CONNECTICUT'S HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM
Frequently Asked Questions

CT CAN END HOMELESSNESS

What is a homeless response system?

A homeless response system is a term that represents the various organizations or providers within a geographical area that serve homeless individuals and families. The goals of an effective homeless response system are to identify those experiencing homelessness, prevent homelessness, when possible, connect people with housing quickly and provide services when needed.

What is a homeless shelter?

Homeless shelters are a type of homeless service agency which provide temporary residence for homeless individuals and families.

What types of services do homeless shelters provide?

Services may include access to case workers, meals, access to laundry facilities, or support groups.

What is the difference between a day shelter and night shelter?

The obvious difference between night and day shelters is that a day shelter will not offer a bed to the individuals who use the services. Day shelters serve as drop-in sights for people experiencing literal homelessness, offering basic needs, and a variety of services to connect people to shelter, housing, and income assistance.

What does diversion mean?

Shelter Diversion is a strategy that prevents individuals and families from entering the homelessness response system, by identifying immediate alternative housing arrangements, and if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

The intent of diversion is to give someone who has become homeless a positive alternative to entering emergency shelter or being unsheltered.

What does prevention mean?

Homelessness prevention activities are designed to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation.

What is a Coordinated Access Network (CAN)?

Coordinated Access is designed to screen and assess all those in need, to determine what type of housing assistance might best be suited for them.

What is outreach?

Effective street outreach reaches people who might not otherwise seek assistance or come to the attention of the homelessness service system and ensures that people's basic needs are met while supporting them along pathways toward housing stability.

Contact Us: CEO Evonne Klein at eklein@cceh.org and COO Sarah Fox at sfox@cceh.org

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What is rapid re-housing?

Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families that don't need intensive and ongoing supports to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is offered without preconditions — like employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety — and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household.

What is permanent supportive housing?

Supportive Housing combines affordable housing, most often through a rental subsidy, with intensive yet flexible support services. These services focus on housing-based case management, or assisting the tenant reintegrate into the community by teaching him/her the basic skills of tenancy.

What is CAN backbone operations and oversight?

Agencies coordinating the homeless response system's front end, including Journey Home, New Opportunities, The Housing Collective (formerly Supportive Housing Works), Thames Valley Council for Community Action (TVCCA), and United Way of Greater New Haven are responsible for leading the regional partnerships to end homelessness, maximizing efficiencies, and overseeing a standardized method for accessing housing/homeless services from the point that a household experiences homelessness to the point that they are again stably housed.

What are CAN Hubs?

CAN Hubs are locations set up in each of the 7 Coordinated Access Networks where people experiencing literal homelessness receive more localized assistance. Through these hubs, CANs will be able to address the needs of people living in unsheltered situations and unable to navigate the existing homeless response system.

How is the Homeless Response System funded now?

The Homeless Response System is funded with state and federal dollars. State Agencies, such as DOH, DMHAS, DSS have funding for the homeless response system in some line items. The Cold Weather Emergency Response funding is largely comprised of funding from individual contributions and Covid relief.

How many people are homeless in Connecticut?

Approximately 4600 individuals. This number includes minor children and youth.

As a State Legislator how can I help CT's Homeless Response System?

By meeting with homeless system providers in your district, familiarizing yourself with the 2023 CT CAN End Homelessness Legislative Agenda and voting ***yes*** on Rescuing Connecticut's Homeless Response System.

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