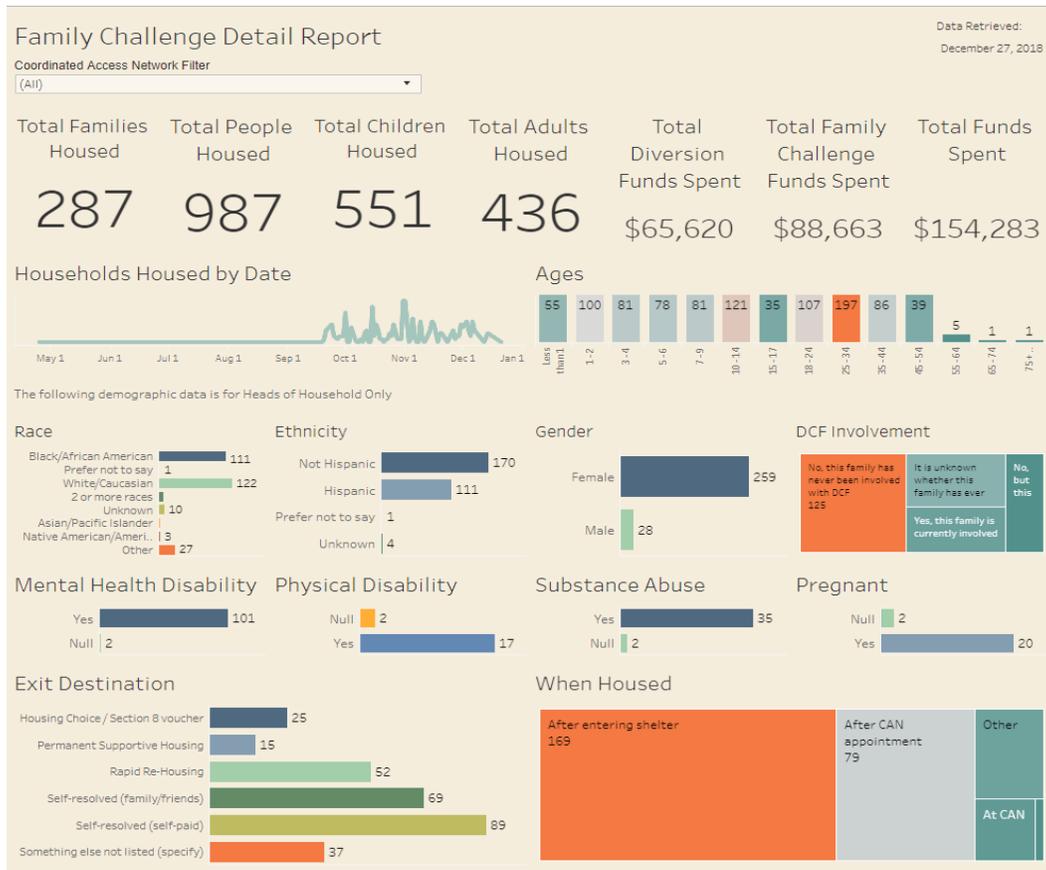


# The Governor's Challenge on Family Homelessness Debrief

## What does the data tell us?

The data tells us that in between the end of the challenge and December of last year, we saw approximately a 60% increase in the number of families housed.

Other important data sets from the challenge can be found below and on the (interactive) data dashboard website at: <http://cceh.org/data/interactive/familychallenge/>



## Important things everyone should know

This challenge helped the CAN teams identify barriers in the CT system to helping house families, including:

- Having a housing-first message when families first connect with our system. The messaging needs be consistent across all aspects of our system – from entry, to emergency shelter, to rapid re-housing.
- The lack of deeply affordable housing units
- The need for landlord engagement
- The need for child care subsidies for this population

The challenge also raised awareness of the benefit of more **flexible funding**, as some families could resolve their homelessness/housing insecurity once they had access to simple items like a bed.



## Lessons Learned

- Keeping momentum through the use of existing Reaching Home Workgroups and subgroups is important. This work will continue to be a focus of the Families with Children, Re-Tooling the Crisis Response, and Housing Captains Workgroups.
- Philosophical shifts in how providers throughout our system – from beginning to exit – take time. Developing consistent messaging and visuals to display in agencies motivates and excites families when they reach **their** goals.
- We need to continue developing linkages to community resources. Developing these linkages in a systemized method is important to ensuring sustainability.

## Progress towards goals

- 211 Child Development Infoline has expanded access to the CANs. Please ensure your CAN has identified a CAN Child Development & Early Care Liaison.
- Additional data regarding DCF involvement, number of minor children in the family, and the ages of the children is being collected during the CAN Assessment.
- CANs are no longer using traditional “waitlists” to determine access to family emergency shelter. Messaging has been re-branded to “Family Stabilization Lists” to denote more focused attention on diversion. The Diversion Learning Collaborative will be refining the definition to be approved by CAN Leadership.
- As of December 31, 2018, CANs can request an extension to continue using any remaining balances in the Family Challenge Flex Funding.
- CANs developed Pilot projects as part of the Family Challenge including incentivizing real estate agents for housing search and landlord risk mitigation funding.
- CANs are continuing to collect and report on the number of literally homeless families housed through diversion, rapid exit, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing.

## Leadership/Support

This work could not have happened without the effort and hard work of our CAN Team Leads and staff from the Department of Housing, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the CT Coalition to End Homelessness, the National Alliance to End Homelessness, the Partnership for Strong Communities, and CSH.

