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Annual Volunteer Census Counts Just Under 3,000 Homeless on a Single Night
Census shows progress before the pandemic

Hartford, CT (August 06, 2020) — The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness has released the results of the 2020 Point-in-Time Count, the annual volunteer census of the homeless population which takes place every January. Volunteers counted 2,904 people staying in shelter or on the streets the night of January 23rd, four percent fewer people experiencing homelessness counted than last year.

Close to 600 volunteers joined together to canvass local census blocks in teams to identify people experiencing homelessness. Data showed that at the time Connecticut was continuing a downward trend in homelessness, with overall homelessness decreasing by 4%, homelessness among single adults declining by 6%, and veteran homelessness declining by 8%. Findings also included a slight 1% increase in family homelessness. The Youth Outreach & Count results, a separate census for youth 13-24 that is held the week following the PIT, will be released in a separate report.

“These results are a testament to the hard work and dedication of Connecticut’s homeless providers, who have worked tirelessly to house clients experiencing or facing homelessness,” said Department of Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno. “We owe a special thanks as well to the hundreds of volunteers who turned out for the count in the brutal morning cold.”

“The 2020 Point-in-Time Count results show that the investment the State of Connecticut has made to reduce homelessness is working,” said Department of Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno. “This count, however, was completed before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Department of Housing will continue to make the needed resources available to respond to this pandemic and to reach its ultimate goal of ending homelessness.”

“We applaud the work of our Connecticut partners in achieving a 35 percent decline in homelessness since 2007,” said David Tille, HUD New England Regional Administrator. “Connecticut has been an innovative leader in their work to end homelessness, we applaud their efforts and look forward to continuing our work together.”

Of particular note is the 42.5% decrease in unsheltered chronically homeless persons. “This report outlines the dedication and good work of the housing and homeless service providers throughout CT and illustrates some very encouraging trends,” said Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittman of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. “We still have work to do, but this year’s PIT shows that we have been on a positive course.”

“These numbers show a continued trajectory of success in reducing homelessness before the arrival of the public health emergency,” said Richard Cho, CEO of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. “COVID-19 has brought new challenges, but also additional resources to Connecticut’s homeless response system. We now have an opportunity and a responsibility to use these resources to ensure that all individuals and families have a stable home where they can stay safe.”

The Point-in-Time Count is the largest national data collection event on homelessness. The Count is required by Congress and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to collect one of the data sources used to measure the national prevalence of homelessness, assess community approaches in addressing homelessness, and to determine future resource allocations for the upcoming year.

This year’s Point-in-Time Count was made possible with generous support from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing, State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Staff and volunteers from Access Community Action Agency, BH Care, Capital Region Mental Health Center, Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Columbus House, Inc., The Connection, Inc., Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Emerge, Inc., Hartford Healthcare, Inspirica, Inc., Journey Home, Mid Fairfield AIDS Project, Recovery Network of Programs, Salvation Army Waterbury, Supportive Housing WORKS, United Way of Southeastern CT, and Windham No Freeze coordinated the volunteer effort with support and coordination from the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

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