



CCEH Weekly Digest

A Letter From CEO Richard Cho

Dear Friends,

On Monday, we will once again celebrate the life, legacy, and vision of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many of us use this day to re-center ourselves around Dr. King's dream of a society where diversity is not only tolerated, but celebrated, a nation that strives not only for equality in law, but in livelihood, and a society that holds together not only in civility, but in love.

This year, of course, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day amidst an utterly disturbing backdrop of events: an armed insurrection and reports of further violence by extremist and white supremacist groups on top of the pandemic of COVID-19, systemic racism, homelessness and rising economic inequality. Some might see this juxtaposition of moments as one of stark contrasts or even as an indication that Dr. King's legacy has failed. How indeed are we to make sense of the legacy of Dr. King when white supremacist groups are on the rise? When our nation seems more divided along racial and ethnic lines than ever? When income equality, poverty, hunger, and homelessness in America are worse than they have ever been?

For my part, I don't see these as contradictions or as indications of a failed legacy. Rather I see this as a reminder that Dr. King's dream—of a nation in which all people are respected and valued, that rejects the idea that people should be hungry or homeless while others have incomprehensible wealth, and of a society grounded in love—was forged at a time of sharp contrasts, divisions, and inequality. And while many of us may be feeling dejected about the state of our nation, we should also remind ourselves how far we have come. Remember that Dr. King and his colleagues were fighting for Black Americans in the South to be able to exercise their basic right to vote. More than fifty years later, Black voters in Georgia came out in full strength both in November and then again in January to turn our nation back towards hope, unity, empathy, and truth. Dr. King's America was full of strife and our America today is still full of strife, but that long moral arc of the universe continues to bend towards justice. Let's also remember that it doesn't bend that way on its own. We all need to put in the work to bend it.

One of the ways that you can help do that is to support our work to advocate to end homelessness and to achieve housing justice. Next week we will share our 2021 Housing Equals Justice legislative advocacy agenda, which includes policy priorities that advance racial justice, economic justice, and criminal justice reform. The agenda includes a justice reinvestment proposal to ensure



that as underutilized prisons are closed, that the resources realized through closures are redirected towards services that assist returning citizens to safely and successfully reenter our communities, especially housing assistance. Coupled with this, we will be re-introducing a bill that prevents people from being denied housing based on their criminal record without having the opportunity to provide other information. In addition, we also will be supporting legislation that will increase funding and compensation for front line homeless services workers, who are disproportionately people of color and who have put their health and lives on the line this past 10 months to serve and protect others.

At the same time that we are advocating at the Capitol, we will be taking our efforts to every corner of the state through our **My Town Cares** municipal campaign, through which we are calling on all 169 towns to play a part in preventing and ending homelessness. In a state as segregated and unequal as Connecticut, the idea that every town has a role to play in ending homelessness is a powerful one. In Dr. King's words, also written from the Birmingham jail:

I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds.

This Monday, let us remember and honor Dr. King and his legacy, not with wishful nostalgia, but by taking up his call to action to "make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."

Yours Truly,



Richard Cho
CEO

CCEH Announces Partnership Focused on Criminal Justice Reinvestment

This Tuesday at 12 P.M., Senator Gary Winfield will be joining ACLU CT, CCEH, SEIU 1199, and Yale Transitions Clinic for a press conference announcing The Justice Reinvestment Coalition, a group of labor, criminal legal system reformers, and community partners who have come together to fight for equity and justice-impacted people in Connecticut through reinvestment of DOC dollars into programs that seek to undo the harms of the criminal legal system.

The press conference will be outlining the coalition's legislative priorities to address justice reform, including CCEH's commitment to the Creation of a 'reentry housing assistance' line item within the Department of Correction

budget and reallocate no less than \$2 million annually to contract with community-based organizations to provide housing-related case management, housing search and navigation, temporary rental assistance, and other basic needs for any inmate assessed as needing reentry housing assistance. This press conference will be made available on [CCEH's Facebook](#) page at **noon on Tuesday**, so please mark your calendars.

The Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. in Our Work

In the past year CCEH has undertaken efforts within the community to develop capacity around racial equity as well as creating an internal Race Equity Taskforce. We have grown to recognize that we need to do more to understand how homelessness affects people of color in regions throughout the state and take action to address issues specific to communities of color. We offer trainings for providers on racial equity as it applies to homelessness and through additional data plans to continue to seek out opportunities to increase our depth of work in this area. Currently we are working to translate some of the pages on our website into Spanish and documents for Spanish speaking clients.

To learn more about resources to address racial inequities in homelessness, visit <https://cceh.org/race-and-equity/>.



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



**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.

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

Please help us spread the word! CCEH is seeking municipal employees in towns across the state to participate in this year's Point-in-Time Count which will take place January 26th. Our objective is to make sure that we have feet on the ground in all 169 Connecticut towns in order to ensure that every person experiencing homelessness is surveyed and connected with services.

Please encourage municipal employees and other volunteers from your town to register for Tuesday's Point-in-Time Count training [here](#). If you are a provider who missed the January 5th training designed for outreach staff with HMIS access, click here to view the training recording [here](#).

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

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 \$70,000 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!

HMIS: DedicatedPLUS Project

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](#).

We Are Hiring!

CCEH is hiring! Please spread the word about our search for this available positions:

The Policy Analyst / Senior Policy Analyst

This position is responsible for supporting the Director of Policy in policy analysis, agenda development, and execution of advocacy efforts to advance the mission of the Housing Equals Justice campaign. The Policy Analyst / Senior Policy Analyst examines federal, state and local policy for opportunities to expand the availability of affordable and supportive housing toward the goal of ensuring that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

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 full descriptions and links to the job postings, click [here](#).

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

[Reporting the Unsheltered Homeless Population for Non-HMIS Users](#) 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.

[PIT 'People Count' Training in the PIT Database](#) Wednesday, January 20th, 1P.M. - 2:00pm

Whether you are new to entering the people who slept in your Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), or hotel/motel, on the night of the Point in Time (PIT) count in the PIT database or just need a refresher on how to navigate the PIT database, join us for this step-by-step informative session.

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

[Towns, cities called on to help in annual homelessness count](#)

The Day | January 2021

[Connecticut prepares for COVID-safe Point-in-Time Count](#)

Middletown Press | January 2021

[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

