

WHAT IS COORDINATED ACCESS?

Coordinated Access organizes how homeless services are provided, enabling communities to triage cases, match the type of assistance based on needs and strengths, and help people resolve their homelessness quickly.

Connecticut's Homelessness Response System now consists of 7 Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) that have led to regional cooperation and success. Team members work together to provide quick access to housing and services for those who need them.

HOW ARE THE CANs FUNDED?

CANs lack a stable funding source

Coordinated Access Networks are a vital part of our state's homelessness response system and need a reliable source of funding. For the past several years, CANs have relied on the Department of Housing's discretionary use of Community Investment Account (CIA) proceeds for funding support. As an emergency response system, a more stable and permanent funding source is needed to support its infrastructure.

*In FY 2020, the CAN system received over **73,800** calls related to housing, resolved over **47,561** through 2-1-1, diverted **7,183** households from shelter, and provided targeted housing assistance to close to **1,700** households.*

STABILIZE FUNDING FOR CONNECTICUT'S HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE SYSTEM (CANs)

The state can maintain support for CANs by specifying funding for Coordinated Access Networks and 2-1-1 at \$2.3 million.

The Coordinated Access Networks (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 the CANs. In recent years, CAN funding has been provided at the discretion of the Department of Housing from their Community Investment Account (CIA). The state should continue to support this critical network by providing \$2.3 million annually to the Department of Housing's Housing/Homeless Services line.

THE COORDINATED ACCESS APPROACH:

Access - People facing a housing crisis can access community resources through a single "front door" by calling 2-1-1.

Assessment - Individuals are assessed for eligibility and need through standardized approaches across communities.

Assignment - Individuals are assigned or referred to local housing resources based on need and resource availability

WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT FUNDING?

In FY 2020, nearly **16,500** households experiencing homelessness were assessed and assisted through CAN appointments. Without funding, thousands of Connecticut residents would be put at immediate risk of homelessness every year. **Since 2012, the number of people utilizing Connecticut's shelter system has decreased by 57%.** The implementation of Coordinated Access has been crucial to keeping many families out of shelter and from experiencing homelessness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: