



Establishing a Right to Housing in Connecticut

Housing insecurity and homelessness negatively impact both individuals and communities:

- At most recent count, 2,904 individuals were homeless in Connecticut, and 124,000 renters contribute more than half of their income to rent.
- Housing insecurity and homelessness are associated with declines in physical and mental health, barriers to employment, developmental issues in children, and increased mortality.
- In addition to these personal impacts, communities with high levels of housing insecurity and homelessness suffer from decreased access to healthcare, increased crime, and depressed employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing disparities in access to housing:

- Even before the pandemic, people of color and people with disabilities were disproportionately impacted by housing insecurity; since the pandemic, Black and Latinx households have faced eviction and foreclosure at even higher rates, despite some protections offered by eviction moratoria.
- Over 45,000 Connecticut renters are likely to face eviction in the next two months, and over 110,000 are behind on rent.
- Eviction, whether from an apartment or a tent puts ALL Connecticut residents at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 and not having enough hospital beds when they are needed.

Establishing a right to housing would ensure the proper response to both preexisting and pandemic-related housing issues:

- Committing the state to progressively implement policies to respect, protect, and fulfill a right to affordable, decent, safe, and stable housing could prevent the most serious consequences of housing insecurity and homelessness.
- Such a commitment would require state agencies to consider protection from housing loss, the right to safe housing that meets all basic needs, housing affordability, rehousing assistance, and recognition of special circumstances contributing to housing insecurity when implementing policies.
- Establishing the right to housing provide added impetus for housing initiatives such as providing counsel to those facing eviction and foreclosure, funding homelessness response systems, lessening the impact of criminal and eviction history on housing access, and ending exclusionary zoning.

All Connecticut residents deserve safe, affordable housing that meets their human needs and allows them and their communities to flourish!