



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



**DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES COLD WEATHER FUNDING AS WINTER APPROACHES**

(Hartford, CT) –Today, the Department of Housing announced it is allocating \$6 million to provide cold weather accommodations for the homeless population. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many spaces used to provide overnight shelter during the winter months have been closed or had their capacities significantly reduced. The funding provided by DOH restores the winter shelter capacity in the homeless service system to pre-pandemic levels.

DOH has worked collaboratively with the state of Connecticut’s Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) to identify the appropriate locations for cold weather shelter. DOH has been able to combine funding from a variety of resources, including federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CARES Act and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This funding will provide accommodations for those that need a warm overnight space and services to secure the safety of these locations. Case management will be made available to those seeking to obtain permanent housing.

Any household that is experiencing a housing crisis, including need for shelter during the cold weather months, should contact 2-1-1 as that is the entry point to the CAN system.

Additionally, DOH has been awarded one hundred (100) new Mainstream Vouchers from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Mainstream Voucher program is used to assist non-elderly persons with disabilities. These Mainstream Vouchers will be used to place the homeless into permanent housing, further aiding Connecticut’s response to homelessness during the winter months.

“The pandemic has brought numerous challenges to our homeless population,” **said Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno.** “The investment in cold weather funding is important to assure our vulnerable residents have a warm, safe place to stay during the winter season while pursuing permanent housing.”

“HUD is pleased to work with the Department of Housing to use a portion of its HUD CARES Act funding during this pandemic to increase cold weather shelter capacity across CT in an effort to safely provide accommodations for our most vulnerable citizens during the coldest winter nights ahead,” **said David E. Tille, HUD’s Regional Administrator for New England**

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