

CT Balance of State
(CT BOS)
Continuum of Care
(CoC)
Steering Committee
Meeting

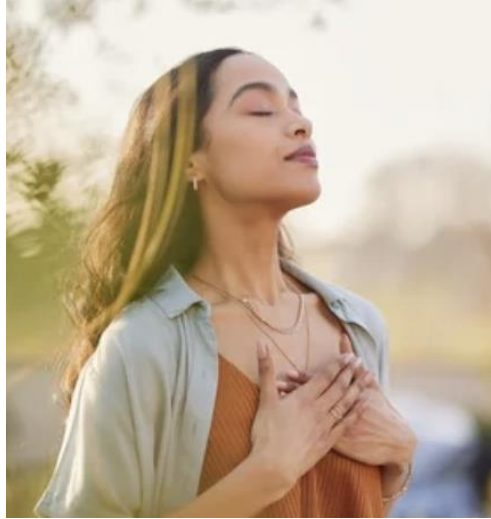
March 21, 2025



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Group Agreements for Meetings
- Adopt February Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- CCEH Legislative Updates
- Federal Updates
- Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants Presentation
- Immigration Status – Contract Requirements
- Consumer Leadership Involvement Project Updates (CLIP) Updates
- Break-out groups
- RRH Operations Guide & PSH Requirements & Operations Guide Updates
- Partner Announcements & Other Business





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 February Steering Committee Meeting Minutes



Draft CT BOS Feb 2025 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!



ACT -- New Statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead!



**Advancing
Connecticut
Together**





Upcoming BOS Trainings

Housing Requirements trainings:

Part 2: 4/1; 10am - 12pm

Target audience: Continuum of Care grantee staff, including supervisors overseeing housing activities and Housing Coordinators as well as others in leadership positions and Case Managers

[Zoom Link for Trainings](#)

Meeting ID: 851 7878 0207

Passcode: 855813



Upcoming Trainings

Grants Management:

- 4/22: 10am-12pm

Target Audience: Senior staff and supervisors responsible for CoC grant management at both agencies that receive CoC funds directly from HUD and those that receive CoC funds through a contract with a recipient agency

[Zoom Link for Training](#)

Meeting ID: 890 6252 6081
Passcode: 321551

DMHAS Funded PSH Supportive Services training/network sessions by CAN

Training Date	Location	Registration Link/CAN
April 3, 2025	555 Windsor St., Hartford	Hartford CAN
April 4, 2025	140 N. Frontage Rd., Mansfield Center	Eastern CAN
April 30, 2025	71 Hillandale Rd., Westport	ODFC CAN
May 1, 2025	232 N. Elm St., Waterbury	Northwest CAN
May 2, 2025	2321 Whitney Ave, #401, Hamden	New Haven CAN
May 14, 2025	100 Roscommon Dr., Middletown	MMW CAN
May 15, 2025	233 Main Street, 4 th Floor, New Britain	Central CAN



My Dog Is My Home

- My Dog Is My Home's mission is to increase access to shelter and housing for people experiencing homelessness with companion animals.
- My Dog Is My Home Conference 2025: Why Pets? Why Now? The Urgency of Inclusion



[March 25-27, 2025](#)

[Conference Information](#)

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

- Free tax preparation assistance is available!
- VITA assists households w/income below \$68,000
- VITA sites offer professional tax assistance by IRS certified tax preparers.
- Call 211 or use link to access providers: [VITA Service Providers](#)





Social Security Administration (SSA) Updates

Social Security Strengthens Identity Proofing Requirements

On March 31, 2025, SSA transitions to stronger ID proofing procedures for benefit claims & direct deposit changes

- People who do not already have a “my Social Security” account can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/
- Those who don’t use “my Social Security” account (which requires online identity proofing), will need to visit a local Social Security office to prove their identity in person.
- Those without “my Social Security” services may start their claim for benefits on the telephone but then need to go in-person
- Call 1-800-772-1213 to schedule an in-person appointment

Expedites Direct Deposit Changes to One Day

SSA will expedite processing all direct deposit change requests – both in person and online – to one business day (was 30 days)

For more info: [SSA Info on Strong ID Proofing and Expedited Direct Deposits](#)



Supportive Housing Acronyms

IMPORTANT Reminder – Update Zengine Contacts (BOS Grants Management Database)



To confirm/update your information:

- Log into Zengine
- Review your profile ensuring it is up to date,
- Make any updates necessary to contact profile information, ensuring the following:
 - Any staff turnover is reflected in the agency primary, secondary and third contacts, plus executive director
 - e-snaps user information is up to date and the agency has at least 2 people who are trained in use of e-snaps
 - Property management information is entered and up to date
 - All titles are accurate
- and click "Save" so that your review and/or any changes are logged.
- **Please note that clicking Save is required regardless of changes made to ensure your review is recorded in Zengine**
- **Zengine Resources:** [How to create a profile](#); [Changing Zengine Contacts](#); [Zengine Training slides](#)



Legislative Updates

CT CAN End Homelessness 2025

Bills We're Tracking

- [H.B. 6893](#) includes **\$33.5 million in funding for the Homeless Response System** and will save lives by preventing homelessness, responding to crisis, and ensuring housing stability for all.
- [H.B. 6894](#) codifies the **Interagency Council on Homelessness**, which will drive coordinated solutions to prevent and solve homelessness.
- [H.B. 7033](#) would correct the harm done by the [Supreme Court in *Johnson v. Grants Pass*](#), which allows state and municipalities to arrest, ticket, or fine people sheltering in public spaces while unhoused, even when there is no other option.
- [H.B. 5002](#) would require a report by the Commissioner of Housing on how to better support persons experiencing homelessness.
- [H.B. 6348](#) would expand the **protection of Just Cause eviction** to all tenants in building with five or more units, beyond just older or disabled adults

End Homelessness Caucus



Next Steps – Outreach!

[Head to our Advocacy page for the email template and Legislative Directory!](#)

Fill out the email template - write to you legislator about the reason you support these bills, and say why they should too:

- Are you a person with lived experience, a front line staff member, or a service provider?
- Are you a member of a community organization who is concerned about the well-being of your neighbors experiencing homelessness?
- **Are you a voter?**

Copy your finished letter into an email, add a subject line, and send it to your legislator!

NOTE: Please send your email to **ONE** legislator at a time - **do not send a mass email.**

Social Media - *What Prevent, Assist, House, Save Lives! Means to Me*



Upcoming Meetings

- Policy & Advocacy Committee
- Legislative Leads
- First End Homelessness Caucus Meeting
- Friday Federal Check-Ins

Email kwhitney@cceh.org to sign up!



Federal Updates

- Contract Renewals/Grant Agreements
 - Error in contract language caused a delay in processing grants for 2024 CoC awards (projects start as early as Jan 2025)
 - Initial contracts (the ones HUD pulled back) required compliance with various Executive Orders:
 - Forbidding the promotion of gender ideology or DEI
 - Prohibit promoting or funding elective abortions
 - Certain providers must use verification system to prevent undocumented individuals from getting Federal public benefits
 - Grant funds may not be used to support “Sanctuary” policies to shield undocumented individuals from deportation
 - HUD will not enforce provisions of the Grant Agreement that use a Housing First model
 - Anticipate being back on track next week and will prioritize based on grant start date



Federal Updates (2)

- Congress passed and President signed a year-long continuing resolution (CR), to extend funding for federal government through September 2025.
 - Funds CoC renewals that start as early as January 2026
 - No additional funding for CoC program
 - HUD can and will repurpose CoC Builds funds (awards never announced) for renewals
 - Expected shortfall for HUD's homeless assistance grants estimated at \$168 M nationally
 - Approximately 4% of total 2024 award

Federal Updates (3)

- [3/14 Executive Order](#) instructs US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to reduce functions and staff to the minimum required by law.
- By today, USICH must determine which of its functions are required by law.
- USICH is responsible for coordinating the federal response to homelessness between departments and agencies.





Connecticut Institute for Refugees and Immigrants

Strengthening Communities Since 1918

Immigration Status – Contract Requirements



CT Statewide Rapid Rehousing Requirements & Operations Guide - UPDATED



Guide establishes policies and procedures for CT RRH projects funded by DOH, CT BOS and Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC) Continuums of Care

Updates:

- Youth Housing Demonstration Project (YHDP) RRH projects may select which of the approved rent calculation methodologies they will use (i.e., the standard methodology or the YHDP specific methodology). The project may not apply different rent calculation methodologies for different participants.
- HUD approved Special Activities are now listed as eligible expenses. YHDP projects should review their grant agreement and/or consult with the Department of Housing (DOH) to determine the extent to which any YHDP Special Activities have been authorized by HUD.

CT Statewide PSH Requirements & Operations Guide - UPDATED

Guide establishes policies and procedures for all PSH Programs statewide

Updates:

- Documentation of rent reasonableness determinations, including 3 comparable units, must be maintained in participants' files
- Added information on:
 - Quarterly Progress Report requirements for SNOFO projects
 - Payment for vacant units in leasing projects
 - VAWA Budget Line Item





Partner Announcements

Other Business?



Upcoming CT BOS SC Meetings



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

- April 11, 2025
- May 16, 2025 – Semi-annual (11-1)
- June 20, 2025
- July 18, 2025
- August 15, 2025
- September 19, 2025
- October 17, 2025
- November 21, 2025
- December 19, 2025

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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