



For Immediate Release:

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2018 Homelessness and Housing Advocacy Days

Hartford, Connecticut – The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) and the Partnership for Strong Communities will hold the 2018 Homelessness and Housing Advocacy Days at the State Capitol on Wednesday, April 11th, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Thursday, April 12th, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Nonprofit providers, housing advocates, and supporters will come together with their legislators and staff to provide updates on work across the state to end homelessness and advocate for the Reaching Home campaign to end homelessness legislative agenda.

This year's event is expected to bring together over 200 advocates and homeless service providers from across the state. "This event offers an important opportunity for those on the frontlines of work to end homelessness to engage directly with their legislators, explain the work they are doing and review the successes they have achieved," said Lisa Tepper Bates, Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. "Connecticut's investments in resources to end homelessness are working. Homelessness and Housing Advocacy Days offer an excellent opportunity to remind our legislators that these are wise investments and good public policy," said Alicia Woodsby, Executive Director of the Partnership for Strong Communities.

Connecticut has risen as a national leader in ending homelessness. In 2015, Connecticut built a Coordinated Access Network that facilitates and expedites the process connecting a person experiencing homelessness to the emergency resources they need. With this network in place, in 2015, Connecticut was the second state in the nation to end chronic veteran homelessness and in 2016, Connecticut was able to end veteran homelessness completely.

This effort has resulted in a 34% decrease in annual homelessness in the past five years. However, even a single person experiencing homelessness is one too many. According to Connecticut's 2017 Point in Time Count led by CCEH, on the night of January 24, 2017, 3,387 people were experiencing homelessness across Connecticut – 736 of them were children. Partners in the Reaching Home Campaign to end homelessness have set goals to end family and youth homelessness in Connecticut by 2020.

Homelessness and housing services rely on the support of federal and state funding to continue providing Connecticut communities with the systems and resources needed to end homelessness. Advocacy Days participants will draw on their local data and experience to make the case that Connecticut's model is efficiently and effectively ending homelessness – saving our communities costs they would otherwise incur if homelessness continues to persist.

You can read Reaching Home's full Legislative Recommendations at http://www.pschousing.org/files/RH_OD-CT_LegRecs2018-19.pdf.



Learn more about the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness by visiting CCEH.org.
Learn more about Partnership for Strong Communities by visiting pschousing.org.