



CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

A Message from Our CEO

Dear Friends,

Earlier this week, I wrote to you with what words I could find at the time calling for justice not just for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many other victims of racist violence and police brutality, but also for all black, brown, indigenous, and people of color who have been systematically oppressed and harmed by overt and institutional racism. It was a long message, but nowhere near as long as it needed to be given all that must be said about this.

In short, my intended message boils down to this: we as a coalition can no longer afford to make racism a sidebar to our work. We can't talk about ending homelessness unless we also work to end racism. We must recognize how it is no coincidence or accident that, while people of color comprise less than 1/3 of our state's general population, we represent 2/3 of people who experience homelessness. **We must make the work of fighting racism central to our work to end homelessness.**

And the first step we must take is to admit our failures. I'll go first: I've not said and done enough to make racial equity a priority at CCEH. I've not spoken out about this enough. I've not tried hard enough to approach our work with an equity lens. I've not said and done enough about the lack of diversity in organizational leadership in our sector. While signing checks for flexible financial assistance, I've read hundreds case notes that tell stories of housing discrimination, housing segregation, incarceration, and instances of racial injustice. And I did little to tackle those injustices at their core.

So we are making some changes, starting internally. This week, CCEH's Program Manager for Capacity Building and Equity Mia Bryant began leading our team on an ongoing process to educate ourselves on race and equity, and to hone our skills on how to recognize systemic and institutional racism. We will be engaging in discussions with our Board of Directors about ways that we can support our entire coalition on our collective efforts to make fighting racism, including police violence, core to our work. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic, we launched our [Housing=Justice advocacy campaign](#) (also our theme for the now-postponed Annual Training Institute). We put this campaign aside as our attention shifted to the health emergency at hand, only to see the health emergency itself reveal the racial inequities in our state. We move ahead now knowing that justice—economic justice, legal justice, and racial justice—must remain at the center of our work at all times.

Meanwhile, as we note below, we are setting aside Juneteenth, otherwise known as Freedom Day, as a paid day of protest against racism and police violence, and we encourage our coalition members and supporters to do the same.

There is so much more to say and do ahead. For now, stay connected with us and join us in spirit and in action. Thank you as always for your commitment to a more just, equitable, and healthier future for all.

Yours,

Richard Cho

Juneteenth Call to Action

As our CEO, Richard Cho, recently said in a statement "If you have been working to end homelessness, you have been working to fight racism (whether you have explicitly called it that or not)." With this in mind, we invite you to join CCEH on June 19th as we observe Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, through engaging in at least one act of protest. CCEH calls on our members and supporters to join us in making Juneteenth a day of protest. Acts of protest include, but are not limited to, reading educational materials on racism in America and black liberation; donating to anti-racist organizations that uplift communities of color; attending a racial justice protest; and doing self-reflection on your role in creating anti-racist communities. Join us in being a stronger coalition, fighting for racial justice as we work to end homelessness.

For more ideas on how you can celebrate Juneteenth, visit [Juneteenth.com](https://www.juneteenth.com).

Racial Equity Resources

CCEH's own Tashmia Bryant, who serves as our Capacity Building and Equity Program Manager, will join other experts from across the country for the next installment in NAEH's COVID-19 Webinar series "*Communities Using Data to Analyze Racial Disparities During the Pandemic – Here's Where You Can Start*". It will take place on June 9th at 3 P.M. Please register [here](#).

Also, our colleagues at NAEH have shared the following resources to help homelessness systems, providers, and communities understand and attain racial equity in their practices and service delivery.

- [The Alliance's Racial Equity Network Toolkit](#)
- [The Alliance's Racial Equity Network Action Steps](#)
- [Using Your Data to Analyze Racial Disparities During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [The Intersection of Homelessness, Race, and the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

- [State of Homelessness: A Look at Race and Ethnicity](#)

You can also access our recent on [Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness During COVID-19](#) webinar [here](#).

IKEA Moving Day



Many of you have asked about plans for the IKEA delivery. We are currently working out plans to distribute the merchandise to the CANs and are targeting the week of June 15th for the distribution. Stay tuned for details!

Face Mask Distribution



Thank you to everybody who submitted requests for the cloth face masks donated by United Healthcare and Corporation for Supportive Housing. We received twice as many requests as we have masks and are working right now to divide up the masks between those who have asked for them.

be homeful ambassadors



Thanks to all of our fabulous *be homeful* ambassadors! On Tuesday we had our third meeting of the ambassadors, a group of kids of many different ages who are working together to learn about homelessness and take action to help. The group is planning a lot of exciting activities including creating materials to educate people throughout Connecticut about homelessness, making welcome home signs for people housed through the 1000 Homes campaign, and holding drives to raise emergency assistance funds. If you know a child who would be interested in joining the group, please visit our [website](#).

COVID-19 Planning & Response for Homeless Assistance Providers

HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) invites homeless assistance providers and their partners to participate in weekly Office Hours to discuss COVID-19 planning and response on **Fridays from 2:30 - 4:00 PM EDT**. Presenters from the following federal agencies and their partners will be available for a live question and answer session.

To register please [click here](#).

Charity Workout Competition

Due to the protests that are taken place all over our country City Climb Gym has decided to postpone their fundraiser. Right now we do not have a date set, but will have more details next week.

How You Can Help

Our providers need your help! This [site](#) includes ways you join Connecticut's homeless response.

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.

Upcoming Webinars:

- [Communities Using Data to Analyze Racial Disparities During the Pandemic – Here's Where You Can Start](#)

Previously Recorded Webinars:

- [Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness During COVID-19](#)
- [Verbal De-Escalation and Crisis Prevention During COVID-19](#)
- [Responding to COVID-19: An Inside Look into Connecticut's Homeless Response](#)
- [Caring for and Reducing the Transmission of COVID-19 in Shelters and Hotels: A View from the Field](#)
- [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](#)

Additional Resources:

- [NAEH COVID-19 Online Learning Resources](#)

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



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