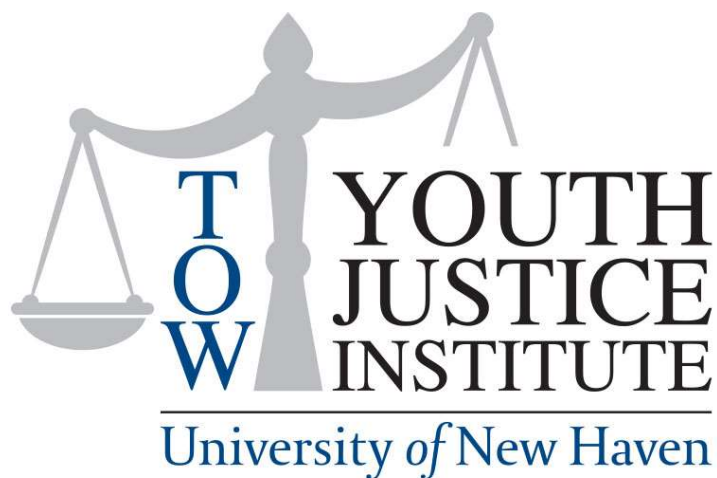


# ***Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee***

***May 16, 2024 Meeting***

**2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**

LOB- 300 Capitol Ave Hartford, Room 1E / Hybrid



**[SCAN TO SUBMIT YOUR ATTENDANCE](#)**

# Opening Remarks



- Welcome and Introductions – Rep. Toni Walker and Undersec. Daniel Karpowitz
  - Approval of April 2024 Meeting Minutes
  - Announcements
- Overview of Meeting- Erika Nowakowski, Tow Youth Justice Institute

# Meeting Agenda



- Youth Justice: Housing

Stacey Violante Cote, Deputy Director, CCA; Erica Bromley, Youth Justice Consultant, CYSA; Gerilyn Harrison, Coordinated Entry Manager, Journey Home; Katie Durand, Director of Strategic Initiatives, DOH; Amber Freeman, Director of Training, Technical Assistance and Community Impact, CCEH



# Community Care Teams for Minors:

**A Collective Impact Approach To Addressing  
Minor Homelessness**

# Minors, Homelessness & Juvenile Justice

## Defining the Issue

- **For purposes of this collaboration, youth homelessness is defined as:**
  - “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of the McKinney Vento Act section 103(a)(1));
  - This includes, those who are doubled up, couch surfing, living in motels, living in cars, parks, and abandoned buildings, and those who are not in the physical custody of their parent or guardian.

# Youth Homelessness

- **1 in 10** young adults ages 18 to 25 endures some form of homelessness in a year. Half of the prevalence involves couch surfing only.
- **1 in 30** adolescent minors ages 13 to 17 endures some form of homelessness in a year (A quarter of the prevalence involves couch surfing only)



# Youth Homelessness

- Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED had a **346%** higher risk
- Black or African American youth had an **83%** higher risk
- Hispanic, non-White youth had a **33%** higher risk



# Youth Homelessness & Juvenile Justice

## Multiple studies:

- ~ 50 to 75% of youth experiencing homelessness had been arrested, while 50 to 60% had been incarcerated
- Drug abuse, mental health issues, and lack of access to services associated with increased criminal activity for homeless youth
- Length of time homeless/disconnected = more frequency and likelihood of being involved with the criminal justice system



## Review of 10 quality peer reviewed studies 2006-2014: Arrests

Ferguson et al. 2011 - 72%

Thrane et al. 2008 - 55%

Chen et al. 2006 - 57%

Yoder et al. 2014 - 78%



# Youth Homelessness & Juvenile Justice

There are other ways that juvenile justice and homelessness intersect:

- **“Quality of Life” Ordinances:** prohibition on being in public parks, etc. after dark.
- **Survival Crimes:** Shoplifting, trespassing, human trafficking
- **Family Violence**
- **Behavioral Health**
- **Collateral Consequences:** limitation of housing options

**The Principles for Change:**

<http://juvjustice.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/FINAL%20Principles%20-%20ns%20final.pdf>



# Data: What We Know & Don't Know

## Minor Homelessness Data:

- **Multiple sources of data**
- **Multiple methods of counting/collecting data**
- **Using Best Available Data**
- **Hopeful that outreach and these collaborative pilots will help to improve the data**

# 2020 CT Youth Count

**We estimate that  
696 minors 17 and under  
experienced literal  
homelessness in 2020.**

Source: CT Coalition to End Homelessness,  
2020 Youth Count, p 36, available at:

[https://cceh.org/wp-content/uploads/  
2020/12/Youth-Count-FINAL.pdf](https://cceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Youth-Count-FINAL.pdf)

These estimates are based on 2,573 surveys completed combined with  
extrapolated data.



# 2020 CT Youth Count

Population	Unstably Housed	Literally Homeless	TOTAL
18-24 years of age	3,613	1,766	5,379
13-17 years of age	1,748	696	2,444
<b>TOTAL YOUTH</b>	<b>5,361</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>7,823</b>

Table I: Total Unstably Housed and Literally Homeless Youth Population

# RHY & Minor Pilot Sites

2023 Runaway & Homeless Youth (RHY) Programs	# of Minors Served
Emergency Shelter (8 beds)	26
Homeless Prevention	21
Community Care Team Pilot Sites	26

# National Runaway Safeline

2022 Crisis Calls from CT Youth	184 (60% minors)
Family Dynamics	78%
Emotional/Verbal Abuse	32%
Mental Health	32%
Economics	27%
Peer/Social Issues	17%

# Collaboration Overview

- **Prevent homelessness/housing instability among unaccompanied minors**
- **Decrease the likelihood that minors experiencing homelessness/housing instability become involved with the juvenile justice system**
- **Inform policy & practice recommendations**
- **Amplify the voices of youth with lived experience of homelessness**
- **Community impact: Provider collaboration**



# Collaboration Overview

- **Locations:**
  - Stamford & Bridgeport: Family & Children's Agency
  - Manchester: Manchester Youth Service Bureau
  - New London/Norwich: Thames River Community Services
  - Hartford: City of Hartford Youth Service Bureau

# Collaboration Overview

- **Planning Partners:**

- Municipalities
- Homeless Services Providers
- Center for Children's Advocacy
- Youth with Lived Expertise
- CT Youth Services Association & Youth Service Bureaus
- State agencies: CT Departments of Housing, Education, Children & Families; Judicial Branch: Court Support Services Division
- National organizations: Coalition for Juvenile Justice & National League of Cities

# Minors, Homelessness & the Law

*“A public or private agency serving children and youth may provide services to a homeless child or youth, as defined in 42 USC 11434a, unless the parent or guardian does not consent to such services or withdraws such consent. Such agency shall make all reasonable efforts to contact the parent or guardian for consent and shall be immune from liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise be incurred or imposed, provided the agency provided such services in good faith and not negligently.”*

**CGS § 17a-62b**

# Minors, Homelessness & the Law

- **This law creates an affirmative obligation on the part of the provider to make reasonable efforts to contact a parent or guardian for consent.**
- **At the same time, the law allows providers to continue with services after reasonable efforts to reach the parent have been made.**

# UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS MINORS CASE FLOW CHART

This case conferencing process can be applied in each region utilizing resources available. The main components include an identified regional hub (eg: RHY provider, YSB) & referring agencies who participate in case conferencing.

## Identification & Referral:

- Identify local Regional Hub in each region.
- Unaccompanied Homeless Minor\* identified by community partners including- schools, juvenile justice (CSSD), child welfare (DCF), police, runaway & homeless youth providers (RHY), youth service bureaus (YSB), mental health agencies & referred to Regional Hub.
- If housing need is identified, immediate referral to RHY provider in addition to Regional Hub.
- **Sample forms: referral, release of information to receive & share info, documentation of attempts to obtain parental consent pursuant to CGS §17a-62b.**

## Community Care Team Meeting:

- Monthly meeting with relevant providers (Determine who would be at your table).
- Purpose is to discuss available resources for identified minors, authorize release of resources where necessary, identify points of contact for Regional Hub to contact for provision of services; meetings can also present topics of interest re minors & homelessness.
- **Samples: standard format for case presentation; meeting frequency & topics.**

## Small Case Planning Meeting:

- Meeting with youth, identified supports, Regional Hub to present array of services & plan for next steps.
- **Sample: case planning forms.**

# What's Needed?

- **Improve Data:**
  - To better understand experiences of homelessness among minors, including those involved with the Juvenile & Criminal Justice systems.
    - Share housing screeners; Focus groups
  - Conduct a Youth Count
- **Collaboration with Community Care Teams for Minors:**
  - To enhance outreach & engagement with minors experiencing homelessness/housing instability.
  - Statewide partnership with Youth Service Bureaus
  - Funds to stabilize housing for minors

# What's Needed?

- **System Improvement:**

- Training, training, training for staff at all levels of school districts, re-entry providers, probation/parole officers, Youth Service Bureaus
  - Educational rights of students experiencing homelessness
  - Signs & symptoms of homelessness & housing instability; Crisis Intervention & De-escalation
  - “No Matter What” campaign from SDE

- **Housing:**

- Crisis beds for minors in all regions (currently only NH & FFC)



# What's Needed?

- **Re-Entry Supports:**
  - Continue work to connect youth exiting facilities to education, mental health & family mediation supports as a preventive measure
  - Support the CT Re-Entry Success Plan as it relates to housing needs:
    - Rec #6, 3: Utilize flex funds for housing assistance
    - Rec #8: Expand Access to Housing Options

# Questions?

**Stacey Violante Cote, Deputy Director, Center for Children's Advocacy: [sviolante@cca-ct.org](mailto:sviolante@cca-ct.org)**

**Erica Bromley, Youth Justice Consultant, CT Youth Services Association: [ebromley@ctyouthservices.org](mailto:ebromley@ctyouthservices.org)**

# **Navigating the Coordinated Access Network**

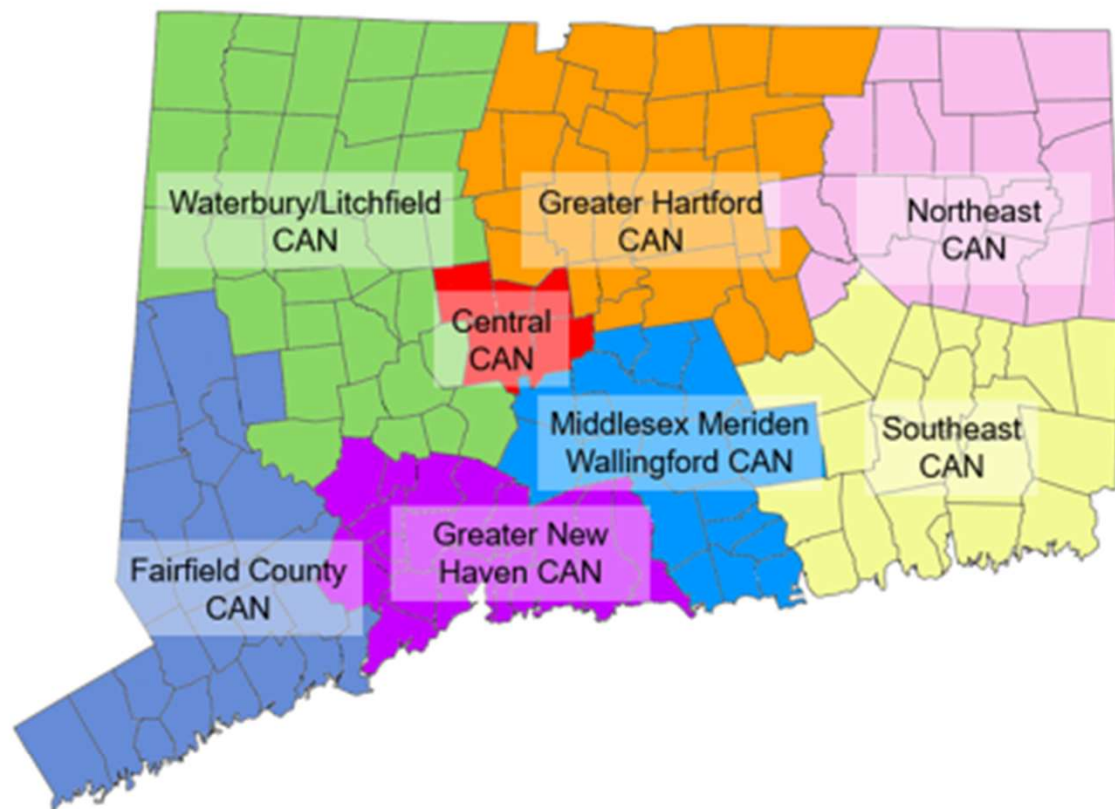
Person-Centered Planning for Individuals & Families  
Experiencing Homelessness

# How we approach our work

The **Connecticut homelessness response system** is built on principles and practices that enable us to effectively address homelessness

- We use a **Housing First approach**, which removes barriers to help homeless individuals obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible, without unnecessary prerequisites.
- Our successes are built on the foundation of **collaboration and cooperation** among state agencies, over 200 programs, and other stakeholders committed to addressing homelessness
- **We use data** to track our progress, improve our practices, and maximize our efficiencies





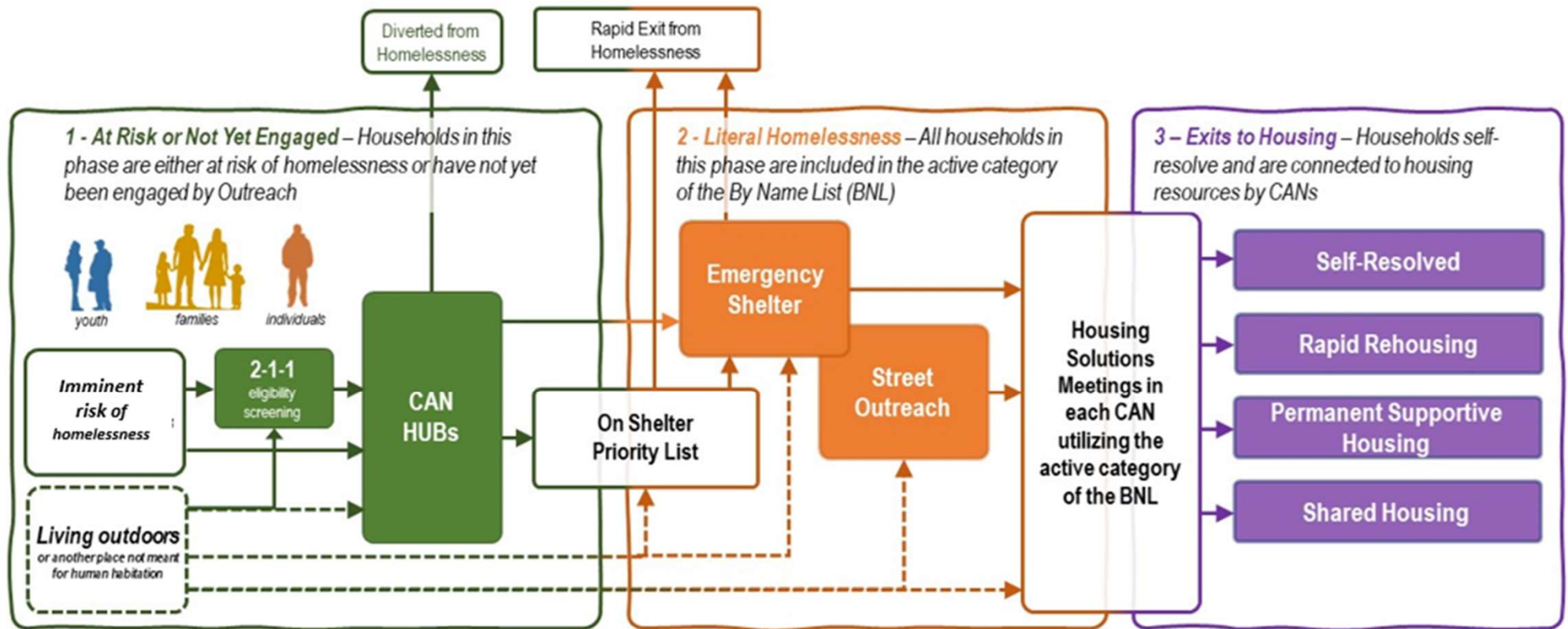
**Coordinated  
Access  
Network**

CANs are networks of community providers working together to identify and serve households within their region

CT is a coordinated statewide system

# CAN System Overview

A high-level diagram of the coordinated access process from points of entry to points of exit

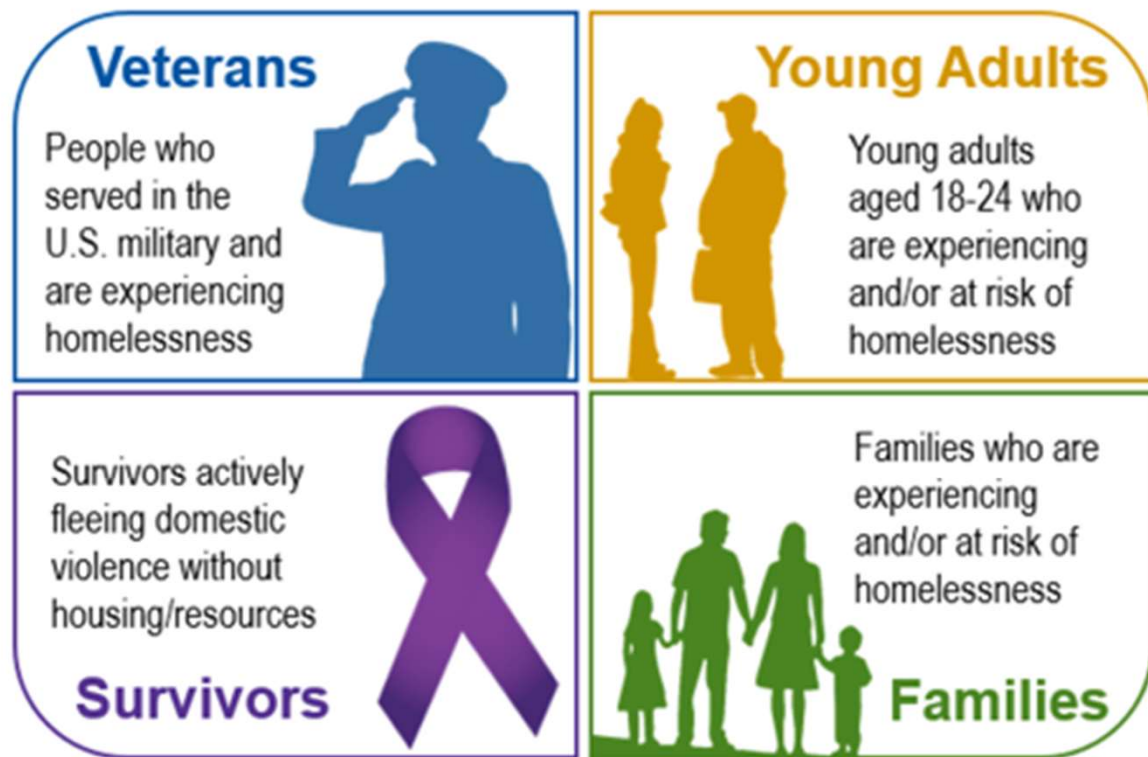


[HUD Homeless Definitions](#)



# Special populations served by our system

Our homelessness response system incorporates especially vulnerable populations into the process, ensuring that they can be prioritized and matched appropriately



\*Unaccompanied Minors alternate response





## Other DOH Housing Resources

- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Rental Assistance Program (RAP)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons With HIV/AIDS
- Special Populations Rapid Rehousing
- cthousingsearch.org
- Eviction Prevention Fund
- UniteCT Moving Assistance Program
- UniteCT Workforce Rental Assistance Program
- Time to Own - Forgivable Down Payment Assistance

# Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

YHDP is an initiative designed to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness. The goal of the YHDP is to support selected communities, including rural, suburban, and urban areas across the United States, in the development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

- Youth Navigators
- Shelter Diversion
- Financial Assistance
- Crisis housing
- Rapid re-housing

# Youth Navigators



Youth Navigators conduct Coordinated Access Network (CAN) intake assessments, provide case management, and work with youth to remove barriers to viable housing opportunities.

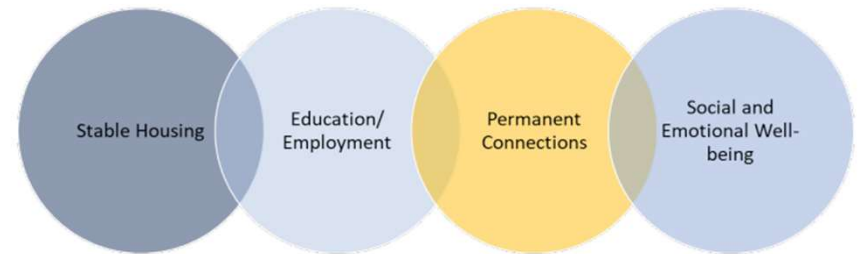


There are 8.5 YNs across the state. Greater Hartford has 2 FTE YNs and 1 FTE YN in the Central Region

## YHDP Navigation Services

Youth Navigators will conduct CAN intake appointments and provide light case management , working with youth to identify and secure safe, viable housing opportunities outside of the homeless system.

Their primary goal is to remove barriers to housing for youth.



*"I want someone to sit there and explain to me, and basically guide me. Okay when you go here, this is what you're going to ask for."*

-Youth with lived-experience, YAH Improving Coordinated Entry for Youth study

# YHDP Crisis Housing

- Provides safe & welcoming, short-term housing (up to 60 days) - in space dedicated to youth with lockable storage, - and privacy in sleeping & bathroom areas, including at least one private, gender-neutral bathroom

Eligibility: Unaccompanied Young adults, aged 18-24 at program entry, who are experiencing homelessness under HUD Categories 1 and/or 4.

Participants will be offered case management to assist with meeting their basic needs, resolving their housing crisis, and connecting to ongoing community resources. More than just safe shelter

# Outcomes: YHDP Youth Navigators

## Greater Hartford CAN

- 226 young adults completed CAN appointments
- 156 young adults diverted from homelessness
- 59 young adults enrolled in crisis beds or emergency shelter
- 56 young adults exited homelessness to permanent destinations

## Central CAN

- 170 young adults completed CAN appointments
- 115 young adults diverted from homelessness
- 55 young adults enrolled in crisis beds or emergency shelter
- 29 young adults exiting homelessness to permanent destinations

# Youth Initiatives and Collaborations

Hartford Opportunity  
Youth

Our Piece of the Pie

ROCA

Youth Engagement  
Team Initiatives  
(YETIs)

Hartford Career  
Navigation  
Community of  
Practice

Job Corp

CT CAN End  
Homelessness  
Youth and Young  
Adult Subcommittee

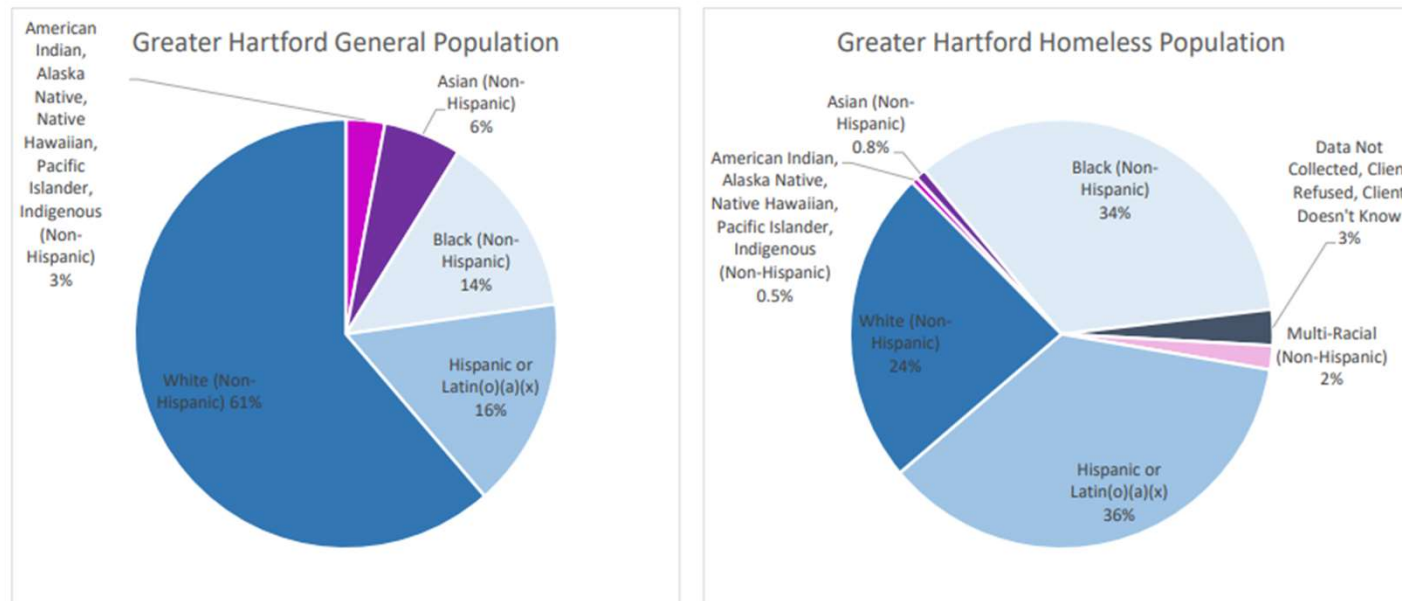
American Job  
Center - WIOVA  
Programs



# Racial Equity in Homelessness Response System Service Delivery

In the CAN racial equity means that all racial and ethnic groups are able to access all CAN resources and that the inequalities of structural racism that placed historically marginalized racial and ethnic groups at a disadvantage have been addressed such that we see equitable distribution of resources and equitable outcomes in the CAN. To achieve racial equity in the CAN, every racial and ethnic group must be valued equally and we must continue to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and eliminate disparities in the CAN.

## Proportional representation of Racial/Ethnic groups experiencing homelessness in Greater Hartford



The first chart below displays the proportional representation of racial/ethnic groups in the general population of Greater Hartford. The second chart displays the proportional representation on the By-Name-List of people experiencing homelessness in the Greater Hartford Coordinated Access Network in 2021. The By-Name-List is a list extracted from the CT Homeless Management Information System (CT-HMIS) that identifies households experiencing homelessness. The third chart shows how Hispanic and Latin(o)(a)(x) homeless clients identify their own race.

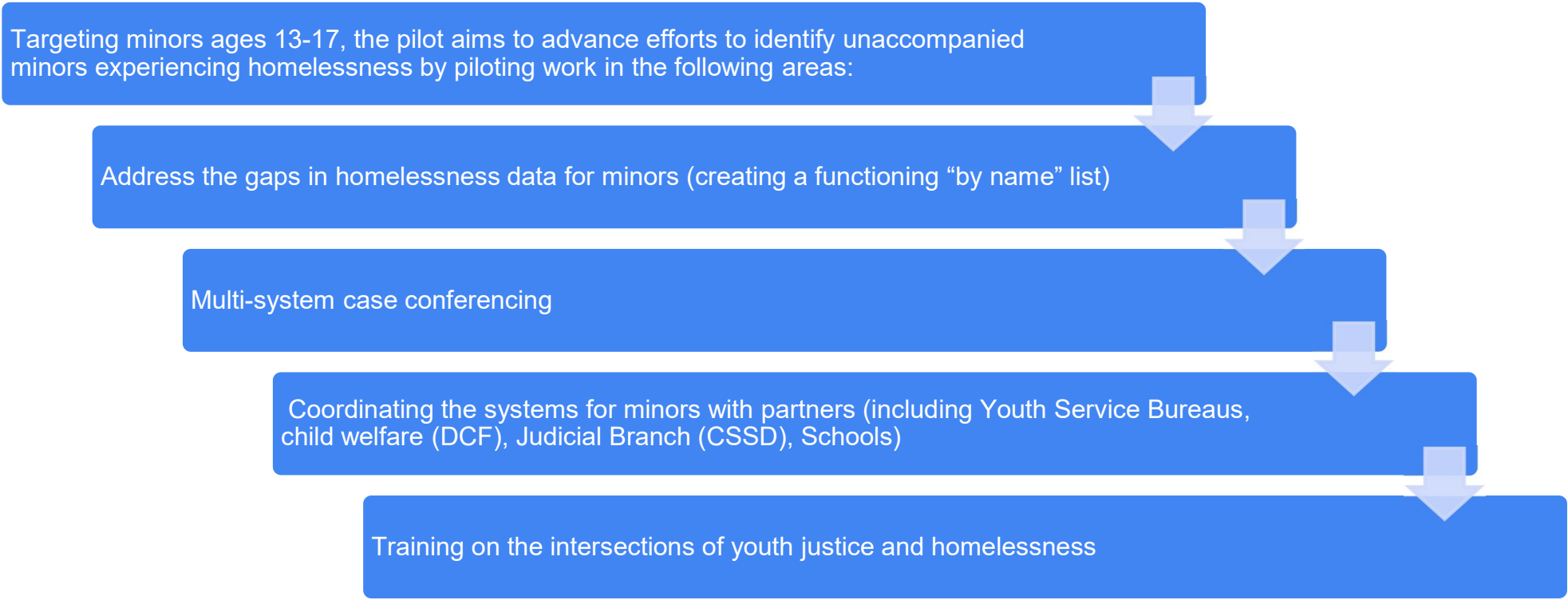
# Homelessness Disparities in the General Population

In Greater Hartford, people who identify as Black represent 14% of the general population, but 39% of people experiencing homelessness. People who identify as Hispanic or Latin(o)(a)(x) represent 16% of the general population, but 35% of people experiencing homelessness. People who identify as White represent 61% of the general population, but 23% of people experiencing homelessness. Therefore, people who identify as Black and as Hispanic or Latin(o)(a)(x) are disproportionately overrepresented among people experience homelessness, and people who identify as White are disproportionately underrepresented among those experiencing homelessness in Greater Hartford. While people who identify as Asian represent 6% of the general population, only 0.8% of people experiencing homelessness identify as Asian. Therefore, people who identify as Asian are also underrepresented among those who experience homelessness. It is more difficult to demonstrate trends and disparities with the American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and Multi-Racial groups because there are so few people in these groups compared to the other groups.

*Source: Journey Home Racial Equity in Homelessness Response System Racial Equity Analysis*

# Homeless Minor Taskforce Pilot Projects

Targeting minors ages 13-17, the pilot aims to advance efforts to identify unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness by piloting work in the following areas:



Address the gaps in homelessness data for minors (creating a functioning “by name” list)

Multi-system case conferencing

Coordinating the systems for minors with partners (including Youth Service Bureaus, child welfare (DCF), Judicial Branch (CSSD), Schools)

Training on the intersections of youth justice and homelessness

## Statewide Data from the BNL v2 (By Name List)

Statewide Data from the BNL v2 as of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# of Households = 3,352	Unsheltered Households = 618
# of People = 3,963	Unsheltered People = 641
# of Adults = 3,512 (433 18–24-year-olds)	Unsheltered Adults = 632 (133 18–24-year-olds)
# of Children = 451	Unsheltered Children= 9

\* Unsheltered = Living in a place not meant for human habitation (a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside)

# Statewide Data from the BNL (By Name List)

Statewide Data from the BNL v2 as of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

433 18 – 24-year-olds currently on the BNL

386 Identify as Head of Household	1 Criminal Justice Involvement (404 no data)
16 Substance Abuse Disorder (109 no data)	83 Domestic Violence (156 no data)
131 Mental Illness (108 no data)	94 Disabling Condition (130 no data)
38 Developmental Disability (113 no data)	82 previous DCF care (116 no data)
Highest Grade Completed = Some college	Main Factor in Homelessness = Expenses Exceed Income

## System Gaps

Lack of Data

Various  
Systems not  
Communicating

Lack of  
Resources

Funding

Staffing and  
Services

# Barriers to Housing

Affordability

Discrimination

Lack of Availability

Credit History and  
Background  
Checks

Lack  
of/Consistent  
Income

Untreated Mental  
Health/Substance  
Abuse Disorders

Independent  
Living Skills



# Statewide Initiatives and Services

- CCEH BeHomeful Funds- To prevent family homelessness through shelter diversion/rapid exit; one-time expenses that mean the difference between whether a family enters the shelter system or is able to remain housed. If the family has entered our homeless response system, funds can be used to rapidly exit the family.
- CCEH YHDP Shelter Diversion/Rapid Exit Program - The YHDP Shelter Diversion/Rapid Exit program provides short term financial assistance to parenting and unaccompanied young adult individuals aged 18-24 and minors experiencing literal homelessness, imminent homelessness or fleeing domestic violence (HUD Homeless Categories 1,2, and 4) to assist them with avoiding shelter or rapidly exiting crisis housing.
- Statewide Training and Technical Assistance:
  - Trained ReEntry Counselors, probation officers, etc. with the Department of Corrections on Shelter Diversion
  - CCEH worked with DOC to create a Housing Stabilization Plan, everyone incarcerated has access to begin working on housing and resources prior to being discharged.
  - Discharge planning and coordination with CANs

# CT CAN End Homelessness



*Established in 2022, the CT CAN End Homelessness initiative is Connecticut's united voice against homelessness. Comprising over 150 partners, this initiative directly supports affected individuals, youth, and families. We invite all partners, advocates, and those committed to housing justice to participate in our open meetings, enhancing our collaborative efforts.*

# CT CAN End Homelessness

CT CAN END HOMELESSNESS

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

## STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK

The Organizing Council

System Operations Committee

Policy and Advocacy Committee

HMIS and Data Leadership Committee

Funding Committee

Youth and Young Adult Sub-committee

Outreach and Engagement Sub-committee

Entry Sub-committee

Exit Sub-committee

Legislative Leads

# Department of Corrections Housing Screener



**Housing**

What were your living arrangements prior to being incarcerated?

Have you had a consistently safe place to live in the last year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Doubled Up - With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship

☐ Shelter - Emergency or transitional shelter

☐ Halfway House/Sober House - Halfway houses serve as the halfway point between an institution and independent society

☐ Hotel/Motel - Living in what is NOT an emergency or transitional shelter and involves payment

☐ Other Temporary Living Situation - Trailer park, campground, car, park, public places, abandoned building, street, or any other inadequate living space

☐ Permanent Housing - person who is living in a fixed, regular, and adequate housing situation

What will your living arrangements be upon release?

Do you foresee yourself lacking a consistently safe place to live upon release? [THIS REQUIRES A 211 REFERRAL](#)

NO ☐ YES ☐ Which town/City?

Have you had difficulty with safe and stable housing before you came to MYI?

☐ Doubled Up - With another family or other person because of loss of housing or as a result of economic hardship

☐ Shelter - Emergency or transitional shelter

☐ Halfway House/Sober House - Halfway houses serve as the halfway point between an institution and independent society

☐ Hotel/Motel - Living in what is NOT an emergency or transitional shelter and involves payment

☐ Other Temporary Living Situation - Trailer park, campground, car, park, public places, abandoned building, street, or any other inadequate living space

☐ Permanent Housing - person who is living in a fixed, regular, and adequate housing situation

☐ Not sure yet

Is there any place that you are legally not allowed to reside at? NO ☐ YES ☐

MYI and YCI have zero youth under 18 years old who self-reported to be literally homeless in the last year.

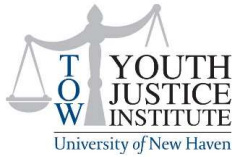
# JBCSSD Housing Survey Juvenile Pretrial Detention



Calendar Year	# Surveys Completed	# Live with Parent/Guardian: YES	# Stably Housed: YES	# Shelter/Trans'l Living/Outside: YES	# Other: YES (BH Placement, DCF CW, DOC, JBCSSD)
June 28, 2020 thru May 14, 2024	2,454	85.5% (n = 2,098)	91.8% (n = 2,252)	0.8% (n = 20)	7.4% (n = 182)
2023	872	86.1% (n = 751)	93.2% (n = 813)	0.5% (n = 4)	6.3% (n = 55)
2024 (thru May 14)	337	82.8% (n = 279)	92.8% (n = 313)	1.5% (n = 5)	5.7% (n = 19)

# JBCSSD Housing Survey

## Juvenile Pretrial Detention Continued



Calendar Year	# Surveys Completed	# Safe Place to Stay when Leave: NO	# Feel Safe: NO	# Can Stay as Long as Need: YES
June 28, 2020 thru May 14, 2024	2,454	0.2% (n = 4)	2.0% (n = 49)	88.6% (n = 2,174)
2023	872	0% (n = 0)	1.4% (n = 12)	96.2% (n = 839)
2024 (thru May 14)	337	0% (n = 0)	3.3% (n = 11)	97.6% (n = 329)