelters, and the Rental Assistance Program (RAP), which is a critical component of supportive housing



DOH Homeless Youth line item

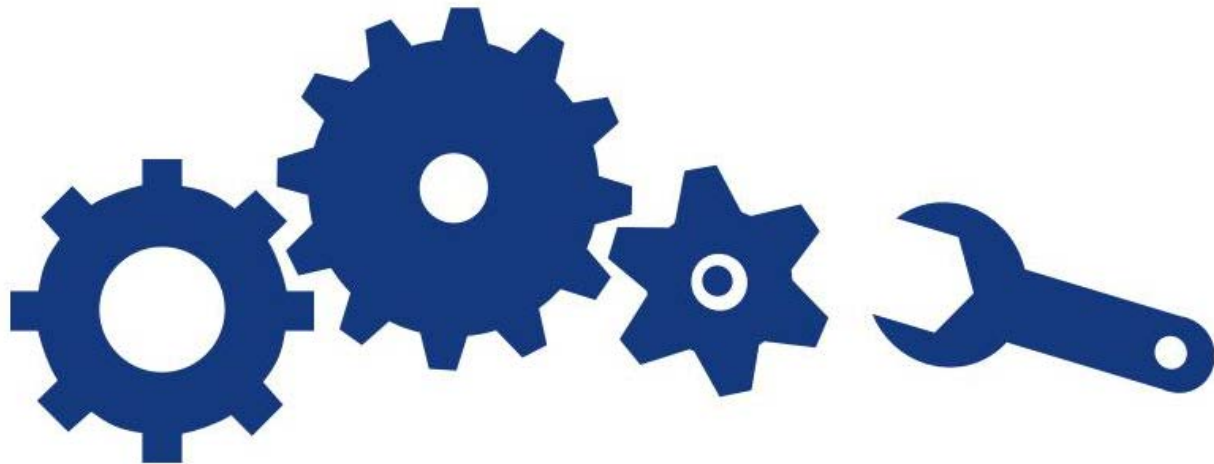
\$2.3 million

For crisis response, outreach, housing services & supports



Community Investment Act Funds (CIA)

2-1-1 is a critical part of our system – serving as the single front door to homeless resources. The CAN infrastructure enables us to assist individuals in a coordinated and streamlined way to help them exit homelessness.



Reduce Barriers to Child Care for Families with Children Experiencing Homelessness

Providing a 90-day grace period for child health documentation (i.e., immunizations and health form) required by child care licensing regulations would allow for immediate enrollment of homeless children in a licensed child care setting.



Identify and Educate Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

By improving identification and affirming protections that allow homeless students to stay in school, we can move the needle toward our goal of ending youth homelessness by the end of 2020.



End Homelessness among Families with Children and Youth by the end of 2020

To meet our goals by the end of 2020, Connecticut will need to invest in a continuum of housing support services for families and youth, target deeply affordable units and expand rapid re-housing.

Prepping for Advocacy Days

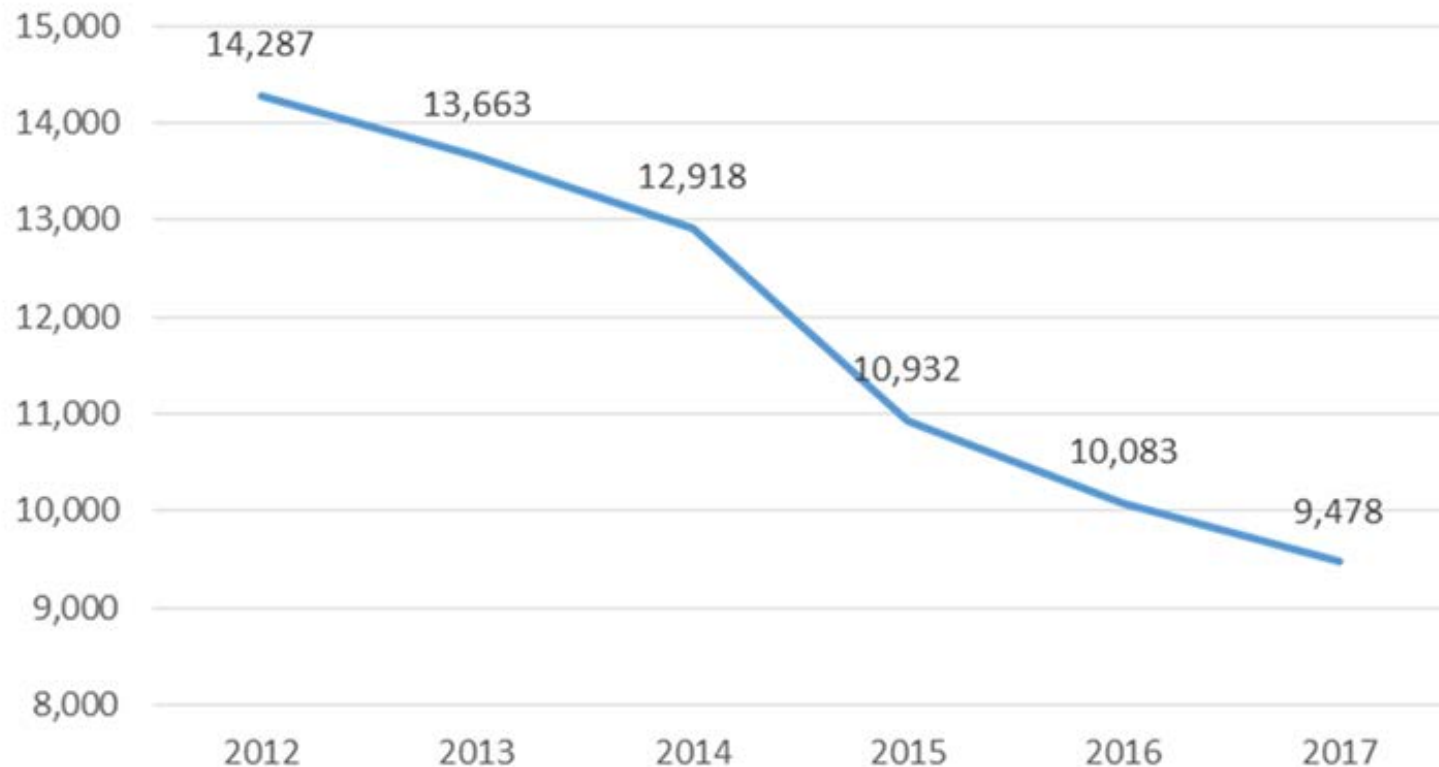
Lisa Tepper Bates

CT Coalition to End Homelessness

We are Ending Homelessness in CT

Consistent decline in the total number of people experiencing homelessness for five consecutive years.

Annual Statewide Homeless Population



Victories to Date



CT was recognized in 2016 by the federal government as one of the first two states in the nation to end homelessness among Veterans.



From January 2015 to December 2017, CT providers housed 1,948 people experiencing chronic homelessness, bringing CT within reach of our goal of ending chronic homelessness.



Since January 2014, there has been a 62% decrease in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness (long-term homelessness with a severe disability). In February 2018, there were 191 adults experiencing chronic homelessness in CT -- the lowest number to date.

You are the experts



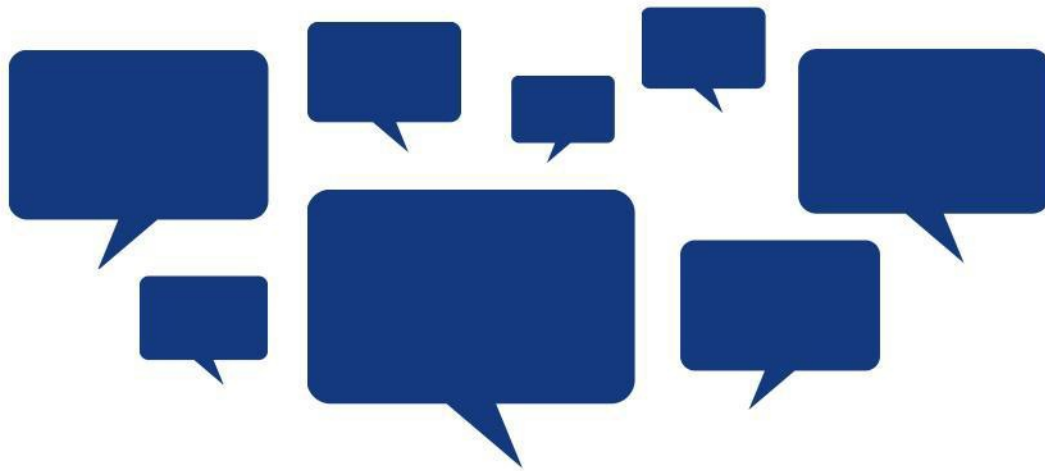
Who Should Be in Room

Executive leadership and staff that are the face of ending homelessness for lawmakers

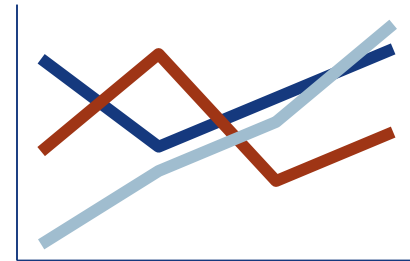
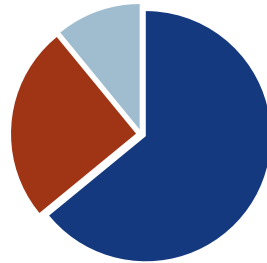
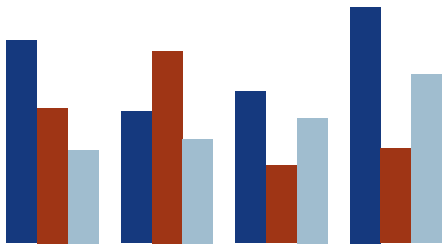
Include key people from hospitals, libraries, and other community services that benefit from our work

Persons with lived experience

Highlight your community
work
and tell your story



Share the data



Personal stories speak louder than statistics





Positive Impact of
Funding



Negative Impact of
Funding Loss

Getting everyone in Connecticut a safe,
healthy, affordable place to live will take
all of us advocating together



Sharing the *Lived Experience* Story Effectively

Lydia Brewster

St. Vincent De Paul, Middletown

Be Selective

- There is not time for everyone with lived experience to share their story
- Choose speakers ahead of the event
- Non-speakers add value by showing their numbers and support

Be Strategic

Choose and prepare speakers whose story reflects the legislative agenda, including:

- CAN experience
- Families
- Youth
- Success in PSH

Be Focused

The story should be primarily about the experience of homelessness



Be Quick and Be Prepared

- Remarks should be no longer than 3-5 minutes
- Use notes if it is helpful



Practice

- Spend time delivering the speech to peers and others
- Listen to the feedback and make adjustments when necessary



Advocacy Days Logistics

Sarah Fox

CT Coalition to End Homelessness

March 7th Arrival Times

9:30 AM Greater Hartford

10:45 AM Meriden, Middlesex, Wallingford

12:00 PM Waterbury and Litchfield County

1:15 PM Southeastern CT

March 8th Arrival Times

9:30 AM Central

10:45 AM Greater New Haven

12:00 PM Northeastern CT

1:15 PM Fairfield County

Schedule for Advocacy Days

- Meet in Cafeteria at LOB
- Prep Meeting Room
- Meet with Legislators in RM 2600
- Distribute Folders and Leave Behind Messages

Prepping for Advocacy Days

Invite Legislators

Convene Advocacy Planning Group

Meet with Opening Doors Staff (PSC + CCEH)

Cultivate Testimonies

Finalize Fact Sheets and Powerpoints



Materials Provided

Power Point Template

Fact Sheets

Legislator Face Sheets

Folders and Leave Behind Messages

Further Advocacy Opportunities

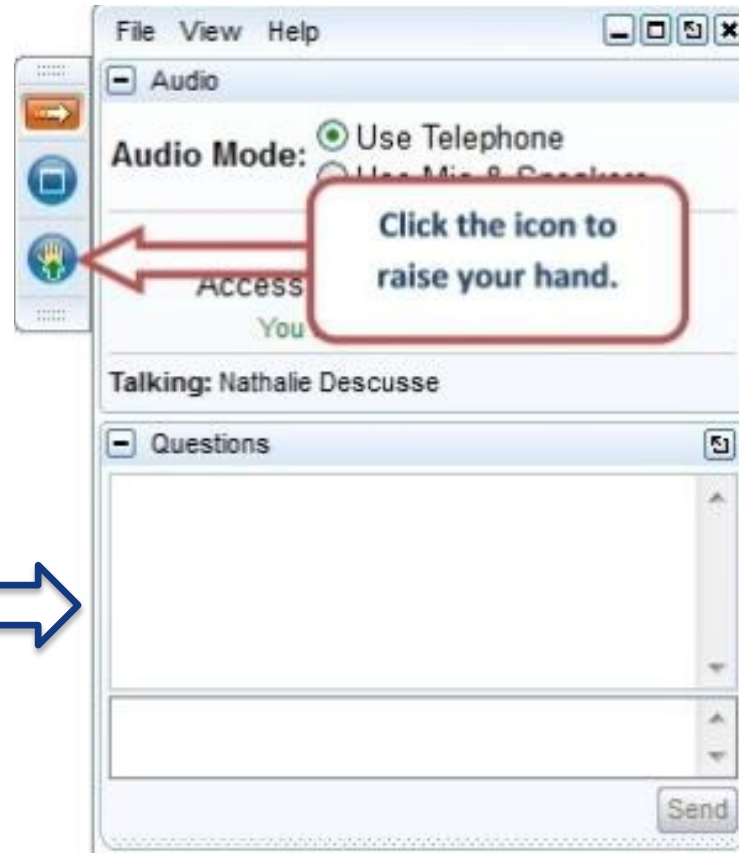


Engage community leaders and citizens in discussion



Respond to Action Alerts by emailing and calling your representatives

Questions?



Type in
question

To Learn More, Contact:

Sarah Fox

Director of Advocacy &
Community Impact Initiatives

CT Coalition to End Homelessness

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Liz Roberts

Policy Analyst

Partnership for Strong Communities

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