

# RESCUE THE HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM



## CT CAN END HOMELESSNESS IS SEEKING A LIFELINE FOR THE HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Connecticut is facing unprecedented challenges in our effort to prevent and end homelessness. Our lifesaving and stability restoring system is overburdened, historically underfunded, and confronting a workforce shortage that threatens the state-wide safety net we provide. Rescuing the Homeless Response System, and the critical services it delivers, requires reliable and consistent funding every year.

**The effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic remain acute for our state's Homeless Response System.** Homelessness has grown significantly, since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Our data since the onset of the pandemic reveals:

**39%** ↑

increase in people experiencing homelessness from 2020 to 2022.

**56%** ↑

increase in calls to 2-1-1, the call center for the homeless response system, with **114,949 calls** seeking housing assistance and shelter.

**30%** ↑

increase in unsheltered households served by street outreach since 2019.

**82%** ↑

increase in CAN Appointments made for families, individuals, and youth at imminent risk of homelessness since 2019.

## HOMELESSNESS IN CT

Residents in all

**169**

Connecticut cities and towns benefit from the homeless response system.

**7,832**

Individuals, families and youth were served by emergency shelters, transitional housing and street outreach in FY 2022.

**2,000**

Individuals served by the life-saving Cold Weather Emergency Response Program on any given night.

### Source Information

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

211 Data: <https://ct.211counts.org>

CAN Data: [ctcandata.org](http://ctcandata.org)

We need the Administration and Legislature **TO TAKE ACTION**. Fully funding homeless response organizations and frontline staff is critical to addressing the increased need we are seeing across the state and preventing and ending homelessness.

## Homelessness Exists In Every Community Across The State.

**7,832 people experienced homelessness in Connecticut in 2022, including:**

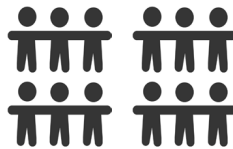
**2,105**

Families



**1,225**

Children



**5,727**

Individuals



*Source: HUD Annual Performance Report (APR) by program type (ES, SO, TH), FY 2022*

## CT CAN End Homelessness Legislative Priorities

Rescuing the Homeless Response System, and the critical services it delivers, requires reliable, consistent funding every year. **The legislature should invest \$50,000,000 to Rescue the Homeless Response System.**

- ⇒ **\$37,046,452** to address chronic underfunding of homeless response nonprofits and to ensure adequate wages for frontline homeless response workers.
- ⇒ **\$5.95 million annually** in the DOH Housing/Homeless Services line for Coordinated Access Network infrastructure. As an emergency response system, we need stable and permanent funding to support our infrastructure.
- ⇒ **\$5 million annually** in the DOH Housing/Homeless Services line for the annual Cold Weather Emergency Response Program.
- ⇒ **\$2 million annually** in the DOH Housing/Homeless Services line for a Flexible Funding Subsidy Pool to subsidize housing and provide flexible assistance.