



DATA POINTS TO A STEADY DECLINE IN CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Connecticut in Line to Meet Year End Goal

(HARTFORD, CT) – The state Department of Housing (DOH) and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) co-sponsored an event at Liberty Commons in Middletown yesterday that featured Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Senator Richard Blumenthal who came together to mark significant progress in the fight to end chronic homelessness in Connecticut.

In 2014, Governor Dannel P. Malloy became one of only four Governors to sign onto the Zero: 2016 initiative, whose goal is to end chronic homelessness by the end of this year. In front of a packed crowd of housing providers from both Middlesex and New Haven Counties, DOH Commissioner Klein, CCEH Executive Director Tepper Bates, Congresswoman DeLauro, and Senator Blumenthal joined in recognition of the news that Connecticut is expected to meet its year end goal of ending chronic homelessness based on current data projections.

“Thanks to the incredible support, hard work, and dedication of our local providers on the ground, Connecticut is nationally recognized for its efforts to not only prevent but also to eliminate homelessness,” said **DOH Commissioner Evonne M. Klein**. “These numbers show that our efforts are paying off. We’ve effectively ended veteran homelessness thanks to our coordination and collaboration and because of that we will end chronic homelessness too.”

Since last year, 981 people have been placed into permanent housing as a result of this dynamic new approach to addressing homelessness. This system involves a strong coordination among local providers as well as the municipal, state, and federal government. Since October alone, 77 individuals living with chronic homelessness have been permanently housed in the greater New Haven area and in the Middletown/Meriden/Wallingford area another 49 people have been placed into permanent housing. These chronically homeless individuals are considered “high need” and they generally require support services to ensure successful placement into permanent housing thus preventing them from falling back into homelessness.

“Over the past couple of years, we have seen incredible collaboration between nonprofits, state, and federal partners,” said **CCEH Executive Director Lisa Tepper Bates**. “With this incredible team work, we are making great strides—we’ve ended Veteran homelessness in Connecticut, and in a few short months, we will end chronic homelessness.”

Connecticut is a nationally recognized leader in the fight to eliminate homelessness. In August 2015, Connecticut made history when it became the first state in the nation recognized by the federal government for ending chronic veteran homelessness. The state again made history when at the end of 2015 it was certified as being one of only two to have effectively eliminated all veteran homelessness.

“Homelessness is one of the most troubling and intractable problems our society faces. Too often, we see chronically homeless people cycling between the streets, shelters, mental health facilities, emergency rooms, hospitals and jail. In a society as wealthy as ours, this is a moral issue.” said **Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro**. “We have been able to make these enormous strides because of aggressive coordination at all levels of government with local and statewide advocates and non-profit organizations. I am proud to say that, through the leadership of Commissioner Klein and Lisa Tepper-Bates, Connecticut is once again leading the nation and is on track to end chronic homelessness by the end of this year. This is a remarkable effort and I have been proud to support their good work.”

Senator Richard Blumenthal said, “Connecticut is leading the nation in ending chronic homelessness—a milestone to celebrate thanks to the tireless work of advocates. But we cannot rest. We must redouble our efforts to address the root causes of homelessness—particularly for our veterans and those who have experienced severe trauma. We must continue to fight until all residents have a safe, stable and affordable place to call home.”

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