



CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

A Letter From CCEH's Madeline Ravich



Dear Friends,

The holidays are here! Tonight is the second night of Chanukah and Christmas is just around the corner. We at CCEH are thrilled at the outpouring we have seen this year from people who share our belief that every person should have a home this holiday season. Thanks to all who have supported CCEH this year, and if you haven't yet, there's no time like the present! [Here](#) is the link to donate to CCEH.

I want to send a special thanks to our incredible partners CT REALTORS, who for the fifth year running have not only sponsored our fabulous BE HOMEFUL FOR THE HOLIDAYS campaign, but have also raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to give Paddington bears to children in shelter and keep families housed in the process. The REALTORS have already raised more than \$25,000 this year and are getting ready to deliver our adorable Paddington bears to children in shelters around the state.

And if you are just getting in the holiday spirit, your timing is perfect! You can click [here](#) to donate a bear to a child in shelter in honor of somebody you love. It's a really special way to tell the world that you care about making sure that every child has a home this holiday season.

Thanks to one and all for your passion, compassion, and commitment to ending homelessness in Connecticut, and HAPPY HOLIDAYS on behalf of all of us at CCEH!!!

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Madeline Ravich". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Madeline Ravich
Development Advisor

COVID-19 Test Results

The state of Connecticut continues to see daily increases in the COVID-19 testing positivity rates, surpassing both the probable and confirmed cases since May. In the homeless response system, more than 1,500 tests have been administered and recorded in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) since March. To date, there have been 42 positive cases and no deaths reported; the homeless management response system currently has three positive cases in the state. As the average daily COVID-19 rates rise in nearly every corner of Connecticut, the Eastern, Hartford, and Greater New Haven regions are experiencing the highest levels of COVID-19 cases among emergency shelters, although these areas also have some of the most frequent testing rates among the regions. Mask-wearing, hand-washing, social distancing, and regular testing in shelters continue to be paramount in the battle to contain the coronavirus and the shelters should be commended for their fantastic efforts in keeping those experiencing homeless as safe as possible during these times.

New HMIS Features

Three new features will be available in HMIS effective today: an alert will now display on any client record that is missing a VI-SPDAT, which will notify users that an assessment needs to be completed; income has been added to the 211 intake assessment which will assist CAN staff to quickly and easily see income information; and there is now a report that can be run to see which users are creating duplicate records in the system. For more details, see the Release Notes.

- **Duplicate Clients Created by Users Report**
- **Alert When ES, TLP or Outreach Client Lacks a VI-SPDAT Assessment**
- **Income on CAN Appointment Views**

We continue to encourage shelter providers and their testing provider partners to continue recording test results in HMIS and to reach out to Linda Casey at lcasey@cceh.org with any concerns or challenges.

Vaccinating Critical Workforces



CCEH is working with the state Department of Public Health to ensure homeless services providers are fully included in the state plan for early vaccine access for critical workforces. In early November, we distributed a DPH survey to providers, and in the coming week we are reaching out to agencies that have not yet responded. If you have questions about that process or are unsure whether your agency responded, please contact **David Gonzalez Rice**.

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

The *be homeful* for the holidays campaign has had to adjust our strategy of fundraising due to COVID-19.



However, the **CT REALTORS Association** has continued its support for our mission and has raised more than \$25K! That is an amazing feat considering the circumstances.

You too can be a part of this campaign. Between now and the end of the year, 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 the CT REALTORS Foundation, all donations go directly to help local families.

You can get involved by starting a Bear-Raiser using the link below. To promote your bear-raiser, we are providing you with a **social media toolkit** 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**.

Update on the Point-in-Time Count 2021

As there is not a safe way to mobilizing hundreds of volunteers to conduct the annual Point-in-Time Count, CCEH has had to work with partners to develop a different approach for the January 2021 count. The approach that we have developed will include the usual reporting of HMIS data on sheltered homelessness, but will rely on the expertise and diligence of homeless outreach teams to locate, identify, and report data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. While we are saddened about missing the chance to work alongside so many volunteers, this modified approach may help us to make some long-needed improvements in the coordination and data collection efforts of homeless outreach teams.

To those of you who have donated your time for the Point-in-Time Count in past years, please consider **donating funds** instead or contact us at **info@cceh.org** to find out other ways to support our effort this year.

Seeking Municipalities to Sign On to our 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.

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](#).

CCEH New Staff Page

We recently re-designed the look of our [staff page](#). Come check us out and get to know us by reading our brief biographies. We will love to hear from you.

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

[Shelter Diversion 101 Training](#)

Thursday, December 17th, 2020

1:30 pm-3:30 pm

Previously Recorded Webinars

- **2021 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Training**
- **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**
- **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

Waterford tries to convince last resident of homeless encampment to move out

The Day | December 2020

A Decades-Old Homeless Encampment, Health Concerns and a 'Housing Carousel'

CT Examiner | December 2020

