

12.3 Collect and Share Homelessness Data

10 Points

Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2025. A version of this action from the prior program year is [available for comparison](#). Edits are highlighted in yellow.

Objective

Collect information on all individuals and families experiencing homelessness as a first step in 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 States 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, Task Force, or other relevant municipal staff compile collected information on all individuals and families in your municipality experiencing literal homelessness, including those experiencing 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. **(10 points)**

Note: Any documentation submitted for this action must have names and/or other identifying information removed.

Submit: The number of individuals, families, and youth experiencing homelessness each year for the past two years in your municipality and a description of your municipality's role in obtaining that data. **Do not submit names of individuals and/or other identifying information.**

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

- [CT CAN Data](#)
- [2021 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](#)
- [United Way 211 Connecticut website](#)
 - Mobile crisis intervention services for [youth](#) and [adults](#)
- [Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)
- Federal Communications Commission, [Lifeline Support for Affordable Communications](#)

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.

CT Success Stories

- [Darien - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Essex - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Old Saybrook - May 2024 Certification](#)