STATE INVESTS IN LOCAL HOMELESS SHELTER OPERATIONS
Awards $260,000 CIA Grant to New Reach, Inc. in New Haven

(HARTFORD, CT) Today, State Department of Housing (DOH) Commissioner Evonne M. Klein announced that New Reach, Inc. of New Haven was awarded a $260,000 grant from the Department’s Community Investment Account (CIA) funds. This funding will allow New Reach, Inc. to maintain its shelter operation with no interruptions in service. The award will provide $130,000 a year, over the next two years, to cover operating expenses.

“New Reach is an excellent partner and they are making a difference in the state’s goal to end homelessness,” said Commissioner Klein. “It was important to the Department that we assist them in continuing their efforts. It is because of Governor Malloy’s commitment to prevent and end homelessness, Connecticut has seen an unprecedented investment of resources towards this effort.”

The CIA fund allows the Department to award grants to projects and initiatives that would not otherwise be eligible under our larger funding rounds. These grants are evaluated on a rolling basis and must demonstrate that they will have a positive impact in the community.

“News of this state funding is most welcome as we continue working to provide shelter – an essential human need – for the most vulnerable members of our community, and its timing couldn’t be better,” Mayor Toni N. Harp said. “My administration is making good progress in this policy area – we’re grateful for this encouragement and financial support from Governor Malloy and his administration.”

The state recently announced that it will be allocating an additional 50 Rental Assistance Program (RAP) certificates specifically for use by homeless veterans. This will aid in Connecticut’s efforts to end chronic veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 and chronic homelessness by the end of 2016. These goals are in line with Governor Malloy’s commitment to the Zero: 2016 initiative, which he signed on to earlier in the year.

“We are incredibly excited that the CT Department of Housing recognizes the importance of family shelters in the New Haven community and supports the efforts of New Reach to shelter homeless women and children in need,” said Kara Capone, Chief Operating Officer of New Reach, Inc. “We are especially thankful to Commissioner Klein for her leadership and how she has directed the Department to act in partnership with other homeless service providers throughout the state to fulfill our shared vision of ending homelessness in Connecticut. Together we can accomplish this seemingly impossible task”
Governor Malloy’s significant financial commitment to building affordable housing in Connecticut has enabled DOH to fund several new affordable and supportive housing projects that include units targeted to specific populations. These projects are in different stages of development and will come online as early as next year, ensuring the state continues to support individuals who are newly entering homelessness. The most recent funding round offered by the Department, the Competitive Housing Assistance for Multifamily Properties (CHAMP) 7 round, required all successful developments to set aside at least two (2) units for a preference to extremely low-income veterans as well as one (1) unit for handicapped accessibility.

Since 2011, together with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), the state has created 6,150 affordable units, we have another 2,907 affordable units under construction, and have committed funding to 5,255 additional affordable units.

Under the Malloy administration, Connecticut’s total investment in affordable housing is approximately $880 million — a stark representation as to the high level of commitment the state is making to end homelessness and ensuring that every resident has a secure, safe, and affordable place to call home. The Department focuses on funding projects that are inclusive and available to individuals at both affordable and market rates.

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Contact: Dan Arsenault
Connecticut Department of Housing
Dan.Arsenault@ct.gov
860-270-8103 (office)
860-977-3189 (cell)
Check us out on Twitter!
@CTDeptHousing