



CCEH COVID-19 Response Newsletter

A Letter From CCEH's Roy Graham



Dear Friends,

2020 is nearly at a close and CCEH is incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support this year. The generosity we have seen from donors compelled to make sure that no individual or family remains homeless has been unprecedented and we are moved by the support and compassion.

But as we near the end of this year, we are acutely aware of the work we have ahead of us. On behalf of the youth team and all of us at CCEH, I am proud to share with you our 2020 Youth Outreach and Count Report, which shows how many young people are in need of our help. In fact, our data, which we collected last January, told us that nearly 2,500 youth would

experience literal homelessness in 2020, including 696 minors, and that more than 5,000 youth would experience housing instability. Of course, we collected this data before COVID-19, so the scale of the crisis may be even greater by now. Regardless, we have a major challenge on our hands.

As upsetting as all this is, there is good news to share. I am proud to serve as CCEH's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project Coordinator because of the opportunity I have every day to help young people solve their housing crises. In this role, which was first funded by a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2018, I have had the opportunity to chart out a vision for meeting the housing needs of youth between the ages of 18 and 24. At the time we received our original grant, our state had identified 250 youth waiting for housing resources, including many who had been waiting to be connected with housing resources for 90 days or more.

To address the needs of these youth and others in similar positions, we secured funding for emergency financial assistance for shelter diversion, rapid exit, and rapid re-housing, to hire Youth Navigators with the capacity to administer these funds, and to ensure the availability of crisis housing dedicated solely to youth. The vision of the program was to provide low-barrier, individualized, and quick access to housing assistance and services for young people, in order to support them in re-connecting whenever possible with natural supports including family and employment and to provide them with the necessary tools to maintain stability and well-being.

So where do we go from here? Two years later, this program is no longer in

pilot phase; it is a full-grown program which has more than halved the number of youth at any given time working through housing crises, and reduced the number of youth who have been in this situation for more than 90 days to 27 of the hardest cases. Key to this success has been the many partners across the state who have worked tirelessly to assist youth, including peer-led groups such as the Youth Action Hub.

And what comes next? In January, CCEH will be rolling out a roadmap for actions to end homelessness in partnership with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and Sustainable CT. We are going to be looking to towns to help us connect with youth in need of assistance. If you know a youth experiencing homelessness, contact me at rgraham@cceh.org.

Before closing out this letter to all of you, I should mention that if you are inspired to support our work, you can still do so at cceh.org/donate, or support the *be homeful for the holidays* campaign at behomeful.org/bhh-2020.

On behalf of all of us at CCEH, wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday. May 2021 bring stable housing to everybody, young and young of heart.

Yours Truly,



Roy Graham
Youth Special Projects Coordinator

NOW AVAILABLE 2020 Youth Outreach and Count Report

CCEH is pleased to share the results of the 2020 Youth Outreach and Count. Earlier this year, CCEH and our partners enlisted 250 volunteers in surveying homeless and unstably housed youth throughout the state. Based on results of the survey and extrapolated data, we estimated that nearly 2,500 youth, including 696 minors, would experience literal homelessness in Connecticut in 2020.



To read the entire report please click [here](#).

Special thanks to our sponsors for making this report possible.



HELP US END HOMELESSNESS IN CT

Make your Year-End Gift Today!



It's hard to believe that 2020 is nearly at a close! It's not too late to make your donation at cceh.org/donate.

You can also still donate to be homeful for the holidays! This week, our friends CT REALTORS have been busy delivering adorable Paddington plushes to children in shelters throughout the state. We are so excited for kids to meet their new friends! But even more importantly, thanks to the leadership of CT REALTORS, we are close to raising \$50,000 through the campaign--- more than double our original goal, and enough to prevent almost fifty families from becoming homeless in the first place.

Help us cross the finish line by donating today at behomeful.org/give.

[Donate to CCEH](#)

[Donate to be homeful](#)

HAPPENING TODAY

Webinar on Vaccines for Clients and Staff

The National Health Care for the Homeless Council is hosting a webinar today at 1 p.m. on the many questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. This discussion will identify the main challenges to vaccinating the HCH community, the strategies needed to ensure a successful vaccination campaign, and the immediate action steps to consider in order to be prepared.

Please click [here](#) to register.

TAKE ACTION

Tell Congress to Prioritize Homelessness

The White House, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are in the process of drafting the next COVID-19 stimulus bill. The current COVID-19 relief bill, includes \$25 billion for rental assistance to prevent additional people from becoming homeless. However, the only thing worse than being at risk of homelessness during a pandemic is actually being homeless during a pandemic. That's why we must reach out to Congress today and urge them to ensure that the next round of COVID-19 relief includes additional funds specifically for the nation's already over-worked but under-resourced homelessness system as well as much-needed rental assistance.



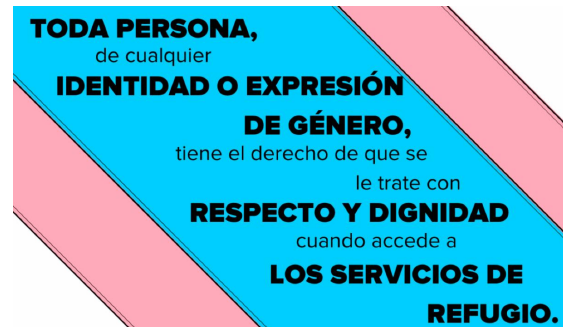
Please follow this [link](#) to email Senators Murphy and Blumenthal and your

Congressperson to urge them to please not forget the need for additional homelessness funding.

EQUAL ACCESS ALERT

Know Your Rights Postcards Available

CCEH is proud to partner with GLAD, legal services organizations, and LGBTQ+ Health and Human Services Network to ensure equal access and dignity for transgender people served by the CT Homeless Response System. With the cold weather quickly approaching, we want to remind everyone that shelter access cannot be denied based on gender identity or transgender status.



Please hang these postcards at your shelter or housing site. Click the image to download.

Por favor cuelgue estas postales en su lugar de trabajo. Hagale clic a la imagen para descargar.

If you would like physical copies of the Know Your Rights postcards please contact [Giovanna Shay](#) of Greater Hartford Legal Aid or [Chris Erchull](#) of GLAD.

- [Emergency Shelter Letter](#)
- [Abridged Shelter Letter](#)

Thank you for your commitment to providing shelter, protection, and dignity to all those in need! If you have any other questions please contact [Sarah Fox](#).

UPDATE FOR PROVIDERS

New RRH and Rapid Exit Resources Available

Please click [here](#) to review updated direction from the Department of Housing, regarding administration and documentation requirements for Rapid Rehousing and Rapid Exit resources.

NEW FROM NAEH

Results from Provider Survey

National Alliance to End Homelessness' has surveyed providers across the country since the pandemic began. Their most recent reports highlights shifts in housing strategies, staffing shortages, and resource needs.

Please click [here](#) to access the report.

AVAILABLE NOW 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.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT UPDATE New Approach for January 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.

CALLING ALL MUNICIPALITIES Support Offered to CT Towns

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.

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 STILL AVAILABLE Order Now for Clients Moving into Homes



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](#).

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA Get Your Housing Equals Justice Merch!

You can 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-Fileers 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

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 \(Session 1\)**](#)

CCEH in the News

Pandemic winter sends Stamford homeless shelter into work mode

The Stamford Advocate | December 2020

Greater New Haven 'all hands-on' digging out after storm blasts region

New Haven Register | December 2020

Is Diversion the Right Way to 'Defund' the Police?

thecrimereporter.org | December 2020

Curt Leng Preps For Holidays

New Haven Independent | December 2020

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

