

March 7, 2017

Good afternoon!

In the fall of 2015, the Reaching Home campaign worked with Focus Strategies, a consulting firm from California, to conduct a system and data needs assessment to help it develop a more coordinated data strategy to end homelessness in Connecticut. As part of this assessment, Focus Strategies met with and interviewed multiple community stakeholders and leadership groups to clarify their data and reporting goals, understand how data collection and analysis currently supports their work, and identify where there are unmet data needs. Their report, issued last year, identified ways the campaign can build upon and enhance the significant efforts already underway. A recommendation from that work was that we, as the funders, need to have clear and consistent expectations for providers and system stakeholders so that we can all move forward together.

In response, the Connecticut Departments of Housing and of Mental Health and Addiction Services, along with the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Melville Charitable Trust recently created a Funder's Collaborative. As a group, we share an interest in and commitment to data-informed policy-making and system design. Together we are working to determine how best to leverage this interest to better help our State make the next significant reductions in homelessness.

As a first step, our Funder's Collaborative is launching a learning and planning initiative, with the continued assistance of Focus Strategies. The core of this work will be an analysis of the performance of our homeless and housing system statewide. The specific set of tools we will be using are the System-Wide Analytics and Projection (SWAP), commissioned by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) and developed by Focus Strategies. The SWAP will examine measures at both program and system levels and at both the local level and statewide. We will take the next year to invest in conducting this analysis, to ask for your participation in gathering and understanding important context and data, and then publish a report about our system performance, highlighting areas of strength and areas in need of improvement. We hope to learn from this work what it will take to get to scale in our different intervention types, and identify what shifts we as funders could make to support greater progress.

You are invited to participate in a webinar to introduce the project. The webinar will include an overview of the project goals and an explanation of the data and other information Focus Strategies will be gathering. We will also discuss the role of the provider community in the system assessment and analysis and how you can be involved over the course of the project.

The webinar is scheduled for **March 29, 2017** from **2:00 to 3:30 p.m.** The webinar details are as follows:

Focus Strategies is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/647555258>

Or Telephone: Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Webinar ID: 647 555 258

We hope you will plan to attend this kick-off event. This will be an opportunity to learn more about how our State can refine and strengthen our use of data and performance measurement in system planning so that we can continue to reduce the numbers of people experiencing homelessness in our communities. We look forward to undertaking this critical work in partnership with you.

Sincerely,

The Funder's Collaborative

Alice Minervino, DMHAS

Fred Morton, DMHAS

Kim Karanda, DMHAS

Steve DiLella, DOH

Beau Anderson, DOH

Suzanne Piacentini, HUD

Becca Allen, Melville Trust