Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Announcements
- CT BOS Governance/Elections
- CoC Competition
- CT CAN End Homelessness Updates/Advocacy
- Presentation on Coordinated Entry Evaluation
- Break Out Groups
- Data Strategy Board Updates
- Partner Announcements & Other Business
- Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

CT BOS Group Agreements for Meetings

Developed by Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)

- Be present and listen actively
- Choose courage over comfort
- Participate to the fullest of your ability
- Take space, make space
- Assume good intent, but also acknowledge impact
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Use "I" statements
- Recognize emotional tax, extra labor, and burden that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Latino/a/x, LGBTQ+, persons with Behavioral Health issues, DV survivors, Veterans and people with lived expertise/experience of homelessness face in some conversations
- Honor the Conflicts of Interest Policy

Approve Semi-Annual & December Special Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Draft Semi-annual Meeting Minutes

Draft Special NOFO Steering Committee Minutes

Announcements

Reminder: Post Steering Committee Debrief

- Anyone who has questions or comments about Steering Committee business can stay on at the end of the monthly zoom meeting.

- As always, questions/comments can also be sent CTBOSCoC@gmail.com or call a team member any time!

Outcome of Youth Continuum Re-bid

- Youth Continuum (YC) closed.

- YC was recipient/sub-recipient on 5 HUD CoC projects.

- RFP issued.

- BOS Scoring Committee met, scored application and selected New Reach to take over the grants.

Deadline Extension!
BOS Participant Surveys due 2/2/26

Point-in-time (PIT) Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reminders

Webinar Training

Sheltered Count - Wednesday 1/7/2026 from 10-12

Training for all HMIS and Non-HMIS Shelter and Housing Programs:

- Emergency Shelter
- Safe Haven
- Transitional Housing -- Including GDP funded TLP's
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Permanent Housing/Permanent Supportive Housing -- Including Housing Stability Voucher programs (HSV)
- VASH

Webinar Registration Link: PIT Sheltered Count Registration

Point-in-time (PIT) Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness Reminders (2)

Webinar Training: Unsheltered Count - 1/7/2026 from 1-3

Training for all HMIS and Non-HMIS Unsheltered Programs:

- Street Outreach
- PATH Street Outreach
- Warming Centers
- CAN Unsheltered Outreach Contacts
- Youth Outreach and Youth Navigators

Webinar Registration Link: PIT Unsheltered Count Registration

Reminders:

- PIT Count is 1/27/26
- Data due in PIT database by 2/3/26 - Link to PIT Database

System Performance Measures (SPMs) Updates

Monitoring and Training Integration Project

John Merz, CEO

Advancing Connecticut Together

Monitoring

- Monitoring visits scheduled to begin in January utilizing an interim monitoring tool
  - Interim tool → shortened version of DMHAS PSH Tool
- AIDS Housing programs and DMHAS PSH programs have received notice that they will be monitored
  - January, February, and March
- Shelter, CAN Backbone, HUB/Diversion Centers TBD
  - Tentative → March, April, May visits

Training

- Learning Management System
  - DMHAS PSH programs have begun to utilize the system
  - Full launch to all housing providers in January
- Communications will be streamlined for all training announcements from ACT
- In-Person Trainings – dates will be announced in the new year

New Staff Member slated to start in January!

For any questions on this project

Contact
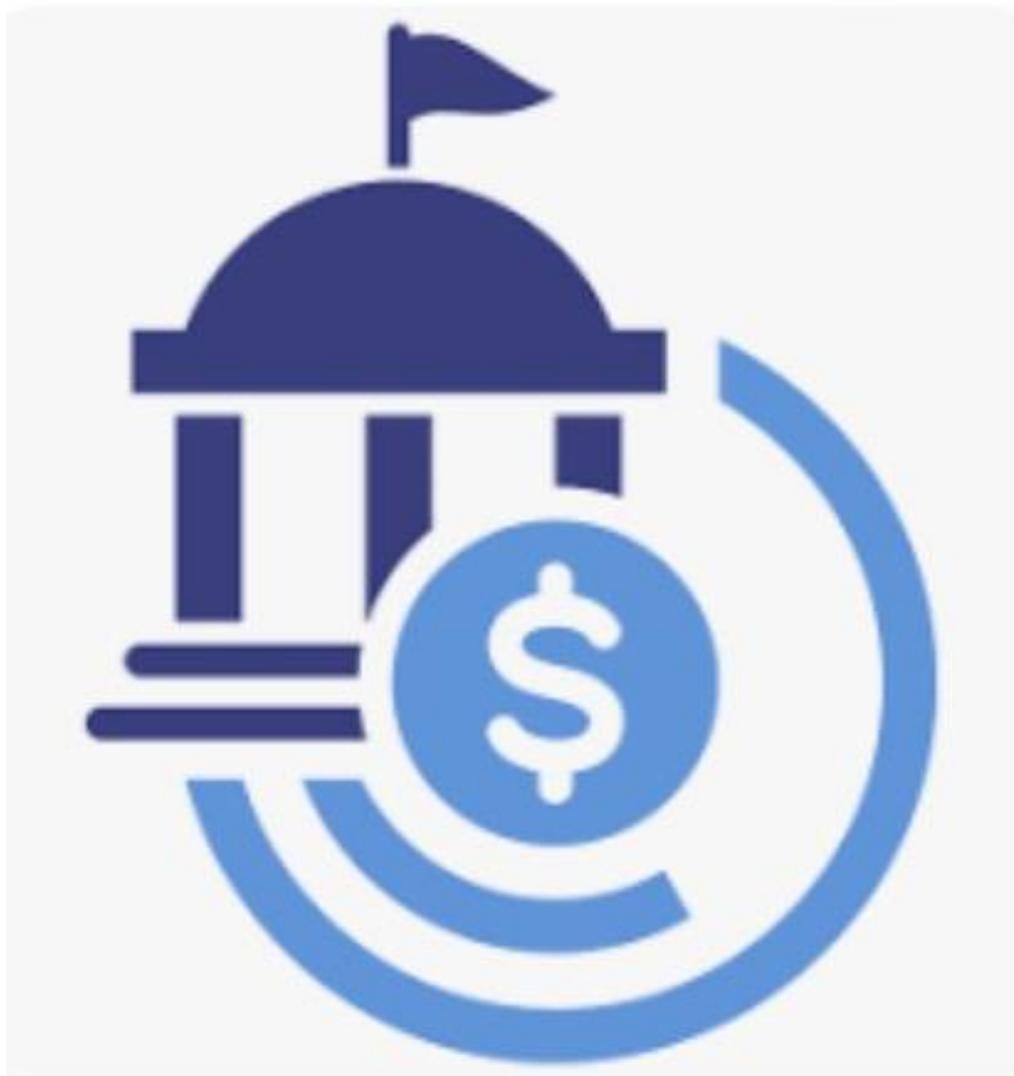Erika Mott – emott@act-ct.org
Megan Auretta – mauretta@act-ct.org

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget Transportation HUD (THUD)

- Continuing resolution expires 1/30/26.
- Opportunity for Congress to act to renew CoC projects for one year
- Funds 2026 CoC Competition
- Advocacy Opportunities:

NAEH Advocacy Alert – CoC NOFO

BOS Governance

CT BOS Governance/Elections

Vote (by consensus):

Co-Chairs:
- Steve DiLella, CT Department of Housing
- Stephanie Lazarus, Reliance Health & CCEH

Public Health Rep: Maria Lorenzo, Community Health Center, Inc

Welcome *new* CAN Representatives!

Coordinated Access Network (CAN) Representatives	
Kim Jakowski*	Eastern CAN
Fenty Lee*	Eastern CAN
Manssour Hanne	MMW CAN
Stacy Hooker	MMW CAN
Myles DuBay	Wstern CAN
Kaleihana Acevedo*	Western CAN
Caitlin Rose	Central CAN
Amanda Garcia	Central CAN
Nikki Barnofski	New Haven CAN
Cathleen Meaden	New Haven CAN
Theresa Nicholson	Greater Hartford CAN
Amanda Gordon	Greater Hartford CAN

Seeking Nominations for new Steering Committee Seats

Law Enforcement (2), Elected Officials (3), Business Community Members (1)

Send nominations to: ctboscoc@gmail.com by 1/9/26

Community Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)/Community Representative Slate

- **Melissa Dzierlatka**
- **Theresa Miles**
- **Cami Hawkins**
- **Ernest Saunders**
- **Aleena Durant**
- **Tracy Samuel**
- **Ramon Garcia**
- **Kelvin McCullough**

CoC Competition

Updates on CoC NOFO Lawsuits & Impact on Awards Delay

NAEH vs. Turner, et al & **Washington State vs. HUD**

- Lawsuits seek to: vacate the 2025 NOFO, reinstate 2024-2025 two-year NOFO, renew all projects expiring in CY2026, block challenged program changes
- 12/8 HUD withdrew the NOFO
  - Announced intent to issue modified NOFO
- 12/19 hearing– may result in a preliminary injunction

Good News!
Emergency State Response to Delays/Gaps in CoC Funding

- NOFO withdrawal likely to create additional delays with grants & Grantees should not expect grant agreements until at least June 2026

- Cannot draw down funds until grants are executed

- The state is committing up to $5.2 million to HUD grants that expire before June 30, 2026

- DOH and DMHAS are deciding which agency will contract with those private non- profit providers impacted by the HUD CoC delays

Instructions for 2025 Project Applications

2025 NOFO Renewals and Transitions List

- Details how projects will submit a project application in the 2025 CoC competition
- Includes info for project applications
  - ✓ budget amounts
  - ✓ project application types (renewal, new-transition, new-regular, YHDP replacement)
  - ✓ Component type (PSH, TH, etc.)
- Based on the Guiding Principles for Permanent Housing Retention adopted by Steering Committee

Instructions for 2025 Project Applications (2)

Project Type	Application to Submit
1. PSH Grants Retained as PSH	Renewal Project App
2. Renewal Grants – Unchanged	Renewal Project App
3. PSH Grants Transitioning to TH	New Transition Grant Project App
4. RRH Grants Transitioning to TH	New Transition Grant Project App
5. DV Bonus Grant Transitioning to TH	New Regular Project App
6. YHDP Grants Changing to TH	YHDP Replacement Project App

Instructions for 2025 Project Applications (3)

What You Should Do Next

- Locate each of your grants in the tables
- Identify the type(s) of project application(s) your agency will be responsible for submitting (renewal, new-transition, or new-regular)
- Await additional instructions for submission of project applications in e-snaps

Stay tuned regarding additional budget parameters for TH projects!

Draft Engagement Principles

Draft Engagement Principles – formerly Housing First Principles

Discuss today vote in January·

- "Rules-in" approach
  - Focused on maximizing access to housing and services
  - Apply entry restrictions only when needed for safety or funder requirements
- Entry processes are holistic and inclusive
  - Case-by-case evaluation
  - No automatic disqualification based on substance use, credit, or rental/treatment/criminal history
- Housing and services promote community integration and recovery
  - Offering supportive, recovery-oriented services
  - Service participation required – adjust services to meet individual needs

Draft Engagement Principles (2)

Programs support housing stability

- o Clear tenancy expectations
- o Coordinated property management and services,
- o Early intervention and support to meet requirements
- o Due-process protections for any termination

Participants engaged through informed choice and person-centered planning

- o Participants have opportunities to shape services
- o Participants are supported to understand and reduce risks
- o Staff intervene when necessary to protect safety

Updates on New Projects

TH/Interim Housing
- ◦ 7 projects submitted
- ◦ Scoring Committee recommends all projects move forward
- ◦ Approx $4 Million but final budgets TBD

Supportive Services Only
- ◦ Apps for Reallocated Services funds from PSH - $5.7 Million
- ◦ Apps to expend all bonus funds - TBD
- Coordinated Entry - $4 Million
- HMIS - $700,000

Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Request For Proposals (RFP) – Due 1/16/26

- BOS seeking new projects to provide Transitional Housing/Interim Housing (TH) or Supportive Services Only - Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) Projects
  - Funds totaling over $2.6 million anticipated to be available
  - Projects must serve individuals and families:
    - Fleeing or attempting to flee DV, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking
    - Qualify as homeless under HUD homelessness definition category 4
- Eligible Applicants: Qualified nonprofit organizations, State and local governments, instrumentalities of state or local government, Public Housing Authorities, Native American Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities
- DV RFP Instructions & Budget form
- Applications must be submitted to ctboscoc@gmail.com by **Friday, 1/16/26**.

Proposal: Additional Adjustment to 2025 Renewal Evaluation Criteria

Proposed: As time permits, adjust renewal evaluation criteria as follows and rescore for use in 2025 ranking:

- Score **returns to homelessness** and set associated points at 25% of total points
- Would help increase CoC Application score and increase likelihood of retaining/expanding funding

Proposed Renewal Evaluation Scoring Changes

Project Type	Original Maximum Points	Original Points for Employment	Proposed Points for Employment	Proposed Points for Returned to Homelessness	New Maximum Points
Adult PSH	100	0	50	50	200
Adult RRH	100	0	50	50	200
Adult TH	110	0	55	55	220
Youth PSH	95	15	40	40	160
Youth RRH	105	15	45	45	180
YHDP RRH	105	15	45	45	180
YHDP RRH RE/Div	90	N/A	NA	30	120
Youth TH	125	15	55	55	220
YHDP Crisis TH	115	15	50	50	200
YHDP Youth Navigators	N/A	N/A	NA	NA	N/A

Supports/Guidance Available and Needed

◦ Updated FAQ – Please continue to submit questions to ctboscoc@gmail.com!
◦ Talking Points for Communicating with Clients
◦ NAEH - Communicating with Tenants
◦ Talking Points for Landlord Communication
◦ Sample Service Agreement
◦ CT HERO Program Service Agreement
◦ Sample Service Schedule
◦ January LISC presentation on LISC Financial Opportunity Centers
◦ Other Needs?

CT CAN End Homelessness Updates/Advocacy

CAN Assessment Results

December 19, 2025

CAN Assessment Executive Summary

Overview

- CT BOS and Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC) engaged Housing Innovations to conduct an independent evaluation the Coordinated Access Network (CAN).

- The evaluation fulfills HUD's annual Coordinated Entry System (CES) evaluation requirement.

- The review assessed compliance with federal standards and effectiveness in advancing Connecticut's goals to:
  - Reduce homelessness
  - Shorten time to housing
  - Ensure equitable access to housing and services

Key Findings

✓ Connecticut's CES/CAN system is **aligned with HUD requirements** and functions as a comprehensive statewide coordinated entry network.

🏠 All required CES components are in place, including:
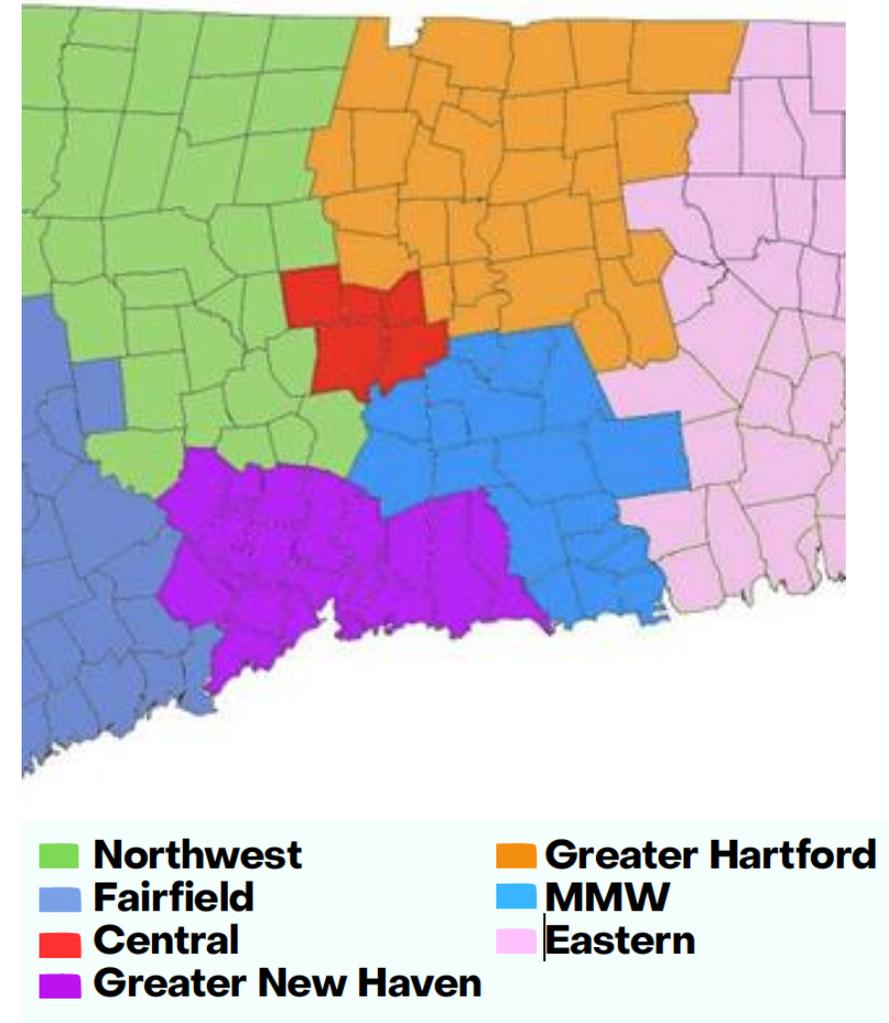
Assessment

Prioritization

Referral to housing programs

The evaluation identified opportunities to strengthen system performance by:

Clarifying oversight and governance roles

Standardizing procedures across regions

More fully integrating diversion into core operations

Background

- Connecticut operates a statewide, regionalized Coordinated Access Network model:
  - Seven subregions,
  - Each administered by a local backbone organization.
- Access to the system begins through the 2-1-1 housing crisis hotline, with referrals to:
  - Regional CANs for assessment, or
  - Local HUB drop-in centers for in-person assistance.
- HUBs offer connections to shelter, diversion, and housing resources.
- Regional discretion can result in variation in staffing, hours, forms, and procedures.

- Northwest
- Fairfield
- Central
- Greater New Haven
- Greater Hartford
- MMW
- Eastern

CAN Strengths

Reach and Scope

- Comprehensive statewide coverage across all regions and populations.

- Multiple access points through 2-1-1 and HUBs, both virtual and in-person.

Organization

- Standardized assessment and prioritization framework.

- Strong integration with Continuum of Care governance.

- Compliance with federal coordinated entry requirements.

Services

- Collaborative case conferencing and cross-agency coordination.

- Emphasis on problem-solving approaches.

- High levels of client awareness and accessibility.

Recommendations (1)

Strengthen policy framework and consistency

- Update and consolidate CAN policies and procedures to reflect current practice and statewide standards.
- Clarify definitions and expectations for key roles across regions.

Embed diversion and rapid-resolution practices

- Implement a consistent diversion and problem-solving screen at first contact (2-1-1, outreach, or HUB).
- Expand Flex Fund resources and provide ongoing diversion training.

Streamline intake and assessment

- Simplify tools and eliminate duplicative questions.
- Establish a uniform assessment form and standardized timelines.
- Standardize HUB hours and core services statewide.

Recommendations (2)

Refine prioritization and matching processes

- Develop a statewide prioritization tool to replace locally varied approaches.
- Improve tracking and analysis of referral outcomes.

Reorganize Housing Solutions Meetings

- Separate administrative updates from case conferencing.
- Automate routine matching decisions and focus meetings on complex cases.

Strengthen navigation, housing supply, and post-placement supports

- Establish housing navigator and landlord engagement roles.
- Enhance employment services, SSI/SSDI assistance, and CTI-based case management.

Improve governance and data transparency

- Clarify oversight roles among DOH, CCEH, CoCs, and backbone organizations.
- Standardize metrics and launch a statewide CAN performance dashboard.

Discussions

- Introduce yourself, your role, and how long you have been attending Steering Committee meetings
- Discussion for today:
- What results in the CE evaluation stood out to you?
- Please share suggestions in the chat or email to ctboscoc@gmail.com

Data Strategy Board Updates

Partner Announcements

Other Business?

Upcoming CT BOS SC Meetings

Meetings are from 11:00-12:30 unless otherwise noted

- January 16, 2026
- February 20, 2026
- March 20, 2026
- April 17, 2026
- May 15, 2026
- June 12, 2026

Zoom Info for all SC meetings:
- Meeting link
- Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479
- Password: 414595
- Call-in number: 646-876-9923

CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)

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