



## CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

### A Message from Our CEO

Dear Friends,

Our coalition is continuing to provide services to residents in both hotels and shelters, and we are seeing a small, but growing number of COVID-19 positive cases. So far, it looks as though we have avoided the kind of large-scale outbreaks in our state's shelters and homeless population that other states are experiencing.

We have worked with the Department of Public Health to make sure that shelter providers are collaborating with local health departments and community health centers to monitor, care for, and reduce transmission of COVID-19 among shelters residents and the staff who serve them. Do check out some of the new guidance and tools (including a webinar recording) that we have posted on our webpage.

Meanwhile, our coalition members are scaling up efforts to move as many residents out of hotels and shelters into permanent housing so that, when the state's shelter decompression (hoteling) order is lifted, our state's shelters can operate with far fewer residents and maintain social distancing. We currently estimate that we would need to cut our daily shelter census by roughly 50% of its pre-COVID levels in order to achieve better bed spacing and social distancing. In short, it will take a major effort to house and divert individuals and families from homelessness.

As always, this work will only be possible through hard work, creative thinking, and cross-sector partnerships--between non-profits, state government, the private sector, philanthropy, faith-based communities, and concerned citizens. CCEH is grateful for all the outreach, assistance, donations, and collaboration that you have shown in the past few weeks.

Thanks to everybody for your commitment to making sure we can get this job done! It's take a village, and our coalition is just that. Stay safe!

Yours,

Richard Cho

### Giving Tuesday

We want to give a shout out to everybody who donated this Giving Tuesday to CCEH or any of our member organizations who we showcased on social media throughout the day. Here are some of our favorite Giving Tuesday photos from member Facebook feeds. We are so proud of everything our coalition members are doing. Thank you to you and your staff for your incredible dedication and commitment!



### Calling All Realtors and Landlords!

Realtors and landlords who are passionate about helping our clients identifying apartments can join us for a focus group next Wednesday at 2 pm. Please submit your interest in getting involved using our [emergency housing form](#) and we will send you an invitation to the meeting.

### be homeful ambassadors

Kids can help too! Fill out the form below to sign up to join our amazing team of kids who are going to be working together to support housing people during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. Older kids will hold drives for the CCEH Charity Challenge while younger ones will be encouraged to make signs for new homes. Fill out the form on [this page](#) to be invited to our next be homeful ambassador meeting next week!

### Guidance on Homeless Encampments

In response to requests from the state of CT's shelter decompression task force, CCEH prepared the following summary of guidance on homeless encampments during COVID-19 for distribution to municipalities, local health departments, and law enforcement agencies.

Please [click here](#) for more detailed information.

## 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/Mansfield 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.

## 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](https://cceh.org/covid19).

### Upcoming Webinars:

Registration is open for the upcoming webinar:

- [Caring for and Reducing the Transmission of COVID-19 in Shelters and Hotels: A View from the Field](#)
- [Data Changes in HMIS During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

### Previously Recorded Webinars:

- [Shelter to Housing Crash Course: Rapidly Exiting to Permanent Housing](#)
- [DPH Webinar: COVID-19 Monitoring, Care, and Transmission Reduction Among People Experiencing Homelessness in Shelters and Hotels](#)
- [Responding to Violence in the Home During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [Addressing Food Insecurity During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [Tips for Case Managers Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [Preparing Homeless Services and Shelters for Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [Addressing Eviction and Discrimination Concerns During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

Please [click here](#) to access our entire webinar catalog.

## News Digest

### [Meriden Forms 'Long Overdue' Homelessness Task Force](#)

Meriden Record-Journal | May 2020

### [How COVID-19 is Shrinking Connecticut's Prison Population](#)

CT Mirror | May 2020



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