

ANNUALIZED CAN BACKBONE INFRASTRUCTURE



Stable funding for CAN backbone agencies is essential for maintaining a responsive, effective homeless system, ensuring every individual's journey towards stable housing is supported.

CAN backbone agencies are critical to the leadership of the emergency Homeless Response System because they effectively organize the system of care. However, they are funded primarily with one-time or temporary resources, and they need a reliable, annualized source of funding.

To prevent system interruptions and maximize performance in a system that responds to the greatest need, **Connecticut must invest \$2M to be annualized** in the DOH Housing/Homeless Services line item for CAN Backbone support organizations.

The state's seven Coordinate Access Networks (CAN) provide people in need of housing with a centralized access point to essential and timely homeless services. Connecticut's CAN system has been credited with supporting our two nationally-recognized continuums of care, Balance of State (BoS) and Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC).

Day-to-day, CAN backbone agencies provide the staffing, coordination, and accountability needed to operate a fully functioning homeless response system. These agencies coordinate across all the state's Coordinated Access Networks (CANs). They are responsible for accelerating progress, setting goals, and tracking progress across the state.

CANs quickly identify and engage with people experiencing homelessness and either help them manage their housing emergency safely or provide immediate access to emergency shelter and crisis services. Ultimately, this helps people handle their housing crisis by helping them reach secure and long-term stable housing. Without stable funding, Connecticut's emergency homeless response will struggle to maintain the level of effectiveness we have already achieved.

