12.3 Collect and Share Homelessness Data

5 Points

Action Updates

This action has been revised for the **current certification cycle**. A version of this action from the prior program year is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow. (Last updated 2021)

Objective

Collect information on all individuals and families experiencing homelessness as a first step n connecting to services and supports.

Complementary Actions:

- Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness
- Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness
- Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness

What to Do

Note: The United Stated Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines literal homelessness as follows: "Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution." **"Unsheltered"** refers to individuals and families who meet this definition and are not currently residing in a shelter. For more background on how HUD defines different categories of homelessness, click here.

1. In collaboration with your Coordinated Access Network (CAN), have your homelessness municipal liaison compile collected information on all individuals and families in your municipality experiencing literal homelessness, including unsheltered homelessness. Ideally, municipal staff and/or residents will support the effort to collect this data. This information will help Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) with supporting municipalities in connecting residents experiencing homelessness with services. **(5 points)**

   Submit: The number of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness each year for the past two years in your municipality and a description of your municipality's role in obtaining that data.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Data Tracking/Benchmarking and Meeting Performance Metrics" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

Timeframe for Credit

Actions can either be "New" or considered for "Rolling Credit."

New Action Credit. Any action completed within the past three years (from January 1 of the year seeking certification) is eligible for potential certification points. If you are applying for recertification in your year of expiration, you may not claim New Action Credit for items that previously received credit.

Rolling Credit. For any action older than three years (from January 1 of the year seeking certification), you must

demonstrate ongoing, currently relevant, and meaningful impact in your community to be considered for certification points. If you are applying for recertification in your year of expiration, you must apply for Rolling Credit for any item that previously received credit, even if it was completed within the past three years.

View the "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for detailed submission requirements.

Engaging Partners

Sustainable CT encourages regional collaboration and other forms of partnership. For every action, please complete the "Partners" box in your submission, indicating the name(s) of any municipalities and/or organizations you partnered with (if any) and a brief description of your municipality's role. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. For additional information, please see the "Partners Guidance Document".

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Key collaborators to implement this action include Health and Human Services staff, police, EMS, fire departments, library staff, schools, youth services staff, and municipally employed outreach staff.

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- 2020 Connecticut Point-in-Time Count Report
- US Housing and Urban Development Definition of Homelessness
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness Unsheltered Guidance
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness Strategic Plan

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness
- National Alliance to End Homelessness
- US Housing and Urban Development
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness

Benefits

Systemic data collection will provide your local Coordinated Access Network (CAN) with a comprehensive snapshot of individuals in your community in need of services. CANs will use this data to identify residents in need of services not currently connected with resources, allowing your municipality and CAN to develop a coordinated approach to meeting the needs of people experiencing homelessness within your community. Comprehensive state-wide data also allows Connecticut to advocate for resources to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in all 169 municipalities.