



DOH COMMISSIONER KLEIN CALLS ON CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS TO HELP END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Asks Mayors and First Selectmen to partner with the state

(HARTFORD, CT) Department of Housing (DOH) Commissioner Evonne M. Klein, today, sent the following letter to every municipal chief elected official across Connecticut, asking them to partner with the state in its mission to end chronic homelessness by the end of this year.

August 3, 2016

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

Today, I am writing to share with you the great progress Connecticut continues to make in ending homelessness and to ask you to join the [Department of Housing](#) in our efforts to end chronic homelessness in the State of Connecticut.

It was one year ago that Connecticut made history when it was designated by the federal government as being the [first state in the nation to end chronic homelessness among veterans](#). But that's not all. I am proud to say that on Monday President Obama recognized Connecticut as being one of only two states in the nation to have effectively ended veteran homelessness at the end of 2015. Overall, we are seeing a decrease in homelessness across the state, because we have developed a system to identify homeless individuals and families and quickly place them into permanent housing.

We've seen great results from these efforts. The individuals and families that are being placed into safe, secure and affordable housing are putting down roots in their communities, have found steady employment, and have become valuable community members. In addition, ending homelessness is an important part of Connecticut's economic recovery. Homelessness is expensive. It costs the State of Connecticut \$33,360 annually per homeless individual and \$122,460 annually per homeless family. If we were to house that individual our costs as a state are cut in half, \$15,198 annually for a 2 bedroom apartment. Ending homelessness is not only the right thing to do, but also it also makes good economic sense.

Our progress has been steady, but we know there is more work to be done and we need your help to do it. The State of Connecticut has signed on to Zero: 2016, an initiative to **end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016**.

What I am asking from you today is to sign on to Zero: 2016 on behalf of your community and pledge to help us end chronic homelessness across the state by the end of the year. Below are some suggestions on how you and your municipality can play a critical role in this initiative.

1. Sign the pledge to be a partner with us on Zero: 2016 by clicking [here](#).
2. Contact the [Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness](#) to learn more about how you can further benefit this initiative.
3. Work with your local Housing Authority to prioritize a percentage of units to house homeless individuals and families as several communities have done.
4. Build affordable housing in your community as a step towards preventing homelessness. DOH's funding opportunities can be found [here](#).

Too often, as a society, we accept homelessness as a fact of life. We know better in Connecticut. We are ending homelessness in our great state. Whether you're a mayor of a city that has a homeless population or a first selectman of a small town that doesn't, please join us, sign the pledge and be a part of ending chronic homelessness in Connecticut by the end of 2016.

Sincerely,



Evonne M. Klein
Commissioner

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For Immediate Release: August 3, 2016
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