



## CCEH Weekly Digest

### A Letter From CEO Richard Cho



Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, I wrote to you about how, despite the enormous challenges and crises that we find ourselves in, I remained optimistic about 2021. I would be lying if I said that the events this Wednesday didn't shake up my optimism for this year. I know so many of you are feeling similarly shaken and disturbed by the violent actions at our Capitol, by the double-standard in the enforcement of law, and by the attack on our cherished system of self-government. We condemn this insurrection and those who enabled and fomented it, and hope that those responsible are brought to justice.

At the same time, as I told my colleagues at CCEH, I still remain optimistic about 2021 because our democracy withstood this attack. Our lawmakers in Congress counted the electoral votes and certified the election. The peaceful transition of power is continuing. And our work to uphold the vision of America as a nation where everyone has the opportunity to thrive continues. All of you who work to ensure that everyone in Connecticut has a stable home are helping to fulfill that vision. I remain optimistic because I believe in all of you.

If you need further convincing, just look at all that is in motion:

- COVID-19 vaccine distribution is moving forward and CCEH and its members have been advocating for people experiencing homelessness and the front-line staff who serve them to be prioritized for vaccines. As of now, homeless services staff and clients have been moved up to Priority 1a, just behind healthcare front-line workers. Please stay tuned for further updates.
- Planning for our 2021 **Point-in-Time Count** is moving forward, albeit modified, and holds the promise to provide lessons that can help us obtain year-round data on unsheltered homelessness.
- This week, CCEH, in partnership with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Sustainable CT, formally launched our municipal campaign on homelessness, which is now called **My Town Cares**. We are calling on all of Connecticut's 169 towns and cities to join and take greater action to prevent and end homelessness.
- CCEH is gearing up for this legislative session with a bold and important agenda that seeks to ensure that homeless services are adequately funded, to establish Housing as a Right, and prevent homelessness and housing discrimination for people involved in the criminal justice system. We are so grateful to our members for informing our agenda and look forward to working as a coalition to tell our state leaders that **Housing**

**Equals Justice.**

- Our fifth annual *be homeful for the holidays* campaign has been a tremendous success, with huge credit going to CT REALTORS, who not only sponsored the campaign but also bear-raised \$60,000+ this year that will enable us to continue to divert families with children from shelter. A special thanks too to everybody who bear-raised, including Access Agency, which has shown its commitment year after year through annual bear-raiser drives!

We enter this new year not thinking that the year will be without challenges, but knowing that we can face and overcome them as we have done. In that spirit, we are changing the title of our weekly digest from the 'COVID weekly digest' to the 'CCEH weekly digest' to reflect the strength and resiliency of our coalition, not COVID-19 or any other specific challenges, that should remain in the foreground for the new year and going forward.

We look forward to working with you this year to withstand whatever challenges arise and to deliver on our commitment to making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring for all in Connecticut.

Yours Truly,



**Richard Cho**  
CEO

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## Announcing *My Town Cares*, a Partnership with CCM and Sustainable CT

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My Town  
CARES



We are pleased announce the launch of *My Town Cares*, a campaign CCEH has launched in partnership with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Sustainable CT to engage Connecticut's towns and cities in taking action to address and prevent homelessness in their communities. Connecticut's towns and cities can take steps outlined in Sustainable CT's **Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention** category to end homelessness in their communities, and receive credit for doing so as part of Sustainable CT's 2021 cycle. CCEH will provide technical assistance to participating municipalities, both in taking the actions outlined in the roadmap and in addressing more immediate issues.

Please contact [Carl Asikainen](#) with specific questions about how your town can participate.

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## Point-in-Time 2021 to Take Place on January 26th

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We are pleased to announce this year's Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, which will take place on January 26th. 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.

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 and municipal staff 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.

Outreach providers who missed the January 5th Point-in-Time Count training can watch a recording below. Municipal staff can make their calendar for a training specially tailored to towns and cities on January 19th at 11 am.

To learn more about this year's Point-in-Time Count, please visit our [website](#).



## Point-in-Time 2021

*January 5th Point-in-Time Count Training Video*

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## COVID-19 Vaccine for Homeless Shelter Providers

Connecticut's vaccine advisory group recommends next phase of COVID-19 vaccine distribution include residents and staff of homeless shelters. You can read the news article [here](#).

CCEH continues to advocate for people experiencing homelessness and the staff who serve them in person to be included in CT's Phase 1b. Providers are encouraged to monitor communications from the state closely, as planning and communication around the vaccine can change quickly. Please visit the official State's [website](#).



A special thanks to Deirdre DiCara, Executive Director of **Friends in Service to Humanity of Northwestern Connecticut**, Inc., for submitting comments during the subcommittee's live deliberations on Tuesday!

## *CT REALTORS make be homeful for the Holidays a homerun*



What a year! Thanks to all of you for participating in this year's be homeful for

the holidays campaign, which raised more than \$60,000 through our fifth annual Paddington bear-raiser drive! Just before Christmas, the CT REALTORS Association, who both sponsored and "bear-raised" with gusto, delivered bears to 32 shelters throughout the state. Thank you, both for bringing joy to the faces of children around the state, and for providing much-needed shelter diversion funds to help families remain housed!

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## HMIS: DedicatedPLUS Project

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The By Name List (BNL) will now display a status for clients who are eligible for the new DedicatedPLUS permanent supportive housing project, allowing for quicker identification of these clients. More details can be found in the [Release Notes](#).

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## Sunday Candy: A Concert Just for Fun

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If you are looking for some entertainment this weekend that will support CCEH, we invite you to check out this Sunday Candy concert. Happening Sunday January 10th at 5:00 P.M. Graduates from the Hartt School will hold a virtual benefit conference of family-friendly pop and original music. Click [here](#) to join!



## We Are Hiring! CCEH Seeks Data Project Manager/Business Analyst

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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](#).

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## Resources for Providers

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

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

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

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

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## How You Can Help

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Our providers need your help! This [site](#) includes ways you can join Connecticut's homeless response.

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## Webinars & Additional Guidance

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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

**[Tracking the Unsheltered Homeless Population](#)  
Tuesday, January 19th 11A.M. - 12P.M.**

This webinar is for anyone who wants to report an unsheltered person and does not have access to the statewide homeless management information system, known as CT-HMIS. Identifying those experiencing homelessness in places not meant for human habitation is an essential activity in the effort to end homelessness.

### 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.

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## CCEH in the News

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[Report Finds Thousands Of Connecticut Youth Experienced Homelessness In 2020](#)

WNPR - Where We Live | January 2021

**Radio Interview with CCEH's Carl Asikainen on Youth Homelessness**

WATR - Talk of the Town | January 2021

**For the People Radio Show - Network of Distinction**

WPLR 99.1 FM | January 2021

