



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 the Fair Street Apartments in Norwalk today that featured Congressman Jim Himes who helped 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 Fairfield county region, DOH Commissioner Klein, CCEH Executive Director Tepper Bates, and Congressman Himes 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 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 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, 142 individuals living with chronic homelessness have been permanently housed in the Fairfield 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 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.”

Congressman Jim Himes said, “Thank you to all of the organizations and state agencies who have worked so hard to make Connecticut the first state to end chronic veteran homelessness and one of only two to end veteran homelessness entirely. This is both a testament to the power of government to achieve positive things in our society and a display of our priorities here in Connecticut. The job is never done, however. As long as there are men and women at risk of homelessness, we must continue our efforts so that no one falls through the cracks. I will continue advocating on the federal level to make sure we have the support we need to continue this vital work, and stand proud today for what our state has achieved.”

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](#).

###

For Immediate Release: August 24, 2016

Contact: Dan Arsenault

Connecticut Department of Housing

Dan.Arsenault@ct.gov

860-270-8103 (office)

860-977-3189 (cell)



@CTDeptHousing