



## CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

### A Message from Our CEO



Dear Friends,

I hope that you are weathering this storm safely. I am pleased to share the news that we have rescheduled CCEH's Annual Training Institute (ATI) to October 5th when we will hopefully be able to come together safely again. In the event that we cannot come together in person, we will plan on holding the event virtually so please stay tuned!

Many of you know that we typically hold CCEH's annual meeting at the ATI. Given all that is happening around us, we thought it fitting that we move forward with the annual meeting of our membership this month. To this end, we are pleased to invite you to our first ever CCEH Virtual Annual Meeting scheduled for May 28th from 1-3 pm. We are envisioning this meeting as a celebration of our work together with specific action items including a vote to elect new board members. Please note that the meeting will be open to all with the vote held through an online poll open specifically to CCEH members.

On that note, I also want to give a huge thank you to the many organizations that have renewed their membership for 2020! If you haven't already done so, please do make sure that you [renew your membership](#) no later than May 22 so that we can update our website to include your organization in advance of the annual meeting. Of course, we welcome new members to join us as well so please visit our membership page and [sign up](#) if you have not already done so. As I have said before, it takes a village to end homelessness, and we are proud to showcase the remarkable work our members do every day.

Finally, we would like to celebrate our members during the annual meeting so are asking members to please take a moment to share any photos of your staff in action on the [CCEH Facebook page](#).

Thank you as always for your hard work to keep clients safe during the pandemic. This is indeed a remarkable village.

Yours truly,

Richard Cho

### Race & Equity in the Times of COVID-19

Homelessness disproportionately impacts people of color, particularly those in Black/African American communities. In Connecticut, Black/African-Americans account for over 30% of people experiencing homelessness, but only represent about 10% of CT's general population. Recent data on COVID-19 also indicate racial disparities exist. Black/African-Americans account for around 20% of CT COVID-positive cases and around 15% of COVID-related deaths ([ctdata.org/covid19](https://ctdata.org/covid19)).

Read more about CCEH's race and equity work [here](#).

### HMIS COVID-19 Changes

HMIS is adding fields to capture data relating to COVID-19 symptoms and testing, housing/location placement (isolation, quarantine) as well as importing hotel data currently captured on Smartsheets. Users will be able to add COVID-19 symptom and testing data for all clients in any open program enrollment in HMIS (ES, PSH, etc.). If a client is not currently in HMIS, a new COVID-19 enrollment can be added (e.g., hotel stayers with no HMIS enrollments).

These changes will help manage your clients' COVID-19 related needs, and will also provide valuable insight on an aggregate level to understand the impact COVID-19 has on our homeless community and help us understand the effectiveness of our response.

To learn more please [click here](#).

### Notice of CCEH Annual Meeting

CCEH's Annual Training Institute has been postponed till October, but that won't stop us from holding our annual meeting this May! Please mark your calendars for May 28 from 1-3 pm, when we will come together as a

community online to discuss our coalition's way forward in the era of COVID-19.

Please note that this is a public meeting open to anybody, but that only dues-paying members will be eligible to vote. Please visit [our membership page](#) to see our 2019 members and scroll down to join our coalition.

## be homeful ambassadors



Hats off to CCEH kid ambassador Grace Furia who organized our first meeting of the *be homeful* ambassadors this week! All the kids came up with great ideas for how to get the word about our coalition's efforts to rehouse clients in shelter including making welcome signs for clients moving into their new apartments and holding town drives on their brand new [Gofundme page](#) to educate their communities and raise emergency assistance funds. The group will be meeting again soon so if you have a child in your life who is passionate about helping people experiencing homelessness please have them visit our *be homeful* ambassador page and complete [this form](#). Please note that younger kids can join with a parent. Thank you to our ambassadors!

*Photo: Thanks to be homeful ambassador Bobby (age 6) for making our first welcome home sign for shelter guests moving into their new apartments! Kids who want to make signs can send them to our offices at 257 Lawrence Street in Hartford, CT 06106.*

## Connecting Shelter Guests with Housing

Thanks to the amazing group of realtors and landlords who joined us this week for our focus group. We are actively looking for realtors and landlords who are interested in working with our providers to identify housing units for our clients. If you know an amazing realtor or landlord, please ask them to fill out the [CCEH Emergency Housing Form](#).

CCEH is also working on piloting a [Client Classifieds](#) resource to share with realtors. Case workers with clients actively looking for housing can use [this form](#) to share clients we should profile. Please note that all names are changed to protect client confidentiality.

## Announcing CCEH's Workout Challenge!

Are you part of a gym, yoga, or fitness community that is finding innovative ways to stay fit during the pandemic? Consider asking them to participate in the CCEH Workout Challenge! Thanks to Ranfone Training Systems for kicking off the challenge with their own [charity work out](#) and to North Haven Crossfit, whose charity workout will take place tomorrow morning at 9 am. You can join North Haven Crossfit's workout by donating to their drive [here](#) and visiting [the CCEH Facebook page](#) tomorrow morning. We are so pumped that all these great gyms are raising much-needed emergency assistance funds to help us rehouse clients during the pandemic!

If you know somebody who would like to hold a charity workout, please have them start a team on the CCEH Fitness Challenge page [here](#) or contact Ryan Beach at [rbeach@cceh.org](mailto:rbeach@cceh.org).

## 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.

**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:

- [Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness During COVID-19](#)
- [Verbal De-Escalation and Crisis Prevention During COVID-19](#)

### Previously Recorded Webinars:

- [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.

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## News Digest

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[Norwich Woman Comes in From the Cold With Help of Social Service Agencies](#)

The Day | May 2020



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

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