

CT CAN END HOMELESSNESS IS SEEKING TO CODIFY THE CONNECTICUT INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS (ICH).



Governor Lamont recently established an Interagency Council on Homelessness, responsible for collaborating on a multi-agency approach to strengthen homelessness prevention and response efforts. CT CAN End Homelessness is seeking to establish the permanency of the Interagency Council on Homelessness in state statute.

An interagency council will:

- **Ensure that national best practices are followed**, with input people who are currently or formerly unhoused, service providers, partners, advocates, and state agency leadership. People who have experienced homelessness have critical knowledge, skills, and abilities to inform and lead systems improvement efforts and should be respected, engaged, and compensated accordingly.
- **Prioritize explicitly anti-racist policies and culturally specific services** to redress the disparate impact of homelessness on communities of color, LGBTQIA+ youth, and other marginalized communities and to prevent and end homelessness for all.
- **Transform state agency relationships with local communities** to achieve the local outcomes necessary to our statewide goals and efficiently coordinate human-centered, evidence-based approaches to solving homelessness. When we prioritize the safety and well-being of people experiencing homelessness and severe housing instability, we ensure the safety, health, and thriving of all of Connecticut's residents.

The Interagency Council will be responsible for providing leadership in the development and implementation of Connecticut's policies and programs, and for promoting effective interagency collaboration and system integration, driving progress toward preventing and ending homelessness.

These responsibilities include:

- Coordinating an annual, state-wide needs assessment and planning process to identify, prioritize, and target the need for services throughout Connecticut. The needs assessment shall take into account existing data, including the number of LGBTQ and homeless youth, as well as input from at least one public hearing held annually.
- Preparing and submitting to the Governor an annual update based on existing data and community input that reviews the strategic plan, changes in the landscape, and an assessment of the need for services among subpopulations and details the resources and strategies needed to support the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Making recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly in relation to providing oversight that will ensure accountability, results, and sustained success.

