Welcome to the CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter.

For additional resources relating to the COVID-19 response, visit cceh.org/covid19.

You can also donate to CCEH’s COVID-19 Emergency Fund at cceh.org/about/donate-now/covid19.

A Message from Our CEO

Dear Friends,

This has been an incredible couple of weeks. Thanks to your hard work, we are close to moving more than 1000 clients from crowded shelters into local hotels. We are grateful to all of you who have been part of this massive team effort.

For our providers, today’s newsletter includes links to a number of valuable resources including a toolkit for employees staffing hotel shelter sites and links to a number of recent trainings and webinars that have been incredibly valuable. We would like to give a shout-out to the many people who have been partners in these community conversations.

For those of you looking for ways you can play a role in this effort, visit our new How You Can Help page which includes a variety of opportunities to contribute to this effort, from contributing flexible funds to donating personal protective equipment (PPE) to funding meals for shelter hotel guests to sharing housing vacancies. Whether you are at home in quarantine or out and about, there is a way for you to contribute to this massive relief effort.

What’s next? We are close to moving a major portion of the shelter population into local hotels, and our goal is to relocate these clients into permanent housing before their time in hotels comes to an end. If you are in a position to share apartment vacancies with our team, please do so using the how you can help link. You can also donate much-needed emergency funds that we can use to rehouse clients.

On behalf of all of us at CCEH, thank you being part of our community and please stay safe.

Yours truly,

Richard Cho

How You Can Help

Our providers need your help! This site includes ways you can volunteer, purchase meals for shelter guests, find a job in a shelter, and help clients become housed. See below to learn how you can contribute to the COVID homeless response.

Donate today: Please consider donating emergency funds to move families and individuals into apartments right away. Click here to make your donation.

Food: Please take a moment to donate a hot meal (or two, or three) to a person experiencing homelessness during this crisis. Click here to purchase a meal or start a “meal-raiser.”

Donate supplies: CCEH has compiled wishlists of items that our local partners need to keep their staff and clients safe during this crisis. Items in high demand include PPE, toilet paper, and paper towels. Click here to find your region’s wishlist.

Apartment Vacancies: We are looking for assistance identifying any vacant units right away. Click here to share vacancies with our provider network.

Employment: You can be part of the COVID homeless response! CCEH is currently accepting applications for essential shelter staff for shelters in Danbury, Greater New Haven, New Britain, and Willimantic/Manchester Center/Storrs. CCEH will forward applicants to regional Coordinated Access Networks for consideration. Click here for more information and how to apply.

Volunteer: Frontline nonprofits – particularly food banks/pantries, meal delivery services, and homeless shelters – are seeing a marked increase in demand for their services. The state is currently looking for volunteers to support the effort. Click here to register as a volunteer.

Hotel Toolkit

CCEH’s COVID-19 website now includes a toolkit providing sample resources intended to support agencies in quickly implementing a shelter-in-hotel plan. Contents include: a Symptom Screening and Triage Protocol; Expectations Takeaway Sheet; Client Agreement Sign-off; Sample Hotel Orientation; Sample Harm Reduction for COVID-19 Resource; and various additional documents for staff. Click here to download the guide.

Webinars & Additional Guidance

With information about COVID rapidly evolving, keeping up-to-date is more important than ever. Stay up-to-date by visiting CCEH’s COVID Guidance Page, located at cceh.org/covid19.
Registration is open for the upcoming webinar:
- Tips for Case Managing Through the COVID Crisis
- Implementing Assessment and Recovery Centers: Lessons Learned from Seattle/King County

Previously Recorded Webinars:
- Preparing Homeless Services and Shelters for Novel Coronavirus
- Addressing Eviction and Discrimination Concerns During the COVID-19 Crisis
- Legislative Webinar on COVID-19 Homeless Response (Hosted by the Connecticut General Assembly Housing Committee)
- Municipal Webinar on Addressing Homelessness in the COVID-19 Era (Hosted by Connecticut Conference of Municipalities)

Other Resources:
- NAEH COVID-19 webinar series