



DATA POINTS TO A STEADY DECLINE IN CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Connecticut on Track 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 Saint Vincent DePaul Shelter in Waterbury today that featured Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and Senator Chris Murphy, who came together to mark significant progress in the fight to end chronic homelessness in Connecticut. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition, a chronically homeless individual is someone who has experienced a long period of homelessness and lives with a severely disabling condition.

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 the greater Waterbury and Litchfield County regions, DOH Commissioner Klein, CCEH Executive Director Tepper Bates, Congresswoman Esty, Senator Blumenthal, and Senator Murphy 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. Ending homelessness has been a priority of the Malloy administration since the Governor first made the pledge.

“Connecticut has been a national leader in our efforts to end both veteran and chronic homelessness and we are proud of the significant role our state has played in helping the nation reach this major milestone,” **Governor Dannel P. Malloy** said. “It is our responsibility to ensure the brave men and women who have served our country have all the support they need upon returning home, including access to housing, healthcare, and career opportunities. Ensuring and delivering housing for our most vulnerable is critical to building stronger communities for everyone, everywhere.”

“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 homelessness. This system involves a strong coordination among local providers as well as the municipal, state, and federal government. Since last October, 43 individuals living with chronic

homelessness have been permanently housed in the greater Waterbury and Litchfield county region. 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.”

“At the bare minimum, every single man and woman who serves this country deserves the dignity of a safe place to live and raise their family. Ending chronic homelessness among veterans is an enormous step forward, and I’m proud that Connecticut led the nation in taking it. Tireless providers like the folks at Saint Vincent DePaul Shelter are saving lives, putting families back together, and doing an incredible service for communities across the state. I have no doubt that with continued hard work, we can achieve our goal of ending chronic homelessness in Connecticut once and for all,” said **Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty**.

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.”

“Seven years ago, I brought federal officials to Waterbury to see the outright crisis in the city with homeless veterans living in the woods and under bridges, and we began a path to remove this stain on our community.” said **Senator Chris Murphy**. “We’ve made smart investments in federal programs like HUD-VASH and improved health care and social services through better coordination with local, state, and federal partners. Our state has a bold goal to end chronic homelessness. I know it won’t be easy, but success stories, like those we heard today at Saint Vincent DePaul Shelter in Waterbury, give me hope.”

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](#).

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