

## EFFORTS TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN CONNECTICUT ARE WORKING!

- CT annual data shows a **57% reduction** in chronic homelessness over the last two years.
- CT's 2016 Point-in-Time count shows significant declines in chronic homelessness (long term homelessness with a severe disability) — the number **dropped by 20%** since 2015.
- Fewer veterans counted as homeless in CT's 2016 Point-in-Time count — only 45 veterans were found in emergency shelters, **nearly half** the number identified in 2015, most of whom are engaged in VA services and on their way to housing.



**Opening Doors in Connecticut**  
to a Future Where  
**Everyone** Has a Home

*Zero: 2016 Connecticut* is an initiative of Opening Doors-CT, which is the statewide effort to end all homelessness in Connecticut.



## COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

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## Zero: 2016 Connecticut



A coordinated state-wide effort to end chronic homelessness in Connecticut.



In Connecticut, hundreds of providers and community stakeholders across the state, along with state, federal, and local government partners, and Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy have united to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016. We will achieve this goal by identifying and prioritizing those most in need and reducing barriers to quickly move people experiencing chronic homelessness into housing, while saving lives and taxpayer dollars.

Connecticut is one of four states and 75 communities across the nation participating in Zero: 2016 with the shared goal of ending chronic homelessness by the end of 2016.

#### **ZERO: 2016 CONNECTICUT AIMS TO:**

- Identify each person experiencing homelessness by name and prioritize them based on need; and,
- Streamline a coordinated response system capable of ending all homelessness.

#### **HOW IS ZERO: 2016 CONNECTICUT STRUCTURED?**

Zero: 2016 Connecticut is coordinated by the Partnership for Strong Communities and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. Each of the state's eight Coordinated Access Networks (CANs), which are guided by a statewide CAN Leadership team, has its own regional leaders, housing captains and communication leads who are spearheading Zero: 2016 Connecticut work in their communities.

#### **WHAT IS "CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS"?**

"Chronic homelessness" means that someone has experienced long-term or repeated homelessness for an extended period of time, usually 12 months, and has a severe disability.

#### **WHY END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS?**

Those experiencing chronic homelessness tend to cycle in and out of expensive public systems – including emergency services, hospitals, and jails. Studies show that communities can save up to 70% of the public costs incurred by providing appropriate housing and supports to those experiencing chronic homelessness. This effort will save lives, and save public funds.

#### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO END HOMELESSNESS IN CONNECTICUT?**

Ending homelessness in our state means that every community will have a response system to prevent homelessness whenever possible, and if someone becomes homeless, we can ensure that their homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

#### **HOW DO WE END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS?**

Homeless resources are organized by community into the state's eight Coordinated Access Networks (CANs), where nonprofit providers, state, federal, and local agency partners are prioritizing those most in need through a *data-driven system*, and aligning housing and supportive service resources to ensure that everyone can ultimately have a safe, stable place to call home.

#### **HOW DOES ZERO: 2016 CONNECTICUT FIT INTO THE LARGER GOAL OF ENDING ALL HOMELESSNESS?**

Zero: 2016 Connecticut is a targeted initiative to end chronic homelessness within *Opening Doors-CT*, which is our statewide effort to end all forms of homelessness. Like the federal *Opening Doors* plan, *Opening Doors-CT* focuses on targeted priorities to end homelessness within specific timeframes, such as *ending youth and family homelessness by 2020*.

#### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I SEE SOMEONE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS?**

Contact Infoline by dialing 211.

