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**Connecticut “COVID-Safe” Point-in-Time Count Taking Place Today**

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

Hartford, CT (January 26, 2020) — The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) has partnered with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to ask towns to join outreach staff in participating 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 Count, completing surveys on clients sleeping out in the cold or in places not meant for human habitation.

The Point-in-Time 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 Point-in-Time Count informs future resource allocations for the upcoming year. Please visit our [PIT page](#) for additional information.

CCEH is taking different approach to counting those experiencing homelessness this year. While previous Point-in-Time Counts have been limited to capturing data on a single night, the organization’s objective is to create an ongoing process for supporting outreach staff and municipal employees in collecting data and connecting clients with services. Outreach workers and municipal staff will be able to utilize the web app designed for the PIT to submit data about unsheltered clients on a year-round basis.

“If there is a silver lining to the COVID-19 crisis, it is the opportunity to engage providers and municipalities in finding better ways to assist clients experiencing homelessness,” said Linda Casey, Director of HMIS and Strategic Research at CCEH. “We are excited to use this year’s PIT as a launchpad for better year-round data collection.”

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.

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. The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Sustainable CT have also been partners in engaging town participation in this year’s event.

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