

RESCUE THE HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM FACT SHEET—Fund the Coordinated Access Network (CAN)



The Current Situation

Connecticut's Homeless Response System has been historically underfunded. The pandemic and the increase in homelessness in our state, **up 39%** this year, has put added pressure on an already overstressed system. The work of the CANs, and their non-profit partners, is more critical than ever.

**By-Name-List Version 1 (BNL V.1) 2021-2022*

What is a Coordinated Access Network (CAN)?

Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) are the backbone of Connecticut's homeless response system. The state's seven CANS provide the staffing, coordination and accountability needed to operate a fully functioning homeless response system, providing people in need of housing with a singular access point to essential and timely homeless services.

CANs work to:

- ⇒ Quickly identify and engage with people experiencing homelessness
- ⇒ Divert people to housing solutions that allow them to avoid shelter
- ⇒ Provide immediate access to emergency shelter and crisis services
- ⇒ Help people secure and maintain long-term stable housing

The Need

The Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) now face a fiscal cliff: federal pandemic funds will disappear in June and the Department of Housing's discretionary use of Community Investment Account funds to support the CANs is unreliable. As the glue that holds the homeless response system in place, CANs need an annual, stable and permanent source of funding.

Budget Request

CT CAN End Homelessness requests **\$50 million**, of which **\$5.95 million annually** is to be added to the Department of Housing/Homeless Services line item to provide critical staff infrastructure support to CANs and the call center.

The Benefits

- ⇒ CANs are crucial to keeping families out of shelter, reducing costs in the homeless response system and increasing housing stability for CT families.
- ⇒ In 2022, 211 fielded **382,825** calls related to Housing & Shelter (ct.211counts.org), of which **39,318** were referred to CANs (cceh.org/ct-can-data).
- ⇒ In 2022, of 28,179 CAN appointments attended, 10,379 (or **36.83%**) appointments resulted in diversion from shelter with security deposits, rental assistance, mediation, and services (cceh.org/ct-can-data).
- ⇒ Savings to the State: Homelessness currently costs the state **\$100+ million** a year.
- ⇒ It is **2x** more expensive for an individual to be homeless than housed and **5x** more expensive for a family.
- ⇒ Reduction in chronic homelessness, which costs the state **79% more**, due to high-cost emergency health care and public mental health services, and cycling rapidly through various public institutions at a high cost to taxpayers.
- ⇒ Housing stability = employment stability, contributing to our state's economic vitality.

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

