State of Homelessness in Greater New Haven

More people experiencing housing crisis in Greater New Haven
- 1,922 evictions in CY21 compared to 1,706 in CY20
- 8,061 CAN appointments compared to 5,715 appointments in CY20

Our crisis system continues to be stressed beyond capacity
- 347 households utilizing temporary hotel locations compared to 175 last year

Outflow has stalled due to lack of rental units
- 178 Households matched to a resource but unable to find a unit

Our system is significantly impacted by challenges to recruit and retain staff
- Agency turnover has hit a high of 40% this past year

2022 Legislative Agenda

FUND THE STATE’S HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Invest in Funding the Front Lines
COVID-19 further illuminated the systematic underfunding of the front line nonprofit organizations that provide shelter operations and services, homeless outreach, diversion services, rapid-rehousing case management, housing navigation, supportive housing operations and housing case management. Reaching Home is encouraged by the legislature’s decision to increase nonprofit provider funding in both FY22 & 23; however, a significant funding gap remains among homeless and housing services organizations. Connecticut must address this funding gap by:

1. Supporting the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance long-term plan to restore at least $461 million to community nonprofits, which includes housing and homeless service organizations.

2. Provide an additional $13.34 million in FY 23 to provide homeless and housing service organizations funding for adequate wages, benefits, and professional development for front line workers, increasing rent and utility costs, and better access to technology via:
• $7.47 million increase in DOH Housing/Homeless Services line
• $169K increase in DOH Municipal Housing/Homeless Services line
• $436K increase in DOH Homeless Youth line
• $5.26 million increase in DMHAS Housing Supports/Services line

Invest in Connecticut’s Coordinated Access Networks
Provide an additional $2.3 million in DOH’s Housing/Homeless Services line to provide critical staff infrastructure support to Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) and 2-1-1. CANs provide streamlined access to the homeless services system at the regional level. 2-1-1 serves as the statewide single point of entry to CANs.

EXPAND HOUSING RESOURCES

Increase Investment in Rental Assistance
Increase DOH Housing/Homeless Services line by at least $20 million in FY23 to expand the Rental Assistance Program (RAP), including $2 million to provide rental assistance to 200 scattered-site supportive housing units for highly vulnerable individuals and families.

INVEST IN SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR THE STATE’S MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Increase Investment in Targeted Services
Increase DMHAS Housing Supports and Service line by $2.25 million in FY23 to expand supportive services to 300 scattered site and development units for highly vulnerable individuals and families with persistent obstacles to maintaining housing stability.

Create an Eviction Prevention Partnership
Provide an additional $2.5 million in DOH’s Housing/Homeless Services line to establish and implement a proven eviction prevention model that leverages Right to Counsel legal services and couples them with high-quality social work to address vulnerable renter’s needs.

The Greater New Haven Regional Alliance to End Homelessness is leading a regional effort to eliminate chronic homelessness and family homelessness by 2023. The Alliance coordinates the strategies of advocacy, prevention, housing, employment, and services to ensure that episodes of homelessness are rare and of short duration and that all residents in the region have access to safe, affordable housing. The Alliance includes civic, religious, government, business, and not-for-profit leaders, in addition to other stakeholders. The region includes Madison, Guilford, Branford, North Branford, East Haven, New Haven, North Haven, West Haven, Orange, Milford, Hamden, Shelton, Derby, Ansonia, Woodbridge, Bethany, Beacon Falls, Oxford, and Seymour.

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