



CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

A Letter from Our CEO



Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that registration is now open for CCEH's Annual Training Institute and Conference, which will take place virtually the week of October 5-9. Our theme for this year's event is "Housing Equals Justice"—highlighting the fact that homelessness stems from economic injustices, systemic racism, criminal justice system failures, and that achieving justice means ensuring housing for all.

Homelessness and the many forms of housing injustices have not stopped due to coronavirus and if anything, they are only gotten more severe. We cannot stop our work to achieve housing justice. It is more important now than ever that we come together as a community to reaffirm our belief that Housing Equals Justice and to hear new strategies for advancing that ideal.

It is therefore with great excitement and renewed resolve that I share with you that CCEH's [Annual Training Institute and Conference](#) will be bigger and better than ever, now as a virtual week-long event on **October 5-9**, with back-to-back panels to choose from. We hope you will register and join as many of the panels and workshops as you can, which, thanks to the support of Bank of America and other sponsors, we are able to make free of charge to guests this year in order to ensure that all can participate.

This year's conference offers a remarkable line-up of speakers. Kicking off the event will include a welcome address by our national movement's north star bearer, Nan Roman of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Lunchtime plenary sessions include remarks on the global effort to recognize housing as a human right by The Shift Director and former UN Special Rapporteur Leilani Farha and the effort to make housing a right in Connecticut by State Senator Saud Anwar; a keynote presentation by Zillow Senior Economist Cheryl Young on how the crisis in the housing market is impacting homelessness; remarks on the triple crises of systemic racism, health inequity, and homelessness by National Healthcare for the Homelessness CEO Bobby Watts; and a call-to-action from the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Jerry Jones to get out the vote among people experiencing and working to end homelessness in this year's election. And as if that's not enough, there will be more--stay tuned for information on additional keynotes.

Our line-up of sessions is equally exciting, featuring morning panels and workshops on core skills such as shelter diversion, rapid exit and rapid rehousing, and Critical Time Intervention; strategies to assist homeless sub-populations including families, youth, and specifically minors; and conversations around important topics including protecting tenants' rights, addressing racial disparities in homelessness, and of course, protecting clients and staff from COVID-19.

Afternoon sessions will feature the State Department of Education's annual training for McKinney-Ventos (which will be broadcast on Facebook Live in order to give the public a better understanding of the role schools are required to play in addressing the needs of students experiencing homelessness), stimulating conversations about steps we need to take to close the revolving door between homelessness and incarceration, racial disparities in homelessness, improving (and reducing) police responses to homelessness, the role of testing in keeping people in shelters safe, and a roll-out of a framework for actions that municipalities can take to end homelessness that we have been developing in collaboration with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Sustainable CT.

We will also be adding sessions on frontier areas including special considerations in providing housing assistance to people with disabilities, seniors, and clients with pets.

Each day's conference will also begin a member showcase featuring short video tours of our member agencies, so please contact [Madeline Ravich](#) if you would like your agency to be part of the showcase. Our goal is to produce content that members can use to promote their important work over social media.

And just to provide for the type of socialization and connection which makes our field special, 4 pm each day will feature a Happy Hour Zoom Room. Stay tuned for more on the entertainment portion of these Happy Hour sessions!

Finally, we would like to extend a special thanks to our Flagship Presenting Sponsor, Bank of America, for its ongoing commitment to making this premier event a success year after year. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available here.

This year's ATI will have something for everybody so please sign up right away! Our goal is to use this conference to bring many perspectives to the table, including *yours*. Please join us!

Yours Truly,

Richard Cho
CEO

Annual Training Institute Conference Registration is Now Open!

HOUSING = JUSTICE

18th Annual Training Institute and Conference
October 5-9 | Virtual Online Event



This year's [Annual Training Institute](#) (ATI) will be a week-long virtual forum for presenters to share cutting-edge thinking on racial justice, criminal justice, and economic justice now in the face of COVID-19.

This year, we seek to explore how we can all come together to build an effective, just, and person-centered statewide response to homelessness amidst a global pandemic and with our near-term infusion of emergency resources. We will focus in particular on topics that are on everybody's minds right now, including how towns and cities respond to rising homelessness in the face of the pandemic among singles, families, youth, and unsheltered populations in towns and cities across our state.

Each day of the week-long event will feature a keynote presentation, up to six panels and workshops, and an hour-long "happy hour" featuring music, provider highlights, and voices of those with lived experience.

Please register today to reserve your spot and receive updates as we add new sessions. You can attend as many workshops as your schedule permits. This promises to be the most exciting ATI ever. Don't miss it!

[Register Now!](#)

Presenting Sponsor

BANK OF AMERICA 

Now Hiring for a Development and Communications Intern

The CT Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) seeks an intern to join us for the next academic year. This position will report to the Development and Communications department. Key responsibilities will include providing support to our development, communications, membership, municipal, and advocacy programs and requires strong writing skills, excellent organizational skills, and a strong commitment to our cause. Additional projects may include research, grassroots organizing, municipal engagement, communications and coalition development. The internship is open to undergraduate and graduate students. This is a twenty-hour-per-week position.

To apply please click [here](#).

Survey on Connecticut's Homeless Response



The CT Coalition to End Homelessness is conducting a [survey](#) to understand and improve how the CT Homeless Response System engages with the communities it serves.

This brief survey is open all CT community members ages 16+ who are not currently employed by an organization that falls within the CT homeless response system. Thank you

for helping us end homelessness!

Feedback Requested on Challenges in Voting



CCEH is seeking feedback on challenges clients faced in voting during the primary elections or may face in registering to vote or voting in the upcoming election along with innovative ways that you are working to register and get out the vote. If you have feedback to share on this issue, please email your comments to info@cceh.org.

Please note that CCEH's [website](#) includes specific guidance on how to make sure clients receive information on their voting rights. We are trying to

figure out if there is additional guidance that would be useful to providers and clients so your input will be highly valued.

CCEH Seeking *be homeful* Ambassadors

If you know of any amazing kids who care deeply about ending homelessness, please encourage them to reach out and become *be homeful* ambassadors by filling out this [form](#).

Kids of all ages who want to help by making welcome home signs can send them to:

Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
c/o the be homeful project
257 Lawrence Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Please also share your signs via the [be homeful](#) Instagram page!



Artwork by: Caroline Baim



Artwork by: Patrick Baim



Artwork by: Andrew Baim

Important Information for Providers

New DOH Guidance for Shelter Operations during COVID-19

The CT Department of Housing along with the CT Department of Public Health have released this memorandum to provide updated guidance to shelters and Coordinated Access Networks on client admissions and discharges, facility management, and the delivery of services. The guidance is applicable to both non-congregate hotel settings and emergency shelters.

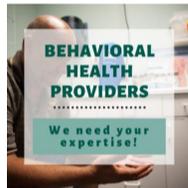
Please click [here](#) for further details.

HUD Guidance for CARES Act ESG Recipients

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced the allocation formula, amounts, and requirements for the additional \$3.96 billion in funding provided for the Emergency Solutions Grants Program (ESG) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Please click [here](#) to read more.

Study Seeks Participants to Discuss Changes to Behavioral Health Services as a Result of COVID-19



The National Health Care for the Homeless Council is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and seeking participants for a qualitative study, Assessing the Impact of Behavioral Health Issues on COVID-19 Risks and Disruptions in Behavioral Health Services among People Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The study aims to document any changes that may have occurred to behavioral health services as a direct result of the response to the pandemic. Providers interested in participating may complete this brief [application](#).

National Data on COVID-19 Testing at Homeless Service Sites

The [National HCH Council](#) and its standing Research Committee have partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to collect data from universal testing events at shelter or encampment-based service sites during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please click [here](#) to get detailed information on your State's testing efforts.

Supporting Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness During COVID-19

The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) has put together a document to outline suggested guidance to support the academic success and safety of children and youth experiencing homelessness during the pandemic. Please click [here](#) to download the document.

As students return to school during the COVID-19 pandemic, providers and systems leaders have a responsibility to ensure that children are connected to school resources and appropriately set up to participate and succeed in academic endeavors.

Citing COVID-19 Risks of Housing Loss, CDC Issues National Order Halting Evictions Through December 2020

On September 4, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a broad sweeping [national order halting evictions](#). Unlike prior federal and state eviction orders and actions, this order applies to all landlords—public and private, subsidized and unsubsidized—and prohibits landlords from evicting tenants through December 31, 2020. Citing the importance of housing as a protective factor for reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and the dual risks of increasing shelter populations and unsheltered homelessness, the CDC order represents one of the most significant recognitions by any federal agency of the role of housing in public health.

The order does not, however, provide for any rent relief and makes clear that renters will continue to be charged rent and may also be subject to additional fees, penalties, or interest. CCEH therefore agrees with the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#) and other national advocates that "while an eviction moratorium is an essential step, it is a half-measure that extends a financial cliff for renters to fall off of when the moratorium expires and back rent is owed. This action delays but does not prevent evictions. Congress and the White House must get back to work on negotiations to enact a COVID-19 relief bill with at least **\$100 billion in emergency rental assistance**. Together with a national eviction moratorium, this assistance would keep renters stably housed and small landlords able to pay their bills and maintain their properties during the pandemic."

Please join us in calling on Congress to take action now to enact a COVID-19 relief bill with the emergency rental assistance needed to truly prevent millions of people from losing their homes.

How You Can Help

Our providers need your help! This [site](#) includes ways you can 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

[Reading Between the Data](#)

Thursday, September 3, 2020
11:00am-12:00pm

[Components of an Effective Outreach System \(Session 2\)](#)

Wednesday, September 30, 2020
11:00am-12:00pm

[Motivational Interviewing Workshop](#)

Thursday, October 29th & Friday, October 30th, 2020
9:00 am-12:00 pm

Previously Recorded Webinars

- [Components of an Effective Outreach System](#)
- [How Vulnerable is the Homeless Population to COVID-19? Results from a National Study](#)
- [Addressing Racialized Trauma and Actively Engaging in Anti-Racism](#)
- [Having a Harm Reduction Approach During a Pandemic \(Session 2\)](#)
- [Having a Harm Reduction Approach During a Pandemic \(Session 1\)](#)
- [Update on the Status of Evictions in CT During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [Working with Landlords to Rapidly House Successfully: Recruiting, Engaging and Retaining](#)

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

CCEH in the News

[Hungry and Homeless In Hartford](#)

NBC Connecticut - September 2020

[Giving Circles Helping with Homelessness, COVID-19 Response](#)

Hartford Courant - August 2020

[Governor's housing development advisor leaves administration](#)

CT Mirror - August 2020

[Pandemic Worsens 'Already Fragile' Situation for Homeless Youth, Young Adults](#)

WNPR - August 2020



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

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