

A detailed historical map of Southern New England, showing parts of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The map is color-coded with various shades of pink, yellow, and green, likely representing different administrative regions or land ownership. Major cities and towns are labeled in black text, including Boston, Providence, Hartford, Springfield, and New Haven. The map also shows the coastline, major rivers, and surrounding bodies of water like Long Island Sound and Narragansett Bay. The title "Towns Committed to Solving Homelessness" is overlaid in large white text, and the date "Wednesday, May 21st, 2025" is at the bottom.

Towns Committed to Solving Homelessness

Wednesday, May 21st, 2025

Panelists

- Sarah Gallagher, Town of Hamden
- First Selectwoman Jen Tooker, Town of Westport
- Mayor Lauren Garrett, Town of Hamden
- Joe DeLong, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities
- Helen McAlinden, Homes with Hope
- Rachel Merva, All-In for Milford
- Jamie Rude, All-In for Milford
- Carol Martin, Westport Housing Authority

BUILDING HOPE

40 years of a suburban community's
support for the homeless

Sasco Creek



Hales Court

Town of Hamden Right to Housing Ordinance

Local Challenges:

- Housing costs rising, incomes not keeping up
- Shortage of affordable/deeply affordable housing, most affordable housing built prior to 1980
- Homelessness is rising
- Structural & historical racism leading to segregation, housing instability and higher rates of evictions for BIPOC
- Addressing Newhall foundations
- Revaluation taking effect this year





What We Do

- We make it possible for diverse communities to support each other's work and collaborate to address the effects of income and wealth inequality, in a short- and long-term way.
- We educate ourselves and each other on our city's history in all its dimensions and open up the world of policy and governance so residents can claim our rightful place in the decisions that affect our lives.
- We foster efforts to make it possible for everyone to have access to housing, food, and other essentials.





Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

CCM is the state's largest, nonpartisan organization of municipal leaders, representing towns and cities of all sizes from all corners of the state, with 168 member municipalities.

We come together for one common mission — to improve everyday life for every resident of Connecticut. We share best practices and objective research to help our local leaders govern wisely. We advocate at the state level for issues affecting local taxpayers. And we pool our buying power to negotiate more cost-effective services for our communities.

Efforts to Address Homelessness, Housing Access and Affordability in Hamden



- CDBG Supportive Housing Fund
- Advancing Supportive and Affordable Housing
 - CIF and partnership with CAN
- Fair Rent Commission Improvements
- \$1 million ARPA allocation to homelessness response system
- Social Worker Positions in the Library and the Police Department
- Rent Registry Ordinance and new housing position in Planning and Zoning
- Zoning Updates related to Accessory Dwelling Units
- Legislative Council Resolution declaring housing a human right

Hamden Legislative Council Resolution Declaring Housing as a Human Right



- Declare Housing as a Human Right
- Maximize Resources
- Center Equity, Free of Discrimination
- Avoid Civil and Criminal Penalties for the Experience of Homelessness
- Urge state legislation that prohibits fines and arrest for experiencing homelessness
- Develop Homelessness Prevention and Response Plan
- Leverage State and Federal Resources
- Tenant Protections and State Enabling Legislation

