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Connecticut Prepares to Conduct “COVID-Safe” Point-in-Time Count

Local towns asked to step up to help identify people experiencing homelessness in their communities

Hartford, CT (January 6, 2020) — The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) has partnered with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to ask towns to participate in this year’s Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. Due to COVID-19, the Coalition will not be relying on community volunteers this year. Outreach professionals and municipal staff will instead participate in the PIT Count, completing surveys on clients sleeping out in the cold or in places not meant for human habitation.

This year’s PIT Count will take place January 26, giving outreach staff and municipal employee’s time to complete surveys on unsheltered clients. CCEH is seeking municipal staff to participate by submitting a list of locations in their towns where they have seen people sleeping outside in the past. Participating towns may receive credit for participation in the PIT as part of their Sustainable CT application for certification.

The PIT Count is the largest national homelessness data collection event. The Count is required by Congress and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Data collected through the PIT Count informs future resource allocations for the upcoming year.

Last year’s PIT Count identified 2,904 people who were homeless on the night of the Count, a 4% decline from the prior year. This figure included 1,947 individual adults and 306 family households including 560 children. Data showed a 35% decline since 2007, the lowest count ever recorded in the state of Connecticut.

“It’s a tragedy that people are sleeping outside in January,” said Richard Cho, CEO of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. “Safely collecting data in towns across the state will allow us to fully appreciate the scope of the challenge we have ahead of us.”

Municipalities may be eligible to receive credit for participation in the PIT Count under Sustainable CT’s [*Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention*](#) category, which Sustainable CT, CCM, and CCEH jointly rolled out this January. This new action category outlines specific steps that municipalities may follow to prevent and end homelessness in their region. Sustainable CT, CCEH, and CCM developed the roadmap as part of *My Town Cares*, a CCEH-led campaign for municipalities to end homelessness in Connecticut’s towns and cities. CCEH will provide technical assistance to municipalities participating in this year’s PIT Count, addressing the needs of community residents, and taking steps outlined in the Sustainable CT roadmap.

“CCM is pleased to collaborate with the CCEH and Sustainable CT on the *My Town Cares* initiative,” said Joseph DeLong, CEO of CCM. “This is a tremendous opportunity for our member towns to proactively

prevent and end homelessness within their towns, regions and collectively as a state. Coupled with the Point-in-Time Count, municipal leaders are poised to make a difference in their communities and individuals' lives.”

This year's Point-in-Time Count is made possible with generous support from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing, State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

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