

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

April 11, 2025



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Group Agreements for Meetings
- Adopt March Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP) Presentation
- Break-out groups
- State of CT Consolidated Plan Presentation
- Data Strategy Board (DSB) Updates
- Federal Updates
- Hartford Con Plan Presentation
- 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 March Steering Committee Meeting Minutes



Draft March 2025 Steering Committee Meeting 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!





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



Upcoming BOS Trainings

Policy and Administrative Requirements Webinar: 5/7/25 - 10am-12pm

Topics will include:

- Overview of Federal and Local Requirements
- Buy America Build America (BABA) requirement
- Equity & Equal Access
- Participant Rights & Notices
- Additional Required Policies & Other Administrative Requirements

Target audience: staff responsible for overseeing CoC projects in either a recipient or subrecipient agency.

Join Zoom Meeting

[Link to webinar](#); Meeting ID: 860 7081 9338; Passcode: 173358; 646-876-9923



CT BOS Semi-Annual Meeting – 5/16/25 – 11am-1pm



Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)
New Lead Agency – CT Coalition to End Homelessness
CCEH starts project 7/1/2025

cca | DV MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Susan B. Anthony Project
SAFETY • HEALING • GROWTH

PRUDENCE CRANDALL CENTER
Empowering Healing & Hope since 1973

the network
reaching out for a violence free society

PROJECT SAGE
to end relationship violence



SAFE HAVEN
OF GREATER WATERBURY, INC.

The Center
for Empowerment
and Education

formerly The Women's Center of Greater Danbury



SERVICES & SUPPORT FOR
SAFE RELATIONSHIPS
24/7 HOTLINE: 203.622.0055



**The Center for
Family Justice**
Hope Starts Here.

The Umbrella Center
for Domestic Violence Services
A program of BHcare



CHRYSALIS
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES



NEW HORIZONS
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES
A PROGRAM OF Community Health Center, Inc.

CTSafeConnect

CT's Domestic Violence Resource Hub
CTSafeConnect.org | 888.774.2900
Call • Text • Chat • Email • 24/7
Connect to Your Local Provider



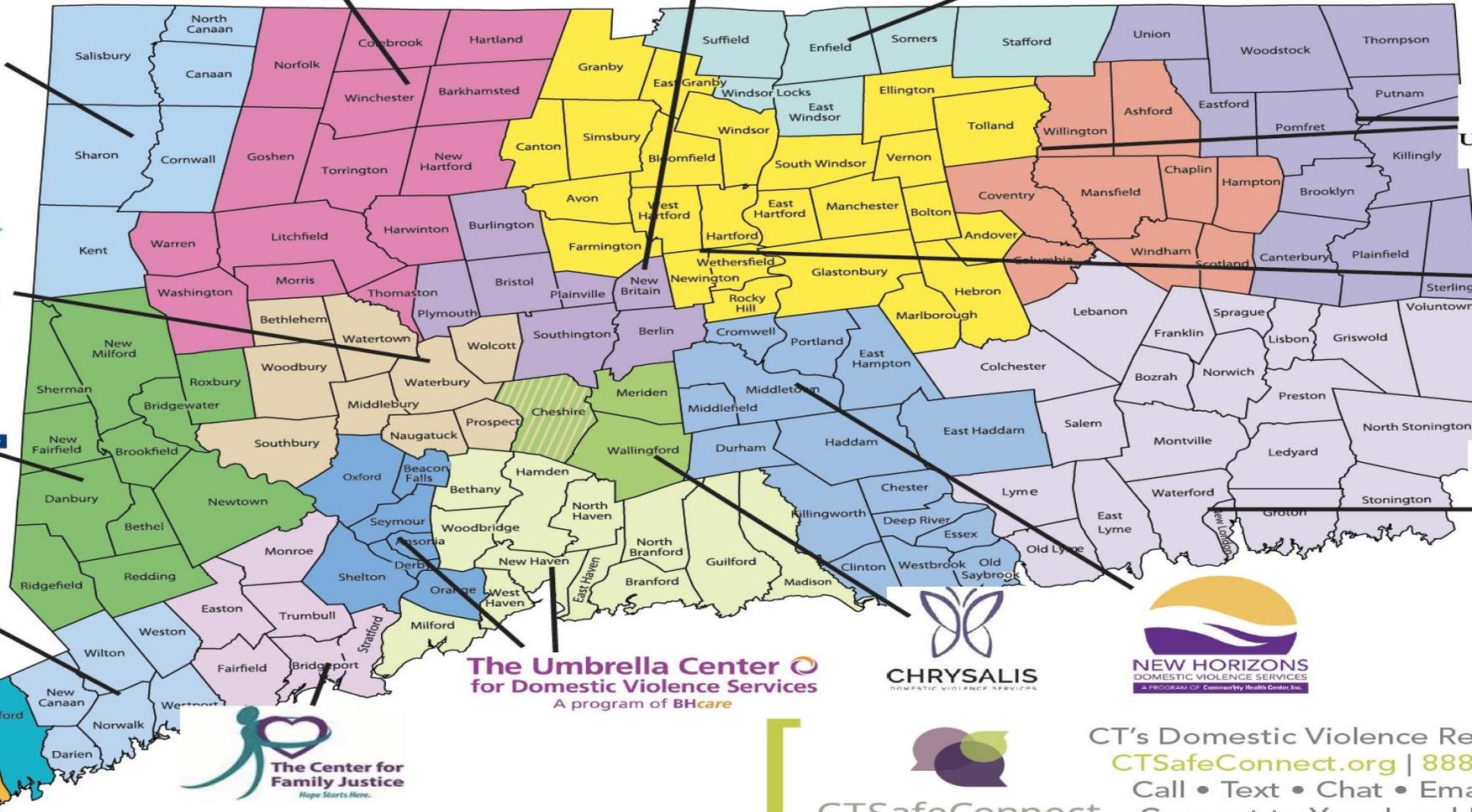
United Services, Inc.
Creating healthy communities



INTERVAL
HOUSE
working to end domestic violence



Safe
Futures



National Low-Income Housing Coalition - Fellowship



[Our Homes, Our Votes Tenant Fellowship](#) will convene 20 tenant and resident leaders that are committed to the mission of NLIHC's nonpartisan *Our Homes, Our Votes* campaign to increase voter turnout among low-income renters and elevate housing as an election issue.

- Applications are due on **Friday, April 18**, at **11:59 pm ET**. Learn more about the program [here](#) and fill out an application [here](#)

[Link to application](#)

DMHAS Funded PSH Supportive Services Training/ Network sessions by CAN

| Training Date | Location | Registration Link/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 |





CCEH ATI!

[LINK TO REGISTRATION](#)

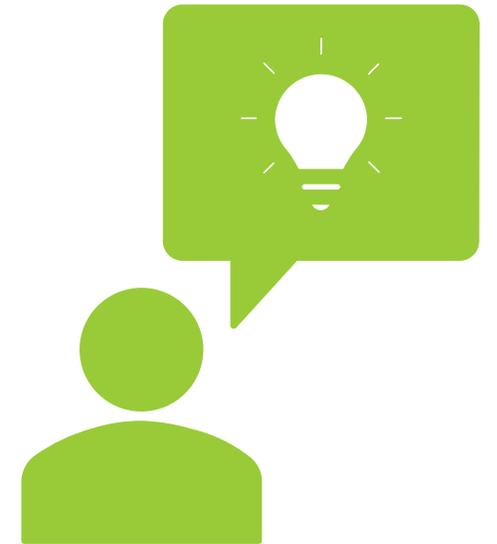


Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP) Discussion

What is Unconscious Bias?

“Unconscious biases are social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their own conscious awareness. Everyone holds unconscious beliefs about various social and identity groups, and these biases stem from one's tendency to organize social worlds by categorizing”

[More on Unconscious Bias](#)



Affinity Bias



“Affinity bias is an unconscious bias in which people gravitate toward others who appear similar to them.”

“2023 Gender and Politics survey, ninety-five percent of people who take the [Implicit Association Test](#) associate women with caregiving and men with providing.”

“Not Like Us”

Lived Experience: Live in communities that resemble themselves.

“Making assumptions about cultural fit based on similarities or differences”

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/affinity-bias>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/juliekratz/2024/02/21/what-is-affinity-bias-and-why-does-it-matter/>

Kendrick Lamar

Discussions



- Introduce yourself, your role, and how long you have been attending Steering Committee meetings
- Discussion for today:
 - How does unconscious bias and/or affinity bias affect the involvement of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness (PWLE) in your organization?
 - How can the participation of PWLE in your organization be enhanced or increased?

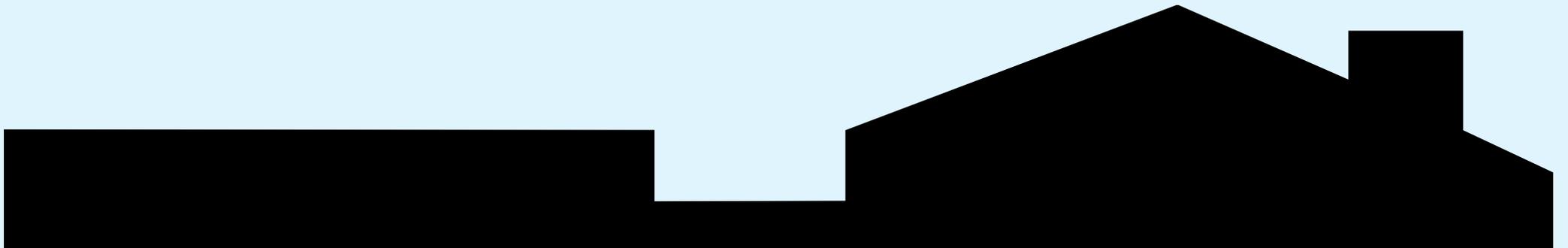
Please share suggestions in the chat or email to ctboscoc@gmail.com

Reminders: To join a group, accept the invitation. Any issues, return to the main session for assistance.

**State of Connecticut
Department of Housing**

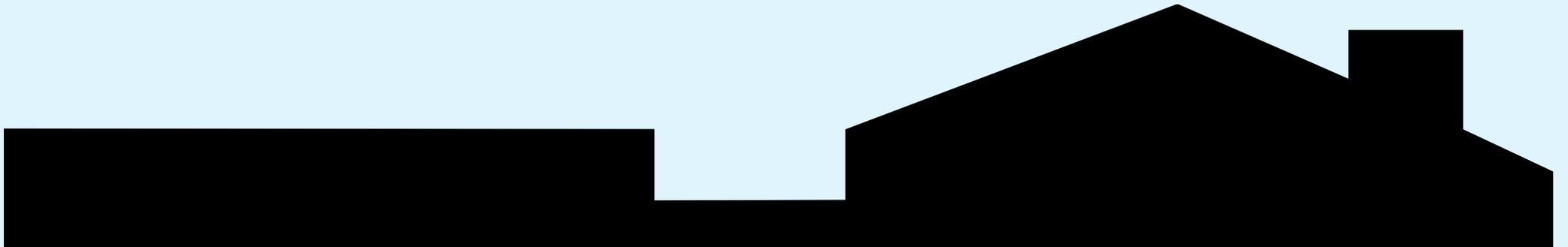
**5 Year Consolidated Plan for Housing and
Community Development
FY 2025 – 2029**

Draft Plan



Priority Needs Discussion

- Affordable Housing Needs
- Homelessness
- Supportive Services
- Infrastructure Needs



Affordable Housing Needs

- Housing Need at All Income Levels
- Affordability Crisis at 30% and 50% AMI
- Large Up Front Costs for Rentals are Unsustainable
- Housing Need in All Areas of the State
- Streamlining Project Approvals / Funding for Housing Developers
- More homeownership Opportunities in Urban Areas
- Housing for Special Needs Populations
 - Seniors, Persons with Disabilities, Foster Care, Corrections



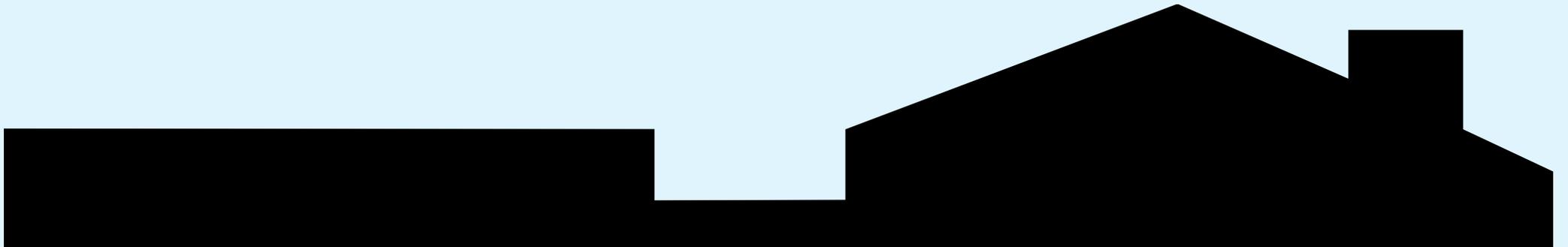
Affordable Housing Needs

- Providing Technical Assistance to Towns for Affordable Housing Development
- Federal Housing Choice Vouchers
 - Long Wait Times
 - Rental Increases Reduce Reach and Efficacy
 - Need to Expand Participation of Landlords
 - Significant Challenges Related to Corporate Ownership
 - Resentment about Certain Areas Bearing Disproportionate Responsibility of Affordable Housing
 - Need Innovative Low-Cost Models of Development



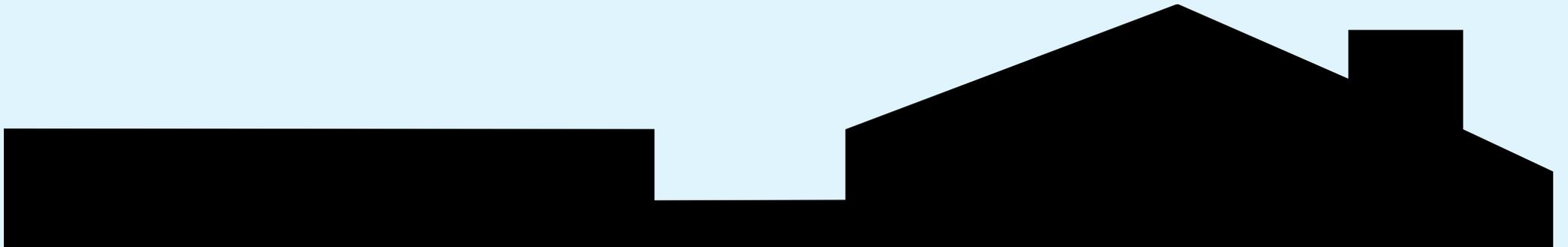
Homelessness

- Significant Increase in Homelessness
- Homelessness is Growing Everywhere
- Growing Homelessness among Seniors, Single Mothers, Low-Wage Workers
- Long Wait Times for Shelters –Capacity Issues
- Frustration with 211 System
- Everything Predicated on Lack of Affordable Housing



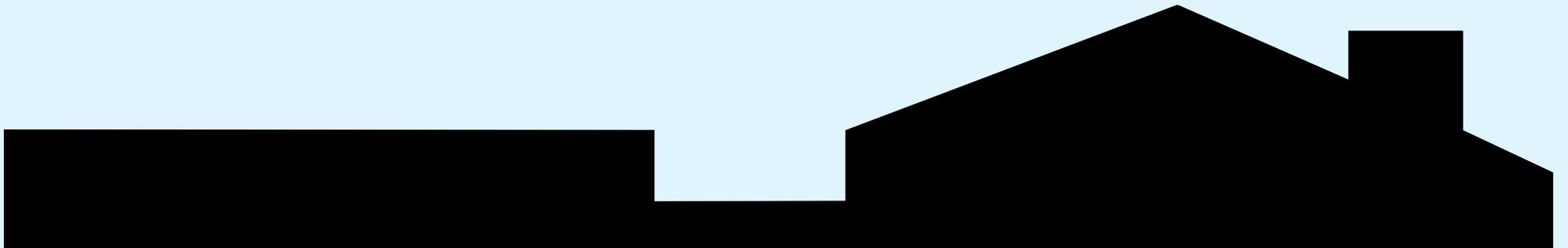
Supportive Services

- Desire for More Permanent Supportive Housing
- Providing On-Site Services to the Residents
- Mental Health, Disabilities, Victims of DV, Seniors
- Wraparound Case Management Needs
- Help People Maintain Housing Stability
- Collaborative RFPs with Other State Agencies



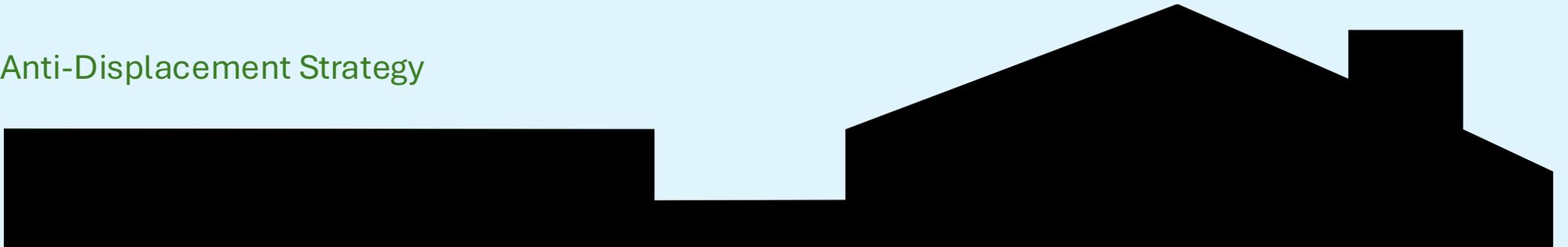
Infrastructure Needs

- Suburban / Rural Development Challenges
- Sewer / Water Line / Roads
- Significant Up-Front Cost to Facilitate Development
- Limits Potential Development in These Areas
- Transportation Networks May Reinforce Isolation
- Difficult to Secure 9% LIHTC Deals for Rural/Suburban



Goals and Strategies

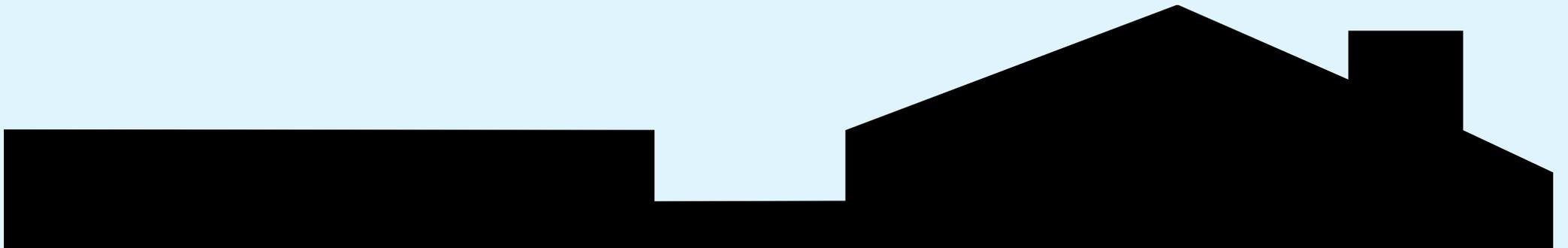
- Development / Preservation of Affordable Housing Rental Units
- Development / Preservation of Affordable Housing Owner Units
- Development / Preservation of Permanent Supportive Housing
- Additional Pre-Development Funding for Rural/Suburban Projects
- Adaptive Reuse of Schools, Motels, Commercial Parcels
- High Density Transit-Oriented Development
- Innovations in Building Materials, Designs, Units
- Encourage Community Land Trusts
- Anti-Displacement Strategy



**State of Connecticut
Department of Housing**

Comments?

Email: ct.housing.plans@ct.gov





Data Strategy Board Updates

Federal Updates –HUD CoC Grant Agreement Execution & Updated Language



2024 Awards & 2025 Competition

- Week of 3/31/25
 - HUD resumed processing grant agreements for projects awarded through the 2024 NOFO
 - Grant cycles start as early as January 2025.
- Prioritizing projects with start dates early in the calendar year
- Grantees must execute the agreement to access funds and continue CoC grant operations.
- HUD is currently registering all CoCs for 2025 – stay tuned for details.





Grant Agreement Language

- Contract Renewals/Grant Agreements
 - Prohibit the promotion of gender ideology as defined in [E.O. 14168](#)
 - Recipient must certify it does not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion that violate federal anti-discrimination laws (laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, genetic information, or national origin in all programs or activities that receive Federal funds).
 - Prohibit promoting or funding elective abortions
 - HUD will not enforce provisions of the Grant Agreement that use a Housing First model

Grant Agreement Language (2)



- Contract Renewals/Grant Agreements
 - **“Subject to the exceptions provided by PRWORA”** the recipient must use SAVE or an equivalent verification system to prevent undocumented individuals from getting Federal public benefits
 - Grant funds may not be used by State or Local Governments to facilitate the subsidization or promotion of undocumented immigrants or support “Sanctuary” policies to shield such individuals from deportation

Grant Agreement Language (3)



PRWORA

- Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing using a scattered site leasing approach, Safe Havens, & Rapid Rehousing previously determined by HUD to be **not subject to the immigration-based restrictions in PRWORA: [HUD PRWORA Fact Sheet](#)**.
- PRWORA does not require nonprofit organizations to verify the immigration status of applicants for federal, state, or local benefits.
- No updates from HUD to these PRWORA exceptions.

Housing First

- Housing First language in contracts does not prevent CoCs or CT State agencies from enforcing local Housing First requirements.
- All CT BOS projects must adhere to CoC written standards, which include [CT BOS Housing First principles](#).



City of Hartford FY 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan Year 1 Annual Plan 7/1/25-6/30/26

All Hartford HUD Program Allocations

| Year | CDBG | HOME | ESG | HOPWA |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 2025 (Est) | 3,445,240 | 1,213,828 | 311,853 | 1,329,161 |
| 2024 | 3,551,794 | 1,251,370 | 321,498 | 1,370,269 |
| 2023 | 3,657,978 | 1,617,702 | 317,525 | 1,384,958 |

April 11, 2025



SCHEDULE

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1/27/25 | NOFA/Applications for CDBG, ESG and HOPWA are released |
| 1/23/25 | Public Hearing on ConPlan 12:00PM and 5:30 PM |
| 2/10/25 | Technical Assistance Workshop 12 PM |
| 2/28/25 | Applications Due to Central Grants |
| 3/1-3/14/25 | CDBG Public Service Panel Reviews and Recommendations |
| 3/1-3/25/24 | ESG Hartford CAN and HOPWA Panel Reviews and Recommendations |
| 3/19/25 | 1st Funding Request Review Meetings with Mayor |
| 4/8/25 | Funding Recommendation from Mayor |
| 4/9/25 | Final date to submit resolution and transmittal letter to Mayor's Office and Council |
| 4/1-4/5/25 | Send Public Announcement to Local Newspapers |
| 4/11/25 | Draft of Consolidated Plan published for review and comment |
| 4/12/-5/19/25 | Minimum 30-Day Public Notice Period of Mayor's Recommendations prior to Annual Plan submission (<i>could be posted earlier</i>) |
| 4/14/25 | Introduction on Council Agenda referred to OMBA |
| 4/16/25 | Public Hearing for Con Plan input |
| 4/21/25 | Special Public Hearing with Council- 5:30 PM |
| 5/6/25 | OMBGA (or COW) Committee Meeting- for CDBG VOTE |
| 5/12/25 | Final Action on Resolution - Council Adoption |
| 5/15/25 | Submission of Con Plan to HUD |
| 7/1/25 | New Program Year Start- New Contracts Begin |



Applications for HUD Programs

| | # Applications | \$ Requested | \$ Available |
|--|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT | 42 | \$2,596,795 | \$1,405,859 |
| EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) | 9 | | \$311,853 |
| HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) | 7 | | \$1,329,161 |
| HOPWA/ESG Recipients requesting/recommending CDBG | 8 | | \$229,505 |



Trends:

- **Applications to fund programs providing basic needs - e.g. food for seniors – because they are losing funding**
- **Applications from agencies serving special populations (e.g. HOPWA, ESG) for programs to help their clients progress toward independence e.g. employment, housing**
- **Program modifications and language to neutralize triggering program components**



Additional Observations

- Despite the unpredictability of the environment, we continue to hear from agencies about moving forward and increasing staff skills and tools to better assist the needs of their clients.
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April 11, 2025



Questions or Comments

contact:
sheryl.horowitz@hartford.gov

April 11, 2025



Partner Announcements

Other Business?



Upcoming CT BOS SC Meetings

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

- May 16, 2025 – Semi-annual (11-1)
- June 27, 2025 – note new date!
- 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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