12.5 Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness

5 Points   **10 Points**   **15 Points**   **20 Points**

Action Updates

This action is available for the **current certification cycle** and was newly added in 2021, in partnership with the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Objective

Provide or mobilize resources to address homelessness within your municipality, regionally and/or statewide.

Complementary Actions:

- Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness
- Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness
- Collect and Share Homelessness Data
- Coordinate Municipal Services to Address Homelessness
- Improve Outcomes for People Experiencing Homelessness (including steps to decriminalize homelessness and connect with systems)

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. Hold a crowdfunding campaign to provide diversion and rapid exit funds to people experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness in your region's Coordinated Access Network (CAN) or in Connecticut statewide. These funds are accessible to individuals at risk of imminent homelessness in your municipality and other communities throughout the state. You can use any crowdfunding platform of your municipality's choice, including links created with the support of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness. **(5 points)**

   Note: This Action and any other raising of funds to be re-granted is not eligible for funding by the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund.

   Submit: A screenshot (saved as a PDF) of the email alerting your CAN contact and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness of funds raised and a screenshot of your completed drive on your crowdfunding platform.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

2. Ensure that individuals experiencing literal homelessness within your municipality have locations where they can safely access services and stay 24 hours a day, especially in extreme weather. **(5 points)**

   Strategies may include:

- In consultation with your regional Coordinated Access Network (CAN), identify and designate confidential space(s) and location(s) within the municipality where CAN appointments can be conducted; or
- Make available shelters, warming centers, overflow shelters, or drop-in centers. Special consideration should be given to transportation options to and from facilities and where individuals can access lockers and shower facilities.

Submit: A completed worksheet 1.

Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessments, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

3. Identify and help coordinate funding to address and prevent homelessness. **(10 points)**

Strategies may include:

- Appropriating municipal funds toward a "homeless services" line item in the municipal budget to support flexible financial assistance, shelters or other crisis services, shelter diversion staffing, or other uses identified in partnership with your region's Coordinated Access Network;
- Obtaining Community Development Block Grant Small Cities grants to fund staffing to Coordinated Access Network appointments and shelter diversion assistance;
- Obtaining block grant funding from the U.S. Department of Department of Housing and Urban Development and allocate funds to Coordinate Access Networks and homeless services providers; or
- Securing Public Housing Authority units and/or voucher set-asides for individuals referred by the Coordinated Access Network.

Submit: A completed worksheet 2 and additional documentation relevant according to the funding strategy, such as a copy of the municipal budget with the relevant line item funded, a letter notifying the municipality of the receipt of grant funds, or, in the case of vouchers and housing units, a copy of the municipality's Public Housing Authority administrative plan.

Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding" (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, faith-based and community organizations, public works, libraries, public housing authorities and neighboring municipalities.

Funding

If available, below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the [Sustainable CT Grants Portal](#), which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the [Support for Your Town](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [GoFundMe link](#)
- [HUD Small Cities Grants](#)
- [Sample PHA Admin Plan](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness](#)
- [CT Department of Housing](#)
- [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- [US Housing and Urban Development](#)
- [US Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)
- [Councils of Governments (COGs)](#)