

**Appropriations Budget Hearing
On Governor's proposed Mid-term Budget Adjustments for FY2021
Department of Housing
Tuesday, February 11th, 2020**

Testimony Template Example

[Please use these talking points as a basis for your testimony and tailor accordingly]

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Representative Lavielle, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today on the important investments through the Department of Housing to support efforts to end homelessness in Connecticut.

Template Talking Points

- Connecticut continues to be a leader in the nation in efforts to address the important and expensive problem of homelessness – but we still have far too many individuals, families with young children, and youth becoming homeless daily.
- Investment in proven solutions to homelessness are necessary to continue our progress and ensure that every youth, family, and individual has a stable place to call home.
- Investments are working: numbers of those experiencing homelessness are going down year after year. Connecticut has seen a 66% reduction in chronic homelessness since 2016.
- CT was recognized in 2016 by the federal government as one of the first two states in the nation to make homelessness rare, brief and one time among Veterans.

2020 Legislative Priorities

Maintain vital homeless system resources for youth, individuals and families. This includes funding the Department of Housing's Housing/Homeless Services line at \$85.8 million, and the Homeless Youth line at \$2.3 million.

While the Governor's mid-term budget adjustments protect and preserve the Department of Housing's Housing/Homelessness Services line and Homeless Youth line, the following additional investments are necessary in making homelessness rare, brief and one time by 2023.

Create a stable funding stream for the Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) 2-1-1 by providing \$2.3 million annually to the Department of Housing's Housing/Homeless Services line.

A targeted investment of \$1.47 million in the Department of Housing's Housing/Homeless Services will enhance our state's capacity to quickly resolve episodes of homelessness for individuals and youth requiring shelter through the use of flexible funds for diversion and rapid exit.

Add \$1 million each for rental assistance and services to provide stable housing and services for highly vulnerable people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Closing Language Options

- Homelessness is a costly problem, in the toll it takes on human lives, and in consuming substantial public resources. We know what works to end homelessness – through coordinated

YOUR AGENCY LETTERHEAD

efforts to secure the right housing and supports, we can resolve homelessness – one person, one family at a time. The net gain to those we serve, to our communities, and to our state is clear: it costs more to allow homelessness to persist than it does to resolve it.

- **PLEASE ADD POINTS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THESE PROGRAMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY, AND PLEASE SHARE ANY STORIES THAT YOU CAN WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC, ANONYMOUS INDIVIDUALS.**
- Homelessness is an unacceptable condition for any Connecticut resident, and an expensive public policy problem. We urge you to support the proposed investments in frontline homeless services, supportive housing, and support services that save public resources and help families and individuals transition to housing, stability, and hope.

Thank you for hearing my testimony and thank you for your support to efforts to end homelessness in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

YOUR TITLE

YOUR AGENCY