



## CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

### A Letter from CCEH's Sarah Fox



Dear Friends,

As a child I remember the paralyzing fear that I felt and the long moments of silence that blanketed us as our world fell apart. The loss of stability, the loss of home, and the loss of security overwhelmed our senses and our world seemed frozen in time. For me, in those moments, I felt as though I had lost my voice, my agency, and my ability to think about anything other than survival.

When I think about all of the people experiencing homelessness and housing security today, I am reminded of the loss of hope that accompanies not having a warm, safe home to call your own.

Reminded of what it means to lose one's voice and to feel left out in the cold. As an adult and through this work, I have learned that one of the key ways to restore hope is through finding your voice and purpose. For me and others who either have or are experiencing homelessness, voting is a strong step towards instilling hope and a way to work towards a better future.

Voting allows people to play a part in deciding the direction of their communities and reflects a human need for belonging, connection, and power in one's community. For those experiencing homelessness, voting is a great equalizer and a way to ensure that policy makers understand what matters most.

How do we make sure that we can deliver on the American promise that every person should have a vote? For us as a coalition, we are in a unique position to make sure that all providers have the tools they need to support clients in registering to vote and in the voting process itself. Together we can all work to ensure that every person experiencing homelessness understands that their vote and their voice matters, and that they have the opportunity to vote for candidates that support issues they hold dear.

My hope for this coming 2020 election is that we elect candidates dedicated to ensuring that no child, youth, family, or individual will sleep on our streets. My hope is for a Connecticut where everyone has access to safe, affordable housing. A Connecticut where people of color have equal access to education, medical care, and housing. A Connecticut where people returning home from incarceration are no longer relegated to sleeping on a park bench, instead of in a bed of their own. I will vote for candidates who understand and uphold the tenets of the Housing Equals Justice campaign and vote for a better future for Connecticut. I hope you will too.

Yours truly,

Sarah Fox  
Director of Advocacy and Community Impact

### National Voter Registration Day is on September 22nd, 2020

CCEH is committed to strengthening our democracy by getting people experiencing homelessness registered on National Voter Registration Day on September 22. As the Connecticut deadline for registering draws near, we encourage advocates and organizations to assist clients with registering to vote and casting their ballots in this critical election. Even with this year's unique challenges, our goal is to ensure that every person experiencing homelessness is registered to vote. If you are interested in becoming a partner of 2020 National Voter Registration Day, you need to complete an agreement to be nonpartisan, provide equal access, submit registration forms in a timely manner, comply with applicable state election laws, and adhere to CDC public health guidelines for in-person activities. Please click [here](#) to access the registration form.

You can also do your part by making sure everyone you know is registered to vote and share your events on social media. Be sure to use our hashtag [#votetoendhomelessness2020](#)

Below are a few tools to get you started:

- From the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- From the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

Please be on the lookout for more voting registration materials coming your way.

If you or someone you love is living with a disability and needs assistance registering to vote or getting to the polls, please contact Disability Rights Connecticut at:

Telephone: (860) 297-4300 (voice) | (800) 842-7303 (toll-free CT) | (860) 509-4992 (videophone) or [Info@DisRightsCT.org](mailto:Info@DisRightsCT.org).

Please vote!

### Annual Training Institute Conference

**Registration is Now Open!**

**HOUSING = JUSTICE**

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



**Register now for this year's [Annual Training Institute and Conference!](#) The schedule is now available on our website so check out all of the amazing keynotes and sessions and sign up today.**

This year's (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.

Below is our schedule for the week with many exciting workshops and panels. [Register](#) today for your exclusive access to the Digital ATI Program, which will include individual workshop registration.

	Monday October 5	Tuesday October 6	Wednesday October 7	Thursday October 8	Friday October 9
9:00	Welcome Keynote: Homelessness in 2020	CCEH Members Showcase	CCEH Members Showcase	CCEH Members Showcase	CCEH Members Showcase
10:00	Can They Do That?: Understanding and Protecting Human Rights in Connecticut	Youth Homelessness	Housing Plus Services: Understanding and Meeting Health and Support Needs	Colleges and Universities	COVID-19 Guidance
11:00	Eliminating Shelter Waitlists	Family Homelessness	TRAINING: Critical Time Intervention in Rapid Re-Housing Programs	TRAINING: Shelter Diversion	ROUNDTABLE: The Changing Landscape of Homeless Outreach During COVID-19
12:00	KEYNOTE: Housing as a Right	KEYNOTE: Crisis in the Rental Market	KEYNOTE: COVID-19, Systemic Racism, and Homelessness	KEYNOTE: Justice Starts at Home: A Conversation on Criminal Justice, Housing, and Segregation	KEYNOTE: Get Out The Vote Rally
1:00	Using the Past to Drive Today's Change	What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You: Helping Clients Face Their Health Fears	TRAINING: The Homeless Students' Bill of Rights (McKinney-Vento Training Hour 1 of 2)	Shutting the Revolving Door	Building Our Movement
2:00	Police - Social Worker Partnerships in Homeless Outreach	MUNICIPAL WORKSHOP: Sustainable CT Homeless Certification	TRAINING: The Homeless Students' Bill of Rights (McKinney-Vento Training Hour 2 of 2)	MUNICIPAL WORKSHOP: Mayor's Homelessness Prevention Task Force	Hamden Virtual Town Hall on Homelessness
3:00	A Tour of the Homeless Response System	Changing the Narrative that Pets are a Barrier to Housing	When Kids Experience Homelessness	Building Community for People With Disabilities Experiencing Homelessness	Alternative Police Responses
4:00	Happy Hour	Happy Hour	Happy Hour	Ice Cream Social	Happy Hour

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



**CCEH Store is Now Open. Order Now!**

We are thrilled to announce our very first [online store!](#) All proceeds will go towards making homelessness, rare, brief, and non-recurring in Connecticut. Place your order right away!



Wear it proud! Available in many styles including t-shirts, hoodies, and baseball tees.

Warm up your body and soul! Start each day right drinking from a mug that says it all.

What better way to send a message than wearing a Housing Equals Justice mask!

## Feature your Organization during the Member Spotlight at the ATI



CCEH is inviting current members to showcase their agencies during short virtual tours during the ATI. Tours should be 5-10 minutes and will follow a selfie video format of you providing the public a tour of your agency. If you would like to participate, please sign up below using our [Sign-up Genius](#). Please make sure to select one slot.

If you are not a current member organization but would like to participate, you can sign up for membership [here](#).

## Housing = Justice



People are still at risk from these proposed changes. This would have catastrophic impacts for transgender and non-binary individuals and we must work together to make sure that they do not go into effect. HUD's specific proposed changes would mean that:

- Providers would be allowed to consider biological sex in placement and accommodation decisions in single-sex facilities.
- Shelters would be permitted to establish a policy that places and accommodates individuals on the basis of their biological sex, without regard to their gender identity.
- For example, under the proposed rule, if a single-sex facility permissibly provides accommodation for women, and its policy is to serve only biological women, without regard to gender identity, it may decline to accommodate a person who identifies as female but who is a biological male

**We need to hear your voices before September 22nd!** If you think these changes are wrong, please visit [housingsaveslives.org](https://housingsaveslives.org) to submit your testimony. Thank you!

## Bittersweet Farewell



We have some very exciting but bittersweet news to share. Our very own Tashmia Bryant will be leaving us as she has accepted a wonderful new position with the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH). Mia has been an incredible contributor to our work in ending homelessness; expanding our training and technical assistance across the state and building our race equity work with passion and extraordinary dedication. In addition, she has brought much joy and humor to our organization. We will all miss her very

much but look forward to collaborating with her in her new role as Senior Technical Support Specialist at NAEH.

## Few Hours Left to Complete 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 will close today, **Friday September 18 at 4 P.M.** Please take a few moments to complete it. It 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!

## HMIS Update

HUD 2020 Data Standards are actively in development and implementation and are on target for the October 1st release. More details to follow.

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

### Upcoming Webinars

[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



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

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