



## CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

### A Letter From CCEH's Madeline Ravich



Dear Friends,

Wow, what a week! It has been amazing to join together with so many people across the state and from around the country to lay the groundwork for ending homelessness.

When we first set out to plan the 2020 Annual Training Institute and Conference, we never in our dreams imagined that we would have more than 1,000 people register! We had a wonderful range of participants: more than 600 frontline providers, over fifty municipalities from across Connecticut, and people from more than thirty states and even four countries signed on to join us.

And the presenters were phenomenal.

We heard Nan Roman from the National Alliance to End Homelessness speak about the challenges and the opportunities we have to move the needle on homelessness in the face of COVID-19.

We heard Leilani Farha of The Shift and State Senator Saud Anwar come together to game out Connecticut could become the first state in the nation to secure a right to housing.

We heard Cheryl Young from Zillow educate us about trends in the housing market that drive rates of homelessness, and policy ideas to increase housing affordability from national housing experts, Abt Associates' Jill Khadduri and Center for Budget and Policy Priorities' Ann Oliva.

We heard Bobby Watts of the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council connect the dots between decades of exclusionary housing and health policies and the racial disparities that we see in homelessness today, and how those racial disparities could be worsened due to COVID-19 unless we act differently.

We heard Kelan Lyons bring together Donald Whitehead, the CEO of National Coalition for the Homeless, Yale University Law and Sociology Professor Monica Bell, along State Representative Brandon McGee, State Criminal Justice Undersecretary Marc Pelka, incoming DOC Commissioner Angel Quiros for a rich conversation about how residential segregation, the criminalization of homelessness, and barriers to reentry perpetuate a cycle of homelessness and criminal justice involvement.

And today at noon we will join together for a Get-Out-The-Vote rally to remember. We hope you will join us.

Those were just the keynotes. The insights from the workshops and trainings were too many to capture here, but we will continue to share our learnings over the coming weeks. For those who were unable to join us, we will be releasing recordings of the sessions sometime next week. Please stay tuned.

It was especially moving to hear a case worker who joined us for Monday's Happy Hour share that this conference felt like "the real deal" because she saw people like her—people who live and breathe efforts to end homelessness every day—up on the stage.

But perhaps the most important aspect of the conference was the opportunity to hear directly from people who have experienced homelessness firsthand. Throughout conference conversations, we heard reactions and insights from people who have experienced what it's like to not have a place to call home and are committed to making sure that nobody has to know what that feels like. Those are the perspectives that matter more than anything.

I want to close with some wise words that Bishop Selders shared during a session on Monday. "When people have some place to live, they do better."

Amen to that.

Thanks to all who have been able to join us and please do sign on today for our last day of sessions. You can still register at [www.cceh.org/ati-2020](http://www.cceh.org/ati-2020). I hope to see you all at Happy Hour today at 4!

Yours truly,

Madeline Ravich  
Development Advisor

### Get Your Housing Equals Justice Merch!

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!

### Farewell to Elena Simoes



Today we bid farewell to CCEH's Director of Finance and Administration, Elena Simoes. In Elena's two years at CCEH, she has provided a valuable backbone to our efforts, modernizing our financial management systems, helping us manage our multiple financial assistance funds, and processing thousands of assistance checks to help divert and house thousands of families, individuals, and youth. We wish Elena the best in her next adventures.

Thank you, Elena!

### Thank You For Your Advocacy

The Comment Period for HUD's Anti-Transgender Rule ended this past Tuesday and we wanted to take a moment to thank you all for your advocacy on this critical issue. Now that the Comment Period has closed, HUD must review all public comments and consider concerns and contradictory evidence about the proposal before publishing its final rule. This harmful proposal would remove protections against discrimination for transgender and gender-nonconforming people experiencing homelessness, severely limiting their ability to access shelters and emergency housing services. And while we are thankful to have very strong gender identity and inclusion laws in Connecticut, we know that there are many states across the country that do not.

CCEH would like to say a special thanks to Attorney General William Tong joining a coalition of 22 attorneys general led by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul in opposing the U.S. Department of Housing and Development's (HUD) new proposed rule that would weaken protections for transgender and gender nonconforming individuals in HUD-funded shelters. "Discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression is wrong. Banning transgender people from using facilities consistent with their gender identity causes unnecessary stigma, isolation and harm," Attorney General Tong said. "One in five transgender people in the United States has experienced homelessness at some point during their lives and this rule would make it more difficult for them to seek safe emergency housing. We will continue to fight the Trump Administration's baseless and unlawful attacks against the LGBTQ community."

Please click [here](#) to read the entire letter.

### GOTV 2020- Are You Registered to Vote?

With only a few weeks left leading up to the 2020 Election, we at CCEH want to make sure that you have all of the tools necessary to help register your clients to vote. Below is a flier for you to share with you clients for GOTV. More information on voting resources can be found [here](#).



Click on the image to download the flyer.



Presione la imagen para descarga el folleto.

### HMIS New Assessment to Record Clients

A new assessment has been added to record clients who have been confirmed by the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) and have been enrolled into a traditional Emergency Shelter program. This will allow for these clients to appear on the CCADV-specific BNL for consideration for CCADV-specific housing placement. Click [here](#) for more details are in the Release Notes.

### Opportunities For Our Provider Members

Please look closely at the following Requests for Applications.

The [HUD application for Mainstream Housing Vouchers](#) is a chance for Housing Authorities to acquire subsidies that can serve people experiencing homelessness. And the [CT Department of Housing RFP for Street Outreach](#) is a new program, funded by the CARES Act, to create surge capacity in homeless outreach across the state.

If you or your community partners are interested in pursuing these opportunities, you may reach out to CCEH Senior Program Manager David

Gonzalez Rice for some additional background and guidance:  
[dgrice@cceh.org](mailto:dgrice@cceh.org)

## Mattresses Available for 1000 Homes Clients

Thanks to the generosity of the CT REALTORS® Foundation, we now have 100 new twin mattresses in a box available to be shipped directly to clients. Mattresses are available to any client housed through 1000 Homes with one per household member. Please click [here](#) to submit your requests. Mattresses will be available on a first come, first served basis.

[PLACE YOUR ORDER](#)

## 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

#### [Housing Stability for People and their Pets](#)

Tuesday, October 13th, 2020  
12 P.M. - 1 P.M.

#### [APR Bootcamp](#)

Wednesday, October 14th, 2020  
11 A.M. - 12 P.M.

#### [Motivational Interviewing Workshop](#)

Thursday, October 29th & Friday, October 30th, 2020  
9 A.M.-12 P.M.

### 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

#### [Advocates, State Find Housing for 1,099 People](#)

NBC Connecticut | October 2020

#### [Connecticut's Hidden Homeless: Motel-dwellers aren't considered 'homeless enough' to warrant state help](#)

CT Mirror | October 2020

#### [New Haven takes on youth homelessness amid pandemic](#)

Yale Daily News | October 2020



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

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