



## CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

Welcome to the CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter.

For additional resources relating to the COVID-19 response, visit [cceh.org/covid19](https://cceh.org/covid19).

You can also donate to CCEH's COVID-19 Emergency Fund at [cceh.org/about/donate-now/covid19](https://cceh.org/about/donate-now/covid19).

### Letter from the CEO

To our community,

As we all work to adjust to a new reality of a COVID-19 pandemic and work to the safety of our clients, staff, and our own family members, we know that this is a very trying time for our whole sector. On behalf of all of us at CCEH, I want to send my deepest gratitude to our Coordinated Access Networks and shelter staff for your tireless work to keep individuals and families in need of shelter safe. This situation has required that we turn on a dime and try new things. Your heroic efforts mean the world to us and to everybody we all serve together.

A few notes for today's morning newsletter below. Please note that this will not be a daily newsletter, but we will be sending out digests from time-to-time with time-sensitive information relating to the COVID-19 emergency.

Thanks to all of you and please reach out if we can be of assistance by contacting us at [info@cceh.org](mailto:info@cceh.org).

Hoping this all ends soon enough and thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,

**Richard Cho**  
CEO

### Reducing Shelter Density

CCEH is supporting the CANs to help Connecticut shelters meet the Center for Disease Control's social-distancing guidelines for shelters [LINK]. We are grateful to the State's Mass-Care Emergency Support Functions Workgroups, including the Department of Housing, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, the Department of Administrative Services, the Office of Policy and Management, and others for their leadership, assistance, and resources in securing potential hotels to relocate residents of shelters which are unable to meet the CDC bed spacing and social distancing guidelines. (Please note that there is no state mandate or requirement to close shelters or relocate shelter residents; this shelter decompression effort is directly informed by what needs have been identified and expressed by shelter providers and CANs to CCEH and the state workgroup.) We are currently in the process of supporting the CANs in finalizing the needs for hotel rooms to both relocate high-risk clients and reduce overall shelter census to permit the recommended spacing of beds and with state partners to secure access and payment to those hotels. Many thanks to the hotel owners for their support and assistance!

### Available Units

While the immediate focus has been to reduce shelter density and relocate some shelter residents into hotels, we know that hotels are and must be a temporary situation. We all need to continue our work to help connect homeless individuals and families to permanent homes. To that end, CCEH has reached out to Conn-NAHRO, CT Coalition of Property Owners, HUD, and New England Affordable Housing Managers Association, and the Connecticut REALTORS to identify available public, private, and subsidized apartments.

If you know of any units that are immediately available please fill out [this form](#) or contact us at [info@cceh.org](mailto:info@cceh.org).

### Emergency Assistance

DOH and CCEH have made emergency rental and financial assistance available to rapidly exit and divert people from shelters. Additional conversations are taking place at the state-level regarding providing longer-term and non-time-limited rental assistance as well. CANs interested in accessing emergency assistance can contact Diana Berube at [dberube@cceh.org](mailto:dberube@cceh.org).

### Food Insecurity

Food Access is important to address at all levels of housing and exit. The availability of and access to feeding programs can be the difference in keeping people housed and healthy. Major food resources are addressed comprehensively at [211.org](https://211.org) and by the links below.

Department of Education - [Emergency Meal Program](#)  
CT Food Bank - [Mobile Pantry Schedule](#)  
Foodshare - [Food Assistance Programs and Schedules](#)

### Evictions

CCEH will be hosting a webinar to address Eviction and Discrimination Concerns During the COVID-19 Crisis on **Thursday, April 2 from 1:00 pm-2:00 pm.**

[Click Here to Register](#)

**About:**

During the COVID-19 emergency declaration, the State Judicial Branch has placed a stay on evictions. Though positive news, this does not protect tenants from the threat of eviction or from facing discrimination. Join us next Thursday to learn about the status of pending evictions and foreclosures in CT, resources available, and rights and protections for all members of CT's protected classes.

The CT Fair Housing Center and CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities will be joining us for this webinar.

## Update on Virtual ROIs in HMIS

The verbal consent obtained by 211 at the time of initial phone contact will meet the permission standards required to enter a household's personally identifiable data into HMIS during this crisis. If the individual or household enters into shelter, shelter staff should obtain a signed HMIS Release of Information.

CAN staff will enter the following language into a case note regarding the HMIS Release of Information (copy & paste):

- "Due to the State's Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency enacted by Governor Lamont on March 10, 2020, the client's verbal consent to enter personally identifiable information into HMIS will meet the standard of obtaining a signed HMIS Release of Information. If the household enters into shelter, the shelter provider will complete the written HMIS Release of Information."

## HMIS Procedures Regarding COVID-19

**For clients who are staying in your shelter**

- Continue enrolling new clients who will be staying in your shelter
- Continue checking clients into beds on nights when they stay in the shelter

**For clients who are enrolled in your shelter, and temporarily staying elsewhere due to COVID-19 relocation (e.g., hotel/motel, given a 'pass' to stay with family/friends, etc.)**

- Keep their existing shelter enrollments open
- Do not check them into beds at your shelter unless they are sleeping at your shelter that night

**For clients who are exiting your shelter, not for a temporary COVID-19 relocation**

- Process the client's exit per your normal procedure

For questions contact: Linda Casey at [lcasey@cceh.org](mailto:lcasey@cceh.org).

## News Digest

[NLIHC and NAEG ESG Request](#)

NLIHC

[National Call on COVID-19 Homelessness and Housing](#)

DHRC c/o NLIHC | March 23

[Helping Those Without a Home Becomes Harder in a Time of Isolation](#)

WNPR | March 23



Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness | 257 Lawrence Street, Hartford, CT 06106

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