



STATE HOUSING COMMISSIONER KLEIN CALLS ON LOCAL OFFICIALS TO HELP END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN CONNECTICUT

Asks Mayors and First Selectmen to Partner with the State in Zero: 2016

(HARTFORD, CT) State Department of Housing (DOH) Commissioner Evonne M. Klein, today, [sent a letter](#) to Mayors and First Selectmen across Connecticut to ask them to partner with the state in its efforts to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016.

Connecticut was one of only four (4) states to sign on to Zero: 2016, a national initiative sponsored by the nonprofit Community Solutions. The goal of Zero: 2016 is to end chronic homelessness by the end of the 2016 calendar year. The state made history in August 2015 when [Governor Malloy announced that the federal government certified that Connecticut was the first state in America to end chronic veteran homelessness](#).

“As the first state in America to end chronic veteran homelessness Connecticut has a lot to be proud of, but there is still more work to do.” said Commissioner Klein. “We are calling on local chief elected officials to join the state and local nonprofits in our mission to end chronic homelessness. Too often we accept homelessness as a fact of life, but we know better in Connecticut. Our data shows that we can end homelessness and, in fact, we are ending homelessness. As public servants, we understand what’s at stake for these homeless families and individuals, especially for our most vulnerable. As leaders, we have the ability to connect people with the resources they need to get them on a path to permanent, safe, stable, and affordable housing.”

As the lead state agency charged with ending homelessness, DOH partners with groups like the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) and the Partnership for Strong Communities (PSC) to coordinate statewide efforts in achieving this goal. By [signing the pledge](#), Mayors and First Selectmen are committing to do their part in their communities to help end chronic homelessness by the end of this year.

In addition to affirming their commitment to Zero: 2016, Commissioner Klein also offered other suggestions to make this vision a reality.

1. Contact the [Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness](#) to learn more about how you can further benefit this initiative.
2. Work with your local Housing Authority to prioritize a percentage of units to house homeless individuals and families.
3. Build affordable housing in your community as a step towards preventing homelessness.

DOH also plans to do individual outreach to all 169 municipalities in the coming weeks to encourage participation in this initiative.

Connecticut has been making real progress to expand access to affordable housing across the state, an important resource needed to prevent and end homelessness. Since 2011, together with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), the state has created 7,551 affordable units. There are another 2,570 affordable units under construction, and funding commitments in place to create another 5,730 affordable units. The state has invested One Billion Dollars to create, rehabilitate, or preserve 15,851 affordable units in the past 5 years. The monetary investment and the affordable units that have been created under Governor Malloy are more than the previous three gubernatorial administrations combined. A more detailed breakdown of all the units that have been created under the Malloy administration can be found below:

Housing Units Completed

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Units</u>	<u>Affordable</u>
2011	162	162
2012	1,348	1,338
2013	2,374	2,336
2014	2,132	2,072
<u>2015</u>	<u>2,312</u>	<u>1,643</u>
Total	8,328	7,551

Housing Units under Construction

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Units</u>	<u>Affordable</u>
2015	3,112	2,570

Housing Units with Funding Commitments

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Units</u>	<u>Affordable</u>
2015	6,457	5,730

DOH offers several funding rounds on an annual basis to spark affordable housing creation. Additional resources and information on creating affordable housing as well as preventing and ending homelessness can be found by visiting www.ct.gov/doh.

###

For Immediate Release: January 12, 2016
 Contact: Dan Arsenault
 Connecticut Department of Housing
Dan.Arsenault@ct.gov
 860-270-8103 (office)
 860-977-3189 (cell)
 Twitter: @CTDeptHousing