

## **THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES**

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) is requesting public comment regarding the annual Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) application.

The State Summary Narrative from the PATH application will be posted on the DMHAS website on Monday, March 6, 2023- Wednesday, March 8, 2023. All interested parties may use this opportunity to comment on the State Summary Narrative by emailing:

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### **State Summary Narrative**

Connecticut State PATH Providers support the following allowable activities: outreach, engagement, case management, mental health diagnostic and clinical services, habilitation and rehabilitation, community mental health, housing support services and referrals to primary health care, substance abuse treatment and education.

For FFY 2023 The State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) will contract with five PATH providers. Of the five PATH providers, three will cover 2 CANS each. PATH funding is aligned with Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) that have been established as a single point of entry for homeless and housing services throughout CT. All PATH providers are required to actively participate in the CAN Matching Meetings where referrals to all housing and homeless services are discussed. PATH outreach workers continue to provide support to persons while, and in some cases after, the person has transitioned into permanent housing. This is to ensure a smooth transition of services and to promote housing stability. Additionally, PATH providers enter encounter, intake and service data into the Connecticut Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This data is uploaded via an interface into the DMHAS data system (DDaP). This allows the systems to work together to facilitate quality on-going services to support persons who have experienced homelessness and are diagnosed with behavioral health disorders. The SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) method of applying for benefits is available for PATH enrolled individuals, as needed.

Having PATH providers take part in CAN meetings ensures that persons living outdoors, who may not be connected to mainstream services, receive assessments and referrals to all programs for which they may be eligible. PATH providers can enroll persons living outdoors and house them by ensuring they are prioritized on the housing list within the CAN. PATH providers attend biweekly CAN outreach and housing meetings to advocate for available housing for their

clients. PATH providers also work with the housing and homeless service providers to complete a CAN-wide outreach plan twice a year. DMHAS is part of the review process of these outreach plans to assist in filling any gaps in geographic service needs and systemic service needs. The outreach plan is continually being updated based on community needs, but must formally be signed off on twice a year. Signatures include the PATH outreach worker, the CAN Manager and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services State PATH Lead.

PATH providers are contracted to provide outdoor canvassing to assist people experiencing homelessness and shelter in-reach when necessary. Details of canvassing locations, days and times are in the outreach plan. The outreach plan also lists partner outreach agencies that work with PATH as an outreach team. The homeless outreach teams contact persons who are literally homeless by going to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, encampments, parks, and greens. The teams work with persons, who may be experiencing homelessness to engage them into mainstream services, i.e.: mental, physical, dental health centers, entitlements, housing, etc. The homeless outreach teams work closely with housing providers and other services providers to ensure a smooth transition of services.

DMHAS contracts with Housing Innovations to provide training, technical assistance and annual monitoring for PATH providers. DMHAS and Housing Innovations work closely to gather provider feedback to keep standardized forms and processes current and relevant. DMHAS