Reaching Home Advocacy Days Preparation Webinar

April 2nd, 2019
2:00 pm-3:00 pm
House Keeping

• Because this is a webinar, attendees are muted.

• Please type any questions you have into the Chat Box.

• We are recording this webinar and will send out the link to everyone who registered at a later date.
Presenters

Bill Welz
Gallo & Robinson

Kiley Gosselin
Partnership for Strong Communities

Richard Cho and Sarah Fox
CT Coalition to End Homelessness
Agenda

1. 2019 Budget Update
2. Reaching Home Legislative Agenda
3. Key Advocacy Messaging
4. Advocacy Day Logistics
Budget Update

Bill Welz
Gallo & Robinson
Biennium Cycle

2019 (Odd Year) is the **Long Session** (January 9th – June 5th)
This is the budget setting year.

2020 (Even Year) is the **Short Session** (February 5th – May 6th)
This is the budget adjustment year.
Budget Timeline

February 20th
Governor’s Budget Proposal

Early March
Appropriations Hearings
(exact dates for each agency still to be announced)

May 3rd
Appropriations Committee Deadline

June 5th
Legislative Session Ends
Budget Landscape: FY 2020 – FY 2021

• Fiscal Year 2020
  • July 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2019 – June 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020
  • Projected Deficit: $1,700,000,000

• Fiscal Year 2021
  • July 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2020 – June 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2021
  • Projected Deficit: $2,300,000,000
Governor’s Proposed Department of Housing Funding

Housing/Homeless Services:

FY 20: $79,388,870
FY 21: $84,779,130

Homeless Youth: FY 20/21 at $2,292,929 each year

Homeless Supports: FY 20/21 at $2,480,415 each year
Governor’s Proposed Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Funding

Housing Supports and Services FY 20&21: $22,966,174

Legal Services for Housing FY 20&21: $706,179

Grants for Mental Health Services FY 20&21: $64,999,107

Grants for Substance Abuse Services FY 20&21: $17,577,460
Biennium Cycle

Public Hearings
- Advocates submit testimony for hearings and explain importance of maintaining momentum

Sub-Committee makes recommendations to chairs
- Subcommittees on Health and Conservation and Development will make recommendations about the DMHAS and DOH Budgets to the Chairs

Committee Deliberation
- Appropriations Committee deliberates prior to the deadline

Negotiation
- Governor, leadership and Appropriations Chairs negotiate changes before the Session ends
Regarding the State Budget…

The Governor has stated publicly that he will NOT raid the rainy day fund to balance the budget.

His budget proposal largely held harmless most human services programs. Many line items were flat-funded.

He proposed raising revenue by closing loopholes/tax exemptions on the Finance side of the budget. There are constituencies for every tax loophole that Governor Lamont proposed to close.

The inclusion of tolls, legalized marijuana and an additional casino will not generate enough income to fund line items.
State Budget Continued…

The Appropriations Leadership could be forced to come up with cuts that the Governor NEVER proposed, cuts that have NEVER HAD A HEARING.

OR

The Appropriations Committee passes a budget that adheres largely to what the Governor proposed, and there is discord between the Appropriations and Finance Committees.

With our Governor being so new, we don't have any public record to rely on to understand how he will handle such a situation.
Balancing the Budget

The Governor and the Legislature will have to...
Cut spending, raise revenue...
or will have to do some combination of both options.

The budget must balance!
Reaching Home
Legislative Recommendations

Kiley Gosselin
Partnership for Strong Communities
Unified Legislative Agenda

More than 120 participating organizations are working together through Connecticut’s Reaching Home Campaign to develop public policies, grow community support, and secure the resources to end homelessness in Connecticut.
Legislative Asks and Realities

While the Reaching Home legislative priorities remain the same, we have adjusted our messaging and materials in response to recent budget developments.

This webinar will focus predominantly on the current state of our messaging.
Updates

The three major updates regarding the Reaching Home Legislative Agenda are...

1. Coordinated Access Network Support
2. Continued Investments in Affordable Housing
3. Support for a Medicaid Supportive Housing Benefit
The Governor’s budget proposes a ‘Homeless Supports’ line item at the Department of Housing (DOH) to support the CAN Infrastructure, the 2-1-1 housing line, cold weather protocol and other grants. The CAN system and 2-1-1 are the linchpins of state and local homelessness response.

Maintaining funding for the CAN system allows communities to maximize available resources through better coordination, and improves positive impact.

Having a stable funding source supports staffing and infrastructure capacity and reduces instability created by the inconsistent funding source that is CIA.
Continued Investments in Affordable Housing

Currently, the Governor’s proposed budget does not include any new bond authorizations for affordable housing.

Last year, $130 million was authorized for housing creation and rehabilitation. These funds are critical in preventing homelessness and moving folks out of the system quickly.

Governor Malloy had recommended the $165 and $40 million in his tentative budget delivered to Governor-Elect Lamont.

$165 million
...for the Affordable Housing FLEX Fund

AND

$40 million
...for the State Housing Trust Fund.
DMHAS Housing Supports and Services

$23 million for each year

Supportive housing continues to be the most effective housing model to assist people experiencing chronic homelessness and is proven to cut public costs by up to 70%.

Recent rescissions to funding have led to a gap in the service system. Maintaining these resources at $23 million is critical for services that keep highly vulnerable people housed and stable.
Support for a Medicaid Supportive Housing benefit

The proposal would create a 1915(i) Medicaid state plan amendment to cover supportive housing services for up to 850 individuals who experience homelessness and whose average Medicaid costs exceed $40,000 per year.

The state can achieve significant cost savings while potentially ending homelessness for those with serious mental illness (SMI) and other disabilities in the state by targeting a supportive housing benefit to this population.
DOH Budget

FY 20- $79,388,870
FY 21- $84,779,130

Frontline homeless services, outreach, emergency shelters, and the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) – a critical component of supportive housing. *(Note: this includes rental assistance for Medicaid Supportive Housing benefit)*

In addition –

**Homeless Youth:** *(FY 20/21 at $2,292,929 each year)*

**Homeless Supports:** *(FY 20/21 at $2,480,415 each year)*

Continued investment in the programs and supports embedded into this line item are critical to maintaining our progress.
By improving identification and affirming protections that allow homeless students to stay in school, we can move the needle toward our goal of ending youth homelessness by the end of 2020.

HB 7313 would do the following:

• Clarify that students experiencing homelessness are entitled to enroll immediately pending a hearing, receive written explanation of any denial and the process to request a hearing, and refer them to the homeless liaisons (every district has one).

• Add language to reference the existing dispute resolution process regarding homeless children and youth to ensure schools and families are aware of the process.

• Remove barriers to the identification, enrollment and retention of homeless children and youth by ensuring the hearing process is appropriate.

Aligning with the federal McKinney-Vento statute clarifies the process and helps students and districts in implementing a consistent, predictable path outlined at the federal level.
Key Advocacy Messaging

Richard Cho
CT Coalition to End Homelessness
Ending Homelessness in Connecticut

Our Vision

An End to Homelessness in Connecticut

= A system that can prevent homelessness, or whenever it is not prevented, ensures that it is rare, brief, and non-repeated.

State of the System

- Federal and state investments are funding proven programs that are working to help people exit homelessness into stable housing.

- We’ve built coordinated systems that make it easier for people to get the help they need quickly and matched to their needs. Our system is helping more people exit homelessness than ever before.

- We now have real-time data on how many people are homeless at any time, how many are being housed, and how many are newly falling into homelessness. This data tells us that we need more investments to help us reach goal of ending homelessness.
Victories to Date

• CT was recognized in 2016 by the federal government as one of the first two states in the nation to end homelessness among Veterans.

• From January 2015 to December 2018, CT providers housed **2,579** people experiencing chronic homelessness, resulting in a **62%** decrease in individuals experiencing chronic homelessness (long-term homelessness with a severe disability).
Number of People Who Used Emergency Shelters in Connecticut

8,545 people experienced homelessness across Connecticut in 2018, a decrease of 40% since 2012.
Progress ending homelessness, is due to a range of evidenced based housing interventions using the Housing First approach.
Type of Assistance Provided to Families with Positive Exits from Homelessness in Last 12 Months

- Self-Resolved: 34%
- RRH: 32%
- PSH: 18%
- Housing Choice Voucher: 6%
- One-Time Assistance: 8%
- Rapid Exits: 2%
The CT Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) are a Game Changer
CAN System Overview
A high-level diagram of the coordinated access process from entry to exit

Household in Need of Assistance
CALL
OUTREACH

2-1-1
CAN Assessment

Diverted from Homelessness

Rapid Exit/Self-Resolved

Prioritized for Shelter
Staying in Shelter

By-Name List

Housing Solutions Meetings in each CAN

Rapid Re-Housing
Permanent Supportive Housing

Conduct ViSPDAT when/if appropriate, which adds client to By-Name List
Key Messaging

• We have an opportunity to END homelessness in the near term. It is no longer a question of WHETHER we will end homelessness, it is a question of WHEN.

• We are not only housing more people out of shelter, the CAN system is also preventing more people than ever from entering into homelessness.

• Connecticut is recognized as a national leader and together we CAN be the first state in the nation to end homelessness.
Advocacy Day Logistics

Sarah Fox
CT Coalition to End Homelessness
You are the experts

We ARE ENDING Homelessness in Connecticut

#ENDHomelessness
Who Should Be in Room

- Executive leadership and staff that are the face of ending homelessness for lawmakers.
- Include key people from hospitals, libraries, and other community services that benefit from our work.
- Persons with lived experience.
Highlight your community work and tell your story

Share Your Story

Educate Legislators
Positive Impact of Funding

Cost of Homelessness

The Impact of Housing
Share Your CANs Data
Be Strategic

Choose and prepare speakers whose story reflects the legislative agenda, including:

• CAN experience
• Families
• Youth
• Success in PSH
Personal stories speak louder than statistics
Be Selective

- There is not time for everyone with lived experience to share their story
- Choose speakers ahead of the event
- Non-speakers add value by showing their numbers and support
April 17th Arrival Times

9:30 AM  Greater Hartford

10:45 AM  Meriden, Middlesex, Wallingford

12:00 PM  Waterbury and Litchfield County
April 18th Arrival Times

9:30 AM       Central
10:45 AM      Greater New Haven
12:00 PM      Fairfield County
1:15 PM       Eastern CT
Schedule for Advocacy Days

• Meet in Cafeteria at LOB
• Prep Meeting Room
• Meet with Legislators in RM 2600
• Distribute Folders and Leave Behind Messages
Prepping for Advocacy Days

• Invite Legislators

• Convene Advocacy Planning Group

• Meet with Opening Doors Staff (PSC + CCEH)

• Cultivate Testimonies

• Finalize Fact Sheets and Powerpoints
Materials Provided

Power Point Template

Fact Sheets

Folders and Leave Behind Messages
Further Advocacy Opportunities

Engage community leaders and citizens in discussion

Respond to Action Alerts by emailing and calling your representatives
Questions?

Type in question

Click the icon to raise your hand.
To Learn More, Contact:

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CT Coalition to End Homelessness

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