Connecticut is a national leader in the effort to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. Throughout the pandemic, Connecticut’s housing and homelessness service system accelerated its work to prevent individuals and families from experiencing homelessness. Housing and service providers have rapidly connected people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing and provided necessary services to support their long-term housing stability.

We know that homelessness is solvable. We can continue to build on our success in preventing and ending homelessness through leadership and coordination across federal, state, and local levels and making sustained investments in what works.

In Connecticut, partners come together across systems and sectors in a coordinated homelessness response system known as Coordinated Access Networks (or CANs). CANs prioritize those most vulnerable, maximize existing resources, and create system efficiencies to resolve the experience of homelessness for as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. In the last 10 years, we have decreased the number of people utilizing Connecticut’s shelter system by 57%.

However, new individuals and families become homeless every day. We know what we need to further decrease the experience of homelessness in Connecticut, and we cannot let up in our commitment.

When people with disabilities are connected to affordable housing with supportive services, costs to other systems decrease. Targeting support to highly vulnerable and high-risk individuals, families, and children results in significant reductions in the social and economic hardships created by homelessness and racial inequities. Children who experience homelessness have long-term, high-cost consequences including increased physical, developmental, and behavioral health issues, and involvement with child welfare.

Since 2012, the number of people using Connecticut’s shelter system has dramatically declined.
Continuing Connecticut’s National Leadership on Homelessness

With continued dedication and resources, policymakers and the partners of the Reaching Home Campaign can make homelessness rare, brief, and a one-time occurrence – making Connecticut the first state to achieve this goal.

Our experience, best and promising practices, along with creative problem-solving and the resources needed to respond to the ongoing health crisis have all served to provide the basis for a road map to solving this complex social problem.

By targeting housing and services to high need/high risk individuals, families, and children – we can realize significant reductions in the social and economic hardships created by homelessness and racial inequities.

The goal of the Reaching Home Campaign is to make homelessness in Connecticut rare, brief, and one-time. To achieve this goal, we must:

- Ensure identification of all people experiencing homelessness, no unsheltered homelessness, and that people don’t enter homelessness in the first place. This requires comprehensive, coordinated approaches for homelessness prevention, outreach and diversion across the housing, criminal justice, child welfare, education, workforce, early childhood, health care, and mental health systems.

- Greatly reduce the length of time people stay in homelessness, and continue to increase the number of people exiting homelessness into stable housing. This requires the resources and capacity to triage and connect people to permanent housing options quickly.

- Strengthen supports to individuals and families that help them maintain housing stability by fostering income growth, and positive health and employment outcomes, so that they don’t ever have to return to homelessness again.

- Ensure meaningful partnership with people who have experienced homelessness, with a focus on racial equity, in all work and strategy development related to ending homelessness.

View the Reaching Home Campaign’s 2022 Legislative Priorities at pschousing.org/legislative-priorities.