



CT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING RECEIVES CAROL E. WALTER AWARD FOR WORK TO END HOMELESSNESS

(HARTFORD, CT) – Today, the Department of Housing (DOH) received the **Carol E. Walter Think, Be, Lead, Change Award** from the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (CCEH) at their annual training institute. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in the field of homeless or housing services and is presented to an individual or agency that brings forward the spirit of the late Carol Walter, a former CCEH Executive Director. Recipients of the award are recognized for their perseverance and drive; emphasizing a commitment to never lose sight of the goal to end homelessness. DOH Commissioner Evonne M. Klein accepted the award on behalf of the department.

“The State of Connecticut and Governor Malloy have set aggressive goals with their approach to end homelessness,” said Commissioner Klein. “I’m proud to accept this award today and to stand with our partner, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, as we continue to make historic progress. Carol Walter’s vision of a state where homelessness is truly a thing of the past embodies what we stand for here in Connecticut and I’m sure she would be proud of all that we have been able to accomplish together.”

This week, [CCEH released a new report](#) that shows a significant decrease in homelessness across the State of Connecticut. The report shows that homelessness in Connecticut is down nearly four percent compared to 2015, and has declined 13 percent since 2007. With this decline, homeless rates have dropped to a new record low. The number of people who are chronically homeless (those with severe disabilities experiencing long-term homelessness) decreased 20 percent across Connecticut compared to last year’s report, continuing with the sharp downward trend.

“Under the leadership of Commissioner Evonne Klein, the Department of Housing has become a national leader of efforts to end homelessness and create affordable housing. We are grateful to DOH, and to Commissioner Klein, for the Department’s vision and commitment to this work that save lives, and builds stronger communities,” said Lisa Tepper Bates, CCEH Executive Director.

The Malloy Administration has been responsible for a significant increase in the availability of quality, affordable housing across Connecticut. Since 2011, the state has created, rehabilitated, or funded nearly 16,000 units of affordable housing. DOH works to shape dynamic housing policy that promotes diversity, inclusion, and change. Connecticut made history in August of 2015 when it became the first state in the nation to end chronic veteran homelessness. Meeting the goals set forth in the Mayor’s Challenge to End Homelessness, Connecticut was also one of only two states in the nation to effectively end veteran homelessness in 2015.

For nearly 25 years, CCEH has offered assistance to providers in the homeless services industry, coordinated legislative advocacy, and provided vital public information regarding the extent of homelessness and the need for solutions. CCEH has been a critical liaison between their membership and state government as well as other statewide organizations working on issues related to homelessness. Since its inception, CCEH's membership has grown; once comprised of only a handful of emergency shelter programs, CT is now home to more than 50 emergency shelters along with dozens of transitional and permanent supportive housing programs. CCEH, in partnership with communities throughout the state, creates change through leadership, community organizing, advocacy research, and education.

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