Local Efforts to Address and Prevent Homelessness

February 4, 2021
Presenters

**Alyssa Norwood**  
*Program Manager, Certification and Innovation*  
Sustainable CT

**Madeline Ravich**  
*Development Advisor*  
CT Coalition to End Homelessness

**Carl Asikainen**  
*Program Manager of Field Mobilization*  
CT Coalition to End Homelessness

**Adam Sendroff**  
*Community Development Manager*  
Town of Hamden

**Lee-Ann Gomes**  
*Director*  
Norwich Human Services

**Tammy DeFrancesco**  
*Director*  
Guilford Social Services
What is Sustainable CT?

Road Map
A menu of coordinated, voluntary actions to promote sustainability

Resources
Support – including technical and financial – to help communities implement actions

Certification
Recognizing communities for their sustainability achievements

Flexibility
Meeting the needs of all communities – urban and rural, big and small

Livability
More sustainable, efficient, healthy, safe, resilient, thriving communities
Sustainable CT Founding Partners, Funders, and Board
Municipal Participation

Certification Program Statistics

- Total Registered: 117
- Certified: 61
- Bronze Certified: 42
- Silver Certified: 19
Principles for Action Inclusion in Sustainable CT

**Developed by the Municipal Certification Committee from the 2017 Working Group criteria used to determine whether an action should be considered for inclusion in Sustainable CT**

- **Collaboration**: The action enables/encourages multi-town collaboration.
- **Multisolving**: The action generates multiple, co-existing benefits. Those benefits may extend to other categories of Sustainable CT.
- **Equity**: The action has the potential to reduce disparities for the most marginalized populations while improving well-being for all.
- **Policy Alignment**: The action aligns with state goals.
- **Measurement**: There are reliable existing or easily obtainable data indicators available to measure progress over time.
- **Applicability/Replicability**: The action is applicable to and easily replicable for most towns (small/large, rural/urban).
- **Forward-Looking**: The action is forward-looking (e.g., awards points for something framed in the positive, rather than ban).

*Actions included in Sustainable CT should meet all or most of these guiding principles, with flexibility in the discretion of Sustainable CT staff, who will collaborate with thought leaders to help make determinations.*
Homelessness Prevention Action Development Process

- **2019**
  - CCM Homelessness Prevention Task Force sets vision

- **2020**
  - Working Group (WG) meeting #1: Action selection
  - SCT + CCEH work on action draft development
  - SCT staff refine drafts with CCEH feedback
  - Collect ongoing stakeholder feedback at CCEH Annual Training Institute and conference

- **2021**
  - Integration with Sustainable CT and municipal support from CCEH
  - My Town Cares and Sustainable CT action roadmap released
Process and Key Themes

Feedback Process

- CCM Survey
- CAN Input
- Municipal Working Group Input
- Sustainable CT Feedback

Actions

- Public awareness and support
- Shared Data
- Service Coordination
- Strengthened Town Capacity
- Mobilized Resources
- Better Outcomes
Sustainable CT Action Roadmap

1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts
2. Thriving Local Economies
3. Well-Stewarding Land and Natural Resources
4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems
5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning
6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices
7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations
8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Eduction
9. Strategic Materials Management
10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities
11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing
12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention
13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

2021 Bronze Certification Requirements
Complete 1 Equity Toolkit in Action Optimize for Equity.

2021 Silver Certification Requirements
Complete at least 1 action in each of the categories (1-11).
Successfully complete actions totaling 200 or more points.

2021 Silver Certification Requirements
Complete at least 1 action in each of the categories (1-11).
Successfully complete actions totaling 400 or more points.
# Homelessness Prevention Actions

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12. EFFECTIVE, COMPASSIONATE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12.1 Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness</td>
<td>5-15 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.2 Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness</td>
<td>5-30 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.3 Collect and Share Homelessness Data</td>
<td>5 pts</td>
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<td>12.4 Coordinate Municipal Services to Address Homelessness</td>
<td>5 pts</td>
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<td>12.5 Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness</td>
<td>5-20 pts</td>
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<td>12.6 Improve Outcomes for People Experiencing Homelessness</td>
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NEW CATEGORY!

12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention will be required for certification beginning 2022.

It is currently eligible for points.
2021: Pilot/Collaborate/Learn/Refine

CCEH conducts outreach, provides training and other technical assistance to municipalities.

Diverse stakeholders inform ongoing action development and refinement.

SCT + CCEH analyze spring submissions and share lessons learned.

August 24, noon: Deadline for Sustainable CT fall application review.

Identify and share municipal success stories.

Finalize action roadmap refinements for 2021.

Municipalities work on actions and provide feedback to CCEH and SCT.

April 6, noon: Deadline for Sustainable CT spring application review.

Municipalities work on actions and provide feedback to CCEH and SCT.
Core Components of the CT Homeless Response System

Carl Asikainen  
Program Manager of Field Mobilization  
CT Coalition to End Homelessness

Madeline Ravich  
Development Advisor  
CT Coalition to End Homelessness
Homelessness in America

• “How many people experience homelessness in America?” is a hard question to answer.

• Single-night estimates vs. annual estimates
  • Single-night: over 560,000 people
  • Annual: 1.4 million people

• Sheltered vs. unsheltered

• ‘Homeless’ vs. ‘unstably housed’

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Significant Racial Disparities in Homelessness

*For CT the Black/African American population is 10.72% but 34% of the Homeless population

Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness
Underlying Principles of Current Approach to Ending Homelessness

**Everyone is “houseable”** – Research has shown that with the right level of support, everyone can achieve housing stability and be a successful tenant regardless of service needs like mental illness or addiction.

**Housing First** – The belief that housing is a basic necessity that must be prioritized before an individual can pursue other personal goals and work towards improving their quality of life.

**Interventions should be tailored** – People who experience homelessness are diverse and have a range of service needs. Some people need intensive services and/or long-term rental assistance, while others do not. Responses to homelessness need to employ a range of interventions and tailor those interventions to needs.

**Ending homelessness requires working at a “systems” level** – Homelessness can be ended (made ‘rare, brief, and non-recurring’) if states and communities create a system that can ensure that all people experiencing homelessness are identified and provided tailored levels of assistance to connect them to permanent housing.
On January 21, 2020, volunteers participating in Connecticut’s Point-in-Time Count and identified 2,904 people experiencing homelessness, a 4% decrease since 2019 and a 35% decrease since 2007.
CT’s Coordinated Homeless Response System Works

The use of emergency shelters and transitional housing has declined by 50% decline in since 2012.
Connecticut’s Homeless Crisis Response System

Outreach plays the critical role of ensuring those outdoors or unlikely to use the 211 process are put on the By-Name List.

Conduct Next Step Tool when/if appropriate, which adds client to By-Name List.

Begin identifying clients who are Chronically Homeless.

Mainstream

Diverted

Self-resolved

Rapid Re-Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing

Housing Placement Meetings
Key Principles of Coordinated Access

• **Using a Housing First approach**, which removes barriers to help homeless individuals obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible, without unnecessary prerequisites.

• Coordinating outreach efforts to identify and engage every individual experiencing homelessness and focus outreach efforts on achieving housing outcomes.

• Developing CAN By-Name Lists to prioritize the most vulnerable individuals using the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).

• Closely monitoring progress toward the goal, including the success of programs achieving permanent housing outcomes.

• Aligning housing and supportive service resources to ensure that everyone can ultimately have a safe, stable place to call home.

• Reducing barriers to quickly move people experiencing homelessness into housing.

• Collaboration and cooperation among state agencies, over 200 programs, and other stakeholders committed to ending homelessness.
About My Town Cares

• Launched in partnership with CCM and Sustainable CT
• Leadership from Mayors Homelessness Prevention Task Force
• Provides roadmap for towns to address and end homelessness locally

1. Build awareness
2. Strengthen own Services
3. Collect Data
4. Coordinate with “CAN”
5. Mobilize Resources
6. Improve Outcomes
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action 1: Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Town resolution</td>
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<td>• Resources website</td>
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<td>• Community forum</td>
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<tr>
<th>Action 2: Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Town point-person</td>
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<td>• Municipal task force</td>
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<th>Action 3: Collect and Share Homelessness Data</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Unsheltered data</td>
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<th>Action 4: Coordinate Municipal Services To Address Homelessness</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Coordination between municipal workforce and Coordinated Access Network</td>
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<th>Action 5: Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Crowdfunding for statewide/regional shelter diversion/rapid exit</td>
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<td>• Safe access to services</td>
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<td>• Identify/coordinate funding/resources</td>
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<th>Action 6: Improve Outcomes for People Experiencing Homelessness</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Step TBA (future steps will focus on decriminalization of homelessness and connections with systems including healthcare and criminal justice)</td>
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Examples from Cities and Towns:

Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention
My Town CARES

Adam Sendroff
Town of Hamden
Community Development Manager
Hamden Overnight Warming Center

Jan. 4 - Feb. 28
7 nights a week
7:00pm to 7:00am
Breakthrough Church
481 Shelton Avenue
Entrance in rear on Butler Street

Hamden Overnight Warming Center for Those Experiencing Homelessness in Our Community

CLEAN - SAFE - INDOOR SPACES - SNACKS - HOT BEVERAGES

The Warming Center will be staffed by Columbus House employees who can also connect clients to shelters and services. Beds will not be available. Donations such as non-perishable, pre-wrapped snack food, fruits and beverages can be dropped off at the Keefe Community Center (11 Pine Street, Hamden) between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm. Donations of new socks, new underwear, gloves, and hats are also welcome.

For more information please call 203-461-4400 ext.464 during business hours of 8am-4pm.
Tammy DeFrancesco
Town of Guilford
Guilford Social Services
Next Steps

- Technical Assistance Office Hours
  - Municipalities: Beginning Tuesdays, February 9th, 1pm-2pm
  - Providers: Beginning Tuesdays, February 9th, 2:30pm-3:30pm

CCEH continues ongoing communication with CAN level partners to target outreach and working with social service networks to message broadly

- Attend next month’s featured ‘My Town Cares’ training
Questions?

My Town Cares:  
casikainen@cceh.org

CAN  
Coordination/Outreach Questions:  
dgrice@cceh.org

Web App/Survey Questions:  
data@cceh.org

For any additional questions:  
training@cceh.org