



CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

A Letter From CEO Richard Cho



Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite holidays and is usually a time of joy. But like many of you, I'm feeling it hard to feel joy knowing that we cannot safely gather with all of our loved ones this year. With COVID-19 rates rising in Connecticut, it seems that we must once again "stay safe by staying home." And there is no other way to say it than, "This pandemic just stinks."

But what's helping me avoid sinking into a sense of despair is to remember what Thanksgiving is truly all about: gratitude. And despite the challenges I am experiencing from this pandemic, I realize that I really do have so much to be grateful for.

I'm grateful at how we've been able to work together to keep people experiencing homelessness safe from COVID-19. For our government officials who worked day and night to secure hotels for our clients and who worked magic with federal bureaucracy to secure and find resources for our providers. For the shelter providers who changed the way they do, well, everything to adapt. For the outreach workers who worked extra hard to assist people as shelter beds were fewer. For housing navigators who worked extra hard to find apartments for clients. For the staff at CCEH who, in the midst of challenges, stepped up and brought creative solutions. And for CCEH's board of directors who support our work with their brilliance and commitment to our cause.

I'm grateful for partnerships, and that our coalition continues to grow in numbers and diversity. This week we are rolling out a new effort to increase our partnerships with cities and towns through a municipal campaign to end homelessness. Read the article below to learn more about this campaign and to find out how you can enlist your mayors, selectman, town/city council members to join this campaign.

I'm grateful for the compassion and generosity of Connecticut residents. We are once again holding our [be homeful for the holidays](#) campaign to give Paddington gifts to children in shelters and to raise funds for shelter diversion, but going virtual. If you have not yet started your be homeful for the holidays Paddington bear-raiser drive, now's the time to check out our [bear-raiser](#) site and start your drive! And of course, you can always give directly to efforts to end homelessness by clicking [here](#).

Last but not least, I am grateful to have this opportunity to serve all of you, our coalition and our family.

Yours Truly,

Richard Cho
CEO

P.S. We will not be sending out this newsletter next week because of the holidays, but we want to wish you all a happy Thanksgiving. Please stay safe and wear a mask!

It's time to *be homeful* for the holidays!



The *be homeful* project gives kids, families, and communities tools for learning about how homelessness affects local children and taking action to help by raising much-needed shelter diversion funds to help local families stay at home. Since the project launched the project in 2015, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and its members have helped over 1,000 children and their families stay in their homes. Join the effort and help end family homelessness in Connecticut for good.

This holiday season, give a little bit of comfort to a child in shelter and help a family remain housed in the process. Between now and Christmas, for every \$25 you donate to the be homeful project, we will donate an adorable Paddington™ plush bear to a child in a local shelter. The best part is that

thanks to underwriting from our funders, all donations go directly to help local families.

While *be homeful* campaign is different this year, the good it can do is still the same. You can get involved this year by starting a Bear-Raiser using the link below. To promote your bear-raiser, we are providing you with social media posts to share along your journey. Thank you for your help in supporting families in need this holiday season!

Visit our website to donate a bear today, or start your own virtual bear-raiser by clicking [here](#).

CCEH Launches Municipal Campaign

CCEH has partnered with the [Connecticut Conference of Municipalities](#) and [Sustainable CT](#) to engage towns and cities in efforts to end homelessness. As part of the launch of this campaign, towns and cities will have the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to ending homelessness by signing up to hold virtual town halls focused on municipal services currently available to residents experiencing homelessness, committing to passing a resolution to end homelessness, and designating a municipal staff member to serve as a point-person for efforts relating to homelessness. Towns will also be able to participate by designating a high-school age youth to serve as "be homeful" ambassador who will lead local youth in efforts to end homelessness as part of a larger state-wide initiative championed by youth volunteers.

Visit our [Municipal Campaign website](#) to learn more about how your town can take action to end homelessness. Please reach out to [Carl Asikainen](#) with specific questions about how your town can get involved.

Meet Our New Staff Members



Vicky Luo

Shujie (Vicky) Luo is a visionary with a strong passion for the field of Data. Vicky developed solid data analytics skills and hands-on project management experience while working at P&G and Xiaohongshu (Top social-based E-Commerce Company in China). Before CCEH, Vicky gained NGO experience at NoSchoolViolence (NSV) as a data engineer to help the organization set up data architecture to reduce school violence in the data aspect. Vicky holds an MS in Business Analytics and Project Management from the University of Connecticut. As a member of the data team at CCEH, Vicky will work to impact the community by taking advantage of data.



Rachel Spears

Rachel joined CCEH in November 2020 as a Youth Outreach intern. With a degree in psychology from Agnes Scott College, she's passionate about helping people on an individual level while also advocating for system-level changes. During her time in college, Rachel interned at different non-profits and learned how various factors such as policies, income inequality, and lack of opportunity greatly affected people's ability to meet their basic needs and thrive in their communities. At CCEH, she hopes to contribute to long-lasting work that will create sustainable interventions for youth populations experiencing homelessness and further learn about best practices.

Update on the Point-in-Time Count 2021

The long-awaited guidance from HUD on how to run the annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count for those living in places not meant for human habitation (the 'unsheltered') arrived this week with many options. CCEH is proposing a methodology that leverages existing HMIS data and that provides a streamlined enrollment to allow outreach staff to easily and efficiently enroll unsheltered clients in HMIS. More details to come, but we have a plan that will also serve our long-term goals of a smoother outreach enrollment process!



Global Homelessness Action Video

Our friends from [The Shift](#) want to hear from you. They are looking for video testimonials from people experiencing homelessness. This should be easy and simple. The videos should be short about (1-2 min) and they should address:

- Name (if willing to disclose) + where they are living (in a tent, shelter, etc).
- What its like to experience homelessness in the midst of a pandemic.
- An assertion that their governments must respect their human right to housing, that homelessness is governments' failure to implement human rights and it is not about personal failure.
- Any requests they want to make of their government regarding housing during the pandemic and beyond.

You can submit your videos [here](#) or send them to [Kaitlin Schwan](#).

Helping Homeless Students Succeed During COVID-19

CCEH is actively engaged with the State Department of Education in understanding the unique needs of students facing homelessness during the pandemic and we would like to hear from you about your experiences establishing and maintaining connection to students in your district who may be struggling with housing instability. Please outreach to [Carl Asikainen](#) to share your experiences and let us know how we can assist you. Stay tuned for an educational roundtable during December hosted by CCEH.

Winter is Coming: Webinars

National Healthcare for the Homeless Council is launching a November webinar series: "Winter is Coming." Topics of interest to providers include the impacts of flu season, evictions, and civil unrest.

To sign-up for the webinars please click [here](#).

Mattresses Available for Clients Moving into Apartments



Everyone deserves to sleep on a nice cozy bed. We still have mattresses available for your clients! CT REALTORS Foundation has generously donated 100 twin mattresses for clients moving out of the shelter system into permanent housing. Please click [here](#) to submit your requests. Mattresses will be available on a first come, first served basis. Mattresses can be shipped directly to your client's new home. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity.

[PLACE YOUR ORDER](#)

We Are Hiring! Join Our Team

CCEH is hiring! Please spread the word about our search for a Data Project Manager/Business Analyst:

Data Project Manager / Business Analyst

CCEH is seeking an organized, results-driven individual to serve as a Data Project Manager/Business Analyst for CCEH's data and research team. Reporting to the Director of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Strategic Analysis, this position is responsible for managing and ensuring execution of a wide variety of tasks related to data collection and analysis, including through the Connecticut Homeless Management Information System (CT HMIS), relating to programs that serve people experiencing homelessness in Connecticut. This position will be remote during the COVID pandemic.

For the full description, click [here](#).

Get Your Housing Equals Justice Merch!

Yes the ATI is over but our work continues. You can still be a part of our movement by visiting the [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!

Resources for Providers

[Remote Supervision Tips for Homeless System Providers \(HUD\)](#)

[Rapid Rehousing Ramp up \(HUD\)](#)

[Guide to Using the IRS Non-Filers Tool to Get an Economic Impact Payment \(IRS\)](#)

[Governor Lamont Extends Eviction Moratorium To End of 2020](#)

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

[Cleaning Up Your System Performance Measures \(SPMs\)](#)

Thursday, December 3rd
1 P.M. - 2 P.M.

Previously Recorded Webinars

- [Rights of and Resources for the Most Vulnerable Populations](#)
- [Housing Stability for People and their Pets](#)
- [APR Bootcamp](#)
- [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 \(Session 1\)](#)

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

CCEH in the News

[Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness launches *be homeful for the holidays* 2020](#)

FOX 61 | November 2020

[Coalition seeks to end homelessness across Connecticut](#)

CTLatinonews.com | November 2020

[Vietnam War veteran on verge of homelessness finds help from East Haven police, local hotels](#)

Hartford Courant | November 2020



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

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