

CT Balance of State  
(CT BOS)  
Continuum of Care  
(CoC)  
Steering Committee  
Meeting

September 20, 2024



# Agenda

- Welcome and Chairs Introductions
- Group Agreements for meetings
- Adopt August Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- Infectious Disease Updates
- McKinney-Vento Presentation – CT Department of Education
- CCEH Legislative Updates & Trainings
- CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Vote – HMIS Data Strategy Board Charter
- CT BOS Strategic Planning
- Partner Announcements & Other Business



# CT BOS Group Agreements for Meetings

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Developed by Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)

- Be present and listen actively
- Choose courage over comfort
- Participate to the fullest of your ability
- Take space, make space
- Assume good intent, but also acknowledge impact
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Use "I" statements
- Recognize emotional tax, extra labor, and burden that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Latino/a/x, LGBTQ+, persons with Behavioral Health issues, DV survivors, Veterans and people with lived expertise/experience of homelessness face in some conversations
- Honor the Conflicts of Interest Policy





# Reminders

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- Input is welcome!
- Please unmute or use chat.
- To provide anonymous input, please send a message to a member of the CT BOS support team:
  - Liz Isaacs
  - Lauren Pareti

# Approve CT BOS August 2024 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

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Draft August SC Minutes

# Announcements



# Reminder: Post Steering Committee Debrief

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- Anyone who has questions or comments about Steering Committee business can stay on at the end of the monthly zoom meeting.
- As always, questions/comments can also be sent [CTBOSCoC@gmail.com](mailto:CTBOSCoC@gmail.com) or call a team member any time!





# Voter Engagement Efforts Resources from NAEH

People experiencing homelessness have the right to vote & providers are allowed to support their efforts to register!

Check out these helpful resources:

- [Voter Registration - Our Homes, Our Votes](#)
- [You Don't Need a Home to Vote](#)
- [Everyone Votes Toolkit](#)
- [Three Steps to Supporting Clients' Right to vote](#)







# HUD CoC Builds NOFO

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- CT BOS CoC to submit application on behalf of Columbus House for Wallingford Permanent Supportive Housing Capital Project
- Up to \$10 million to be requested
- Highly competitive
- Awards announced in 2025



# CONNECTICUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2024

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: [Connecticut Affordable Housing Conference 2024: Here for Housing \(zoom.us\)](#)

## BRIAN J. MCCABE

Provost's Distinguished Associate Professor of Sociology  
Georgetown University

## JERUSALEM DEMSAS

Staff Writer, The Atlantic  
Author of "On The Housing Crisis"

## EVA ROSEN

Associate Professor  
McCourt School of Public Policy  
Georgetown University



# HUD Unsheltered and Rural Special NOFO APR Training

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## HUD Training Information:

- 9/25/24 at 3pm
- [Registration Information](#)

## Objectives:

- Understand the Special NOFO reporting requirements in Sage for each project type
- Examine how to submit complete and timely APRs in Sage
- Find additional help and resources for completing Special NOFO reporting in Sage

## Audience:

- All Unsheltered and Rural Special NOFO grant staff involved in financial and/or project administration and reporting.





## Housing and Services Resource Center

- Created through a partnership between U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and HUD.
- The Center was created to serve organizations and systems that provide housing, homelessness, health, independent living, and other supportive services that help people live successfully and stably in the community.
- [Link to Website](#)
- [Upcoming Event: Registration Info for: Accelerating Housing and Services Partnerships to Advance Housing Stability: Area Agencies on Aging - 9/24 at 2:30](#)





CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Basic Requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act



# Federal McKinney-Vento Act

Subtitle VII-B of *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*, reauthorized in 2015 by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act

42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.

Guarantees educational rights and supports for students experiencing homelessness, and seeks to remove any barriers these students may face in succeeding in school.



# McKinney-Vento Definition of Homeless

Those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, including students:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to a lack of alternative, adequate accommodation
- Living in emergency & transitional shelters
- Abandoned in hospitals
- Living in public or private places not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations or similar situations
- Migratory children living in the above situations







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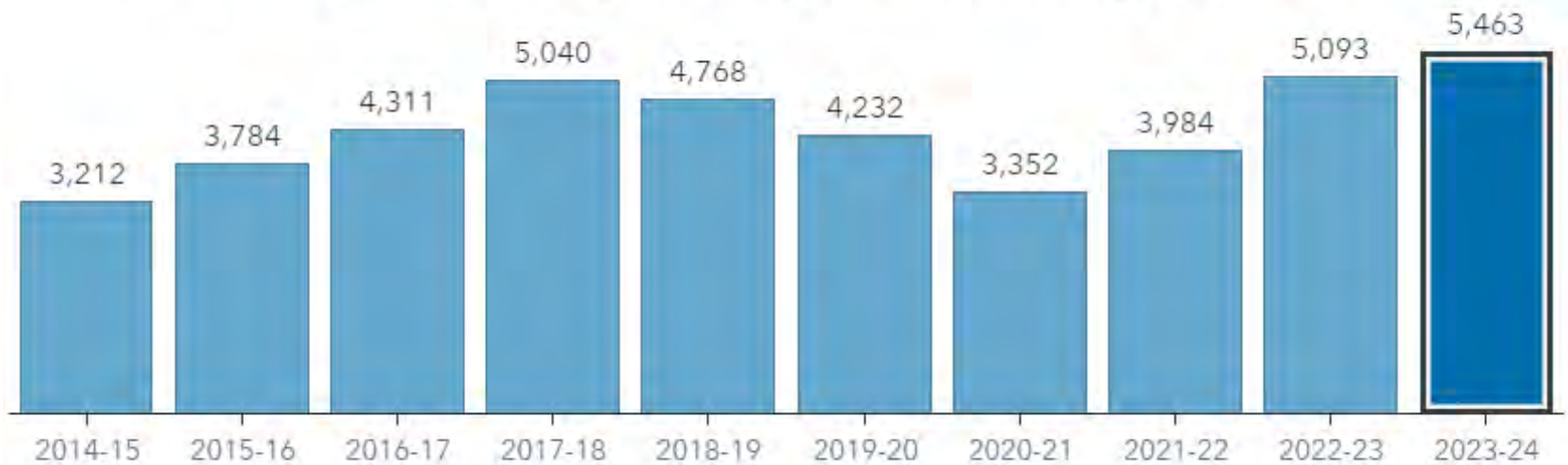
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# McKinney-Vento Homeless - CT

**5,463** students experienced homelessness in **2023-24**

This represents **1.0%** of all students

Count of Students Experiencing Homelessness by School Year





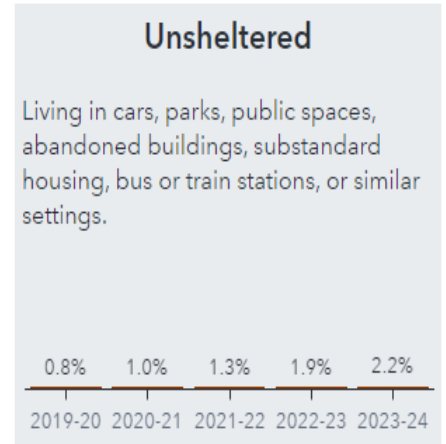
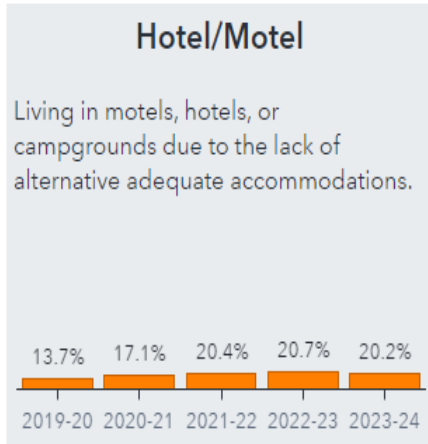
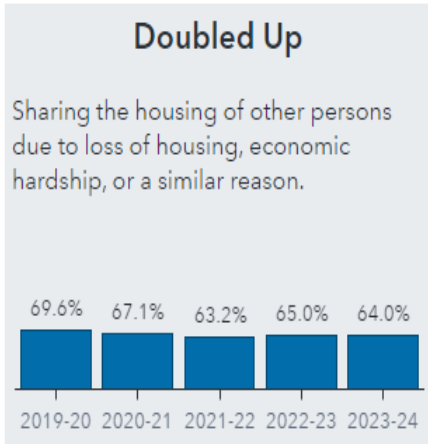
# McKinney-Vento Homeless - CT

## Primary Nighttime Residence

Nighttime residence reflects the type of residence the student was using at the time the student was identified as meeting the definition of homeless.

Of students experiencing homelessness in the 2023-24 school year,

**3,494** were doubled up **1,104** lived in a hotel/motel **743** were sheltered **122** were unsheltered



# McKinney-Vento Homeless - CT

## Student Characteristics<sup>3</sup>

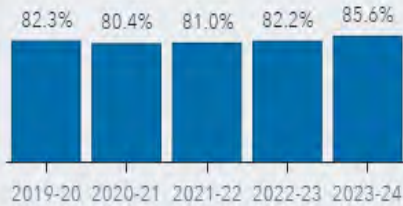
Of students experiencing homelessness in the 2023-24 school year, there were

**4,674** students of color **1,436** students with disabilities **1,582** English Learners **385** unaccompanied youth

### Students of Color

Students who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Two or More Races.

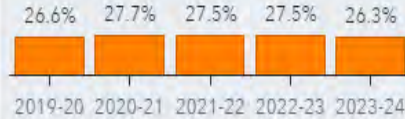
In 2023-24, **85.6%** of students experiencing homelessness were students of color, as compared to 54.6% of all students.



### Students with Disabilities

Students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) receiving special education instruction. This does not include students with a Section 504 Plan.

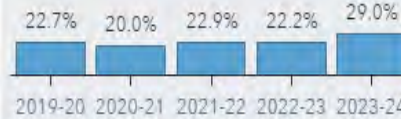
In 2023-24, **26.3%** of students experiencing homelessness had disabilities, as compared to 19.8% of all students.



### English Learners

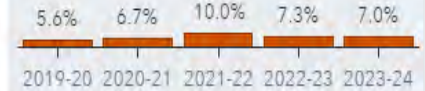
Students who lack sufficient mastery of English to "assure equal educational opportunity in the regular school program" (C.G.S. 10-17e).

In 2023-24, **29.0%** of students experiencing homelessness were English Learners, as compared to 11.4% of all students.



### Unaccompanied Youth<sup>2</sup>

An "unaccompanied youth" is defined as a homeless child or youth "not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian" (42 U.S.C. § 11434g).



# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

- The term *unaccompanied youth* includes a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(6)

- Liaisons must assist UHY with enrollment, school selection, & dispute resolution
- Have the same right to immediate enrollment & educational services as other students







# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY)

- There are no age limits in the McKinney-Vento Act
- Eligibility is based on the student's housing
- Pathways to homelessness for unaccompanied youth:
  - 35% of youth experienced the death of at least one parent or caregiver
  - 44% of youth had been in foster care
  - 24% were homeless with their families before becoming unaccompanied





# Local Education Agency Liaison

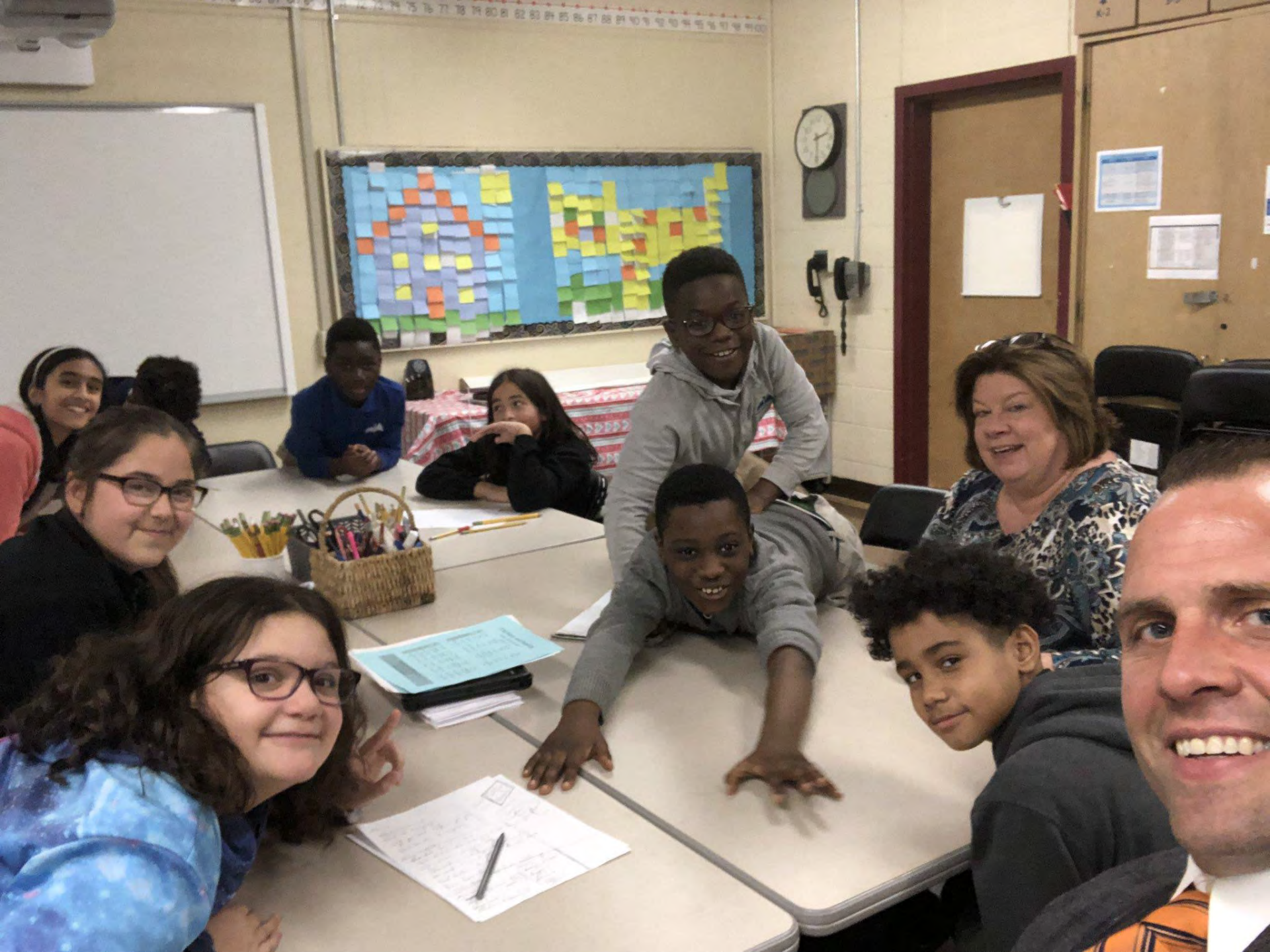
McKinney-Vento Act requires every local educational agency (LEA or school district) to designate a local homeless education liaison

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)

Local liaison serves as the district's lead homeless education contact, and is required to fulfill the duties established in the Act

- [Connecticut LEA Homeless Liaison Catalog](#)





# Local Liaison Duties

- Ensure HCY are identified in coordination with others
- Ensure immediate enrollment & access to services
- Provide information about rights & opportunities
  - Includes meaningful opportunities for parents to participate in their children's education
  - Includes transportation, school meals, & other programs
- Ensure disputes are mediated
- May affirm for Housing and Urban Development programs that HCY meet MV eligibility criteria



# Local Liaison Duties

- Support UHY in school selection & dispute resolution
- Ensure UHY are provided verification of their status for FAFSA purposes
- Provide training & other support for school personnel
- Provide referrals to services in the community
- Collaborate & coordinate services with State Coordinators, community and school personnel
  - Includes collecting & reporting data





# Requirement to Remove Barriers

States and school districts must **develop, review, and revise policies**

- To remove barriers to the school identification, enrollment and retention of McKinney-Vento students
- Includes barriers due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(I)







# Immediate Enrollment

*Enroll* and *enrollment* includes “attending classes & participating fully in all school activities”

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(1)

Enrollment must be immediate

- Even if students lack school, medical, or other records normally required
- Even if enrollment or application deadlines were missed while homeless
- Even if the student has history of absences or outstanding fines/fees

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(C)(i)





# School Selection

Option 1: School of origin: the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school the student last attended

- Includes public preschools
- Includes receiving schools

Option 2: Local attendance area school: any public school that nonhomeless students living in the same location have the right to attend



# School Selection

Can remain in the school of origin

- For the duration of the homelessness
- Until the end of the school year in which the student obtains housing
- If the student becomes homeless over the summer & is still homeless at start of school year

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(A)(i)(II)

Decisions are based on the individual student's best interest

42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(B)





BEST BUDDIES



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# Best Interest

- School of origin is presumed to be in student's best interest
  - Unless this is contrary to parent or UHY's wishes
- Consider student-centered factors
  - Impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, & safety

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(B)



# Transportation

HCY eligible for transportation to/from school of origin

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)

- Right to transportation extends
  - For the duration of the homelessness **and**
  - Until the end of the school year in which they obtain housing

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(3)(A)(2)

- Transportation comparable to what others receive

42 U.S.C. §11432(g)(4)(A)



# Dispute Resolution

- Disputes may be over: eligibility, school selection, or enrollment
- If enrollment is denied, a written statement must be given explaining the reason and appeal process
  - Provided in a format and language the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied homeless youth can understand
- The parent/youth must be immediately referred to the liaison
- Students must be enrolled and receive services while a dispute is mediated



# Categorical Eligibility

- Free school meals [42 U.S.C. § 1758(b)(5)(A)(b)]
- Services under Title I, Part A [20 U.S.C. § 6315(c)(2)(E)]
- All educational and support services comparable to what other students receive, including extra-curricular activities







# Coordinated Entry Partnership

## 5 Strategies for Schools and COCs

1. Get to know each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishing contact to familiarize partners and programs.</li><li>• Conduct shared needs assessments.</li><li>• Produce &amp; distribute information, EX: education issues along with available housing options.</li></ul>
2. Connect early and regularly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruit and involve schools in program planning/implementation process.</li><li>• Include each other in professional development and staff training.</li><li>• Host shared events, EX: parent workshops at shelter or library.</li></ul>



# Coordinated Entry Partnership

## 5 Strategies for Schools and COCs

3. Develop protocols to guide ongoing engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Making referrals.</li><li>• Sharing information and data.</li><li>• Maintaining confidentiality.</li></ul>
4. Reassess engagement periodically.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communicate with each other on what's working and what needs improvement.</li><li>• Ensure awareness and students' needs are being met.</li></ul>
5. Explore shared funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider working together on grants, contracts, donations, sponsorships, memberships and event fees that build/support partner relationship.</li></ul>











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CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- [CSDE Homeless Education Webpage](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection](#)
- [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#)

# CCEH Updates

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- Get Out the Vote webinar is scheduled for 10/1, from 11-12:30
- Registration information will be sent out shortly.
- CT CAN End Homelessness Policy & Advocacy Committee met on Sept. 17th to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming session.
  - Anyone can contribute a priority [via this form](#), and the deadline for all legislative priorities is Sept. 30th. The Committee will vote on a short list on Oct. 15th ([register here for the series](#))



# HUD 2024 Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition



- The list that follows are the new projects that will be submitted to HUD for funding through CoC and DV bonus funds.
- HUD will determine whether they are funded or not through a competitive process.
- All new projects that were submitted during the BOS RFP process and passed threshold review will be included in the request to HUD.



# New Projects for 2024 CoC Application Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)



## **Total PSH Request to HUD -- \$4,317,622; 12 PSH Projects**

DMHAS is grantee (except for CRT, TVCCA, Access & Liberty which are an expansion of an existing non-DMHAS grant)

- 3 projects new units and services
  - New Reach New Haven PSH Bonus: \$841,764; 30 units
  - Reliance Health - SMHA PSH Bonus 2023: \$259,864; 10 units
  - Chrysalis Center HEARRT House: \$185,307; 8 units
- 1 Enhanced services and new units
  - Mercy Shelter and Shelter Corp: \$713,689; 50 households

# New PSH Projects (continued)

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- 8 Projects Enhanced Services in PSH projects
  - CRT Consolidated Expansion: \$387,185; 57 households
  - Apex PSH Bonus: \$741,950; 70 households
  - TVCCA Homeless Collaborative Network: \$390,598; 50 households
  - Liberty Community Services Consolidated Scatter Site: \$281,524; 37 households
  - Windham Regional Community Council BOS 193: \$145,139; 18 households
  - Access Agency Killingly Wrap-Around Housing: \$73,150; 7 households
  - Chrysalis, Cedar Pointe: \$62,700, 6 households
  - River Valley Services Middletown Rental Assistance: \$209,000, 20 households

# New Rapid Rehousing (RRH) & Coordinated Entry

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**RRH Request to HUD -- \$1,987,863; 4 projects**

CT Department of Housing is grantee

## **3 Projects New Units and Services**

- Columbus House New Haven RRH Bonus: \$468,156; 17 units
- Columbus House MMW RRH Bonus: \$434,971; 17 units
- Friendship Service Center: \$522,984; 15 units

## **1 Project New Units and Enhanced Services**

- New London Homeless Hospitality Center: \$561,753; 50 units

## **Coordinated Entry – 1 project**

- CT DOH: \$728,506





# New Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Projects

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**Total DV Request to HUD -- \$2,760,150**

- RRH
  - CT Coalition Against DV (CCADV): 59 units & Enhanced Services for 135 households
  - Access Agency: \$271,388; 10 units
  - Friendship Service Center: \$522,984; 15 units
  - Safe Futures Joint TH-RRH Program: \$411,818; 15 units



# Data Strategy Board (DSB) Proposed Charter - Vote



## Data Strategy Board Proposed Charter

### Primary Responsibilities:

- Replace the HMIS Steering Committee as the decision-making body for CT HMIS
- Develop RFPs for HMIS Lead, System Administrator
- Provide oversight and monitoring for HMIS Lead and Administrator on behalf of the COCs
- Develop and monitor a strategic plan around data needs, collection, use and analysis related to ending homelessness in Connecticut
- Identify and measure performance against Key indicators and communicate performance to stakeholders

# DSB Proposed Charter (2)

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## DSB Membership:

Up to 12 voting members and 2 non-voting members from the following groups\*

- 4 - Housing/ homeless providers
- 2- CAN backbone agencies
- 2- Representatives from CT BOS and ODFC (1 each)
- 1 -Statewide CAN Manager - Data Analysis
- 1- One expert from a statewide provider coalition
- 2 - HMIS funders (DOH and DMHAS)
- 1- HMIS Lead entity (non-voting)
- 1- HMIS System Administration entity (non-voting) (if different from HMIS Lead)



\*All positions may be filled by a person with lived experience with homelessness, mental health, substance use or housing instability. DSB will consider knowledge/involvement with the CT HMIS, diversity, (e.g., race, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, socio economic status, preferred language, country of origin, religion, culture, familial status, veteran status, etc.), and geographic dispersion of membership.

# DSB Proposed Charter (3)

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## Next Steps:

Complete RFP process for CTHMIS (lead and administrator roles)

- CCEH's contract as the lead is up on 6/30/25

Create application process for inclusion on the DSB

- Goal is to have a full board by end of March.

Work on developing a 3-5 year Data Strategic Plan

- This will require input from end user groups, PWLE, external stakeholders and funders.



# Vote on adopting the DSB Charter

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All SC members can vote







# STRATEGIC PLAN

CT BOS Strategic Plan  
7/1/24-6/30/27

Stakeholder Feedback from May Steering Committee Meeting

# Strategic Planning Feedback



*How is CT BOS helpful?*

- Securing Funding
- Compliance Support
- Professional Development
- Good Communication

*How can CT BOS better meet needs of persons experiencing homelessness (PEH)?*

- Engagement of and feedback from PEH
- More flexibility with funding
- Increase affordable housing opportunities
- Address gaps (e.g., prevention and shelter)
- Strengthen safety & care coordination
- More staff support

# Strategic Planning Feedback (2)

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*How can BOS better meet needs of providers?*

- More TA, Training & Peer Learning
- Minimize documentation
- More data tools
- Alignment with ODFC
- Prompt minutes
- More transparency on use of Planning Grant funds



*What do you need from BOS that you do not get?*

- More funding
- Leadership for PLEH
- Best practices from other CoCs
- More work groups
- More advocacy with HUD
- More clarity on Renewal Evaluation
- In-person meetings



# Strategic Planning Action Items

## Draft Strategic Planning Action Items

### ***Leadership Opportunities for PLEH***

- Gather info on leadership opportunities for PLEH
- Expand and re-bid CLIP for operating year that starts 7/1/25.

### ***Program Model Improvements***

- Moving PSH participants whose eligibility for PSH cannot be documented or who no longer need intensive services on to other suitable, affordable permanent housing
- Explore centralization of CoC rental assistance administration in each CAN
- Convene a work group with Dept of Labor, providers, and PLEH to identify ways to improve employment outcomes



## Strategic Planning Action Items (2)



### ***Governance and CoC Coordination***

- Establish and implement next steps to strengthen coordination between CT BOS and ODFC
- Conduct Steering Committee meeting in person at least annually
- Distribute minutes more quickly
- Develop and maintain a Steering Committee directory
- Identify opportunities to reduce documentation burdens
- Always consider if a provider/PLEH work group would be helpful w/new initiative
- Conduct an analysis of CoC funding by CAN, develop recommendations to address geographic equity
- Share more info on Planning Grant spending w/the Steering Committee

# Strategic Planning Action Items (3)



## *Trainings*

- Provide and/or link to professional development opportunities on a range of topics
- Work with partner agencies that also deliver training to the CT Homeless Response System to strengthen coordination and ensure access to available trainings.

## *HMIS*

- Through a re-bidding process ensure ongoing strategic leadership and that HMIS meets the needs of the sector
- Establish strategic priorities in collaboration with the HMIS Governance body
- Enhance tools for providers
- Implement a portal that enables participant access to their data



# Strategic Planning Action Items (4)

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## ***Coordinated Entry***

- Better integrate CHFA/LIHTC units set aside for PEH into the CAN process
- Through CAN evaluation/monitoring initiative, ensure CAN system meets the needs of PEH, aligns with best practices, and complies with CAN policies and HUD requirements

## ***Monitoring & Adherence to CoC Requirements***

- Limit monitoring to items that involve significant recapture risks or impact housing and service quality for participants
- Focus more on provision of training, guidance and TA supports to help agencies to understand requirements and correct findings from State and HUD monitoring
- Convene a work group to inform how best to restructure the monitoring program
- Work w/partner agencies that also conduct reviews to strengthen coordination & impact



## Zoom Poll

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Which Action Step Categories do you think are most important to prioritize (*select up to 3*)?





# Partner Announcements

# Other Business?

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# Upcoming BOS SC Meetings

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Meetings held from 11-12:30

- October 18, 2024 – 11-12:30
- **November 15, 2024 – 11-1**  
**Semi-annual in person**  
**(pending space availability)**
- December 20, 2024
- January 17, 2025
- February 21, 2025
- March 21, 2025
- April 11, 2025
- May 16, 2025
- June 20, 2025



## Zoom Info for all SC meetings:

- [Meeting link](#)
- Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479
- Password: 414595
- Call-in number:  
646-876-9923

# CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)

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CT BOS CoC

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