12.4 Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness

10 Points | 15 Points | 25 Points

Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2024. The previous version of this action is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow.

Objective

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

Complementary Actions:

- Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness
- Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness
- Collect and Share Homelessness Data

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. Commit dedicated funding to directly address and prevent homelessness. Funding would ideally be directed as part of the municipal budget. Other funding pathways include grants that your municipality had a key role in obtaining, or through other fundraising, including crowdfunding. Funding must have been secured or committed in the last three years. **(10 points)**

   Strategies may include:

   - Appropriating municipal funds towards a "homeless services" line item in the municipal budget to support flexible financial assistance, shelters or other crisis services, shelter diversion staffing, compensation for those with lived experience of homelessness who participate in the municipal Task Force or in community conversations and public forums, or other uses identified in partnership with your region's Coordinated Access Network (CANs);
   - 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 Housing and Urban Development and allocate funds to Coordinate Access Networks and homelessness service providers;
   - Securing Public Housing Authority units and/or voucher set-asides for individuals referred by the Coordinated Access Network; or
   - Providing 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.

   Note: Any other raising of funds to be re-granted through this Action is not eligible for funding by the

Sustainable CT Community Match Fund.

Submit: A completed worksheet 1 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, a screenshot of the email altering your CAN contact and the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness of funds raised and a screenshot of your completed drive on your crowdfunding platform, or, in the case of vouchers and housing units, a copy of the municipalities Public Housing Authority Administrative plan.

2. Ensure that individuals experiencing literal homelessness within your municipality have locations where they can safely access services and/or stay 24 hours a day, especially in extreme weather. **(15 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; or
   - Improve or initiate coordination with local domestic violence advocates and with domestic violence shelter systems, with support from your CAN; or
   - Improve or initiate coordination with state and local social services departments, with support from your CAN.

   Submit: A completed worksheet 2. Strategies must be active and current.

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.

- Urban Act Grant Program
- Sustainable CT Community Match Fund
- State Funding Readiness Project

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- 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)
- 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

CT Success Stories

- Guilford - Oct 2022 Certification
- New Haven - Sep 2023 Certification
- Groton - Oct 2024 Certification
- Killingly - Oct 2024 Certification