



# Introduction to Homelessness Response and HUD Categories

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For Sustainable CT

May 21, 2021

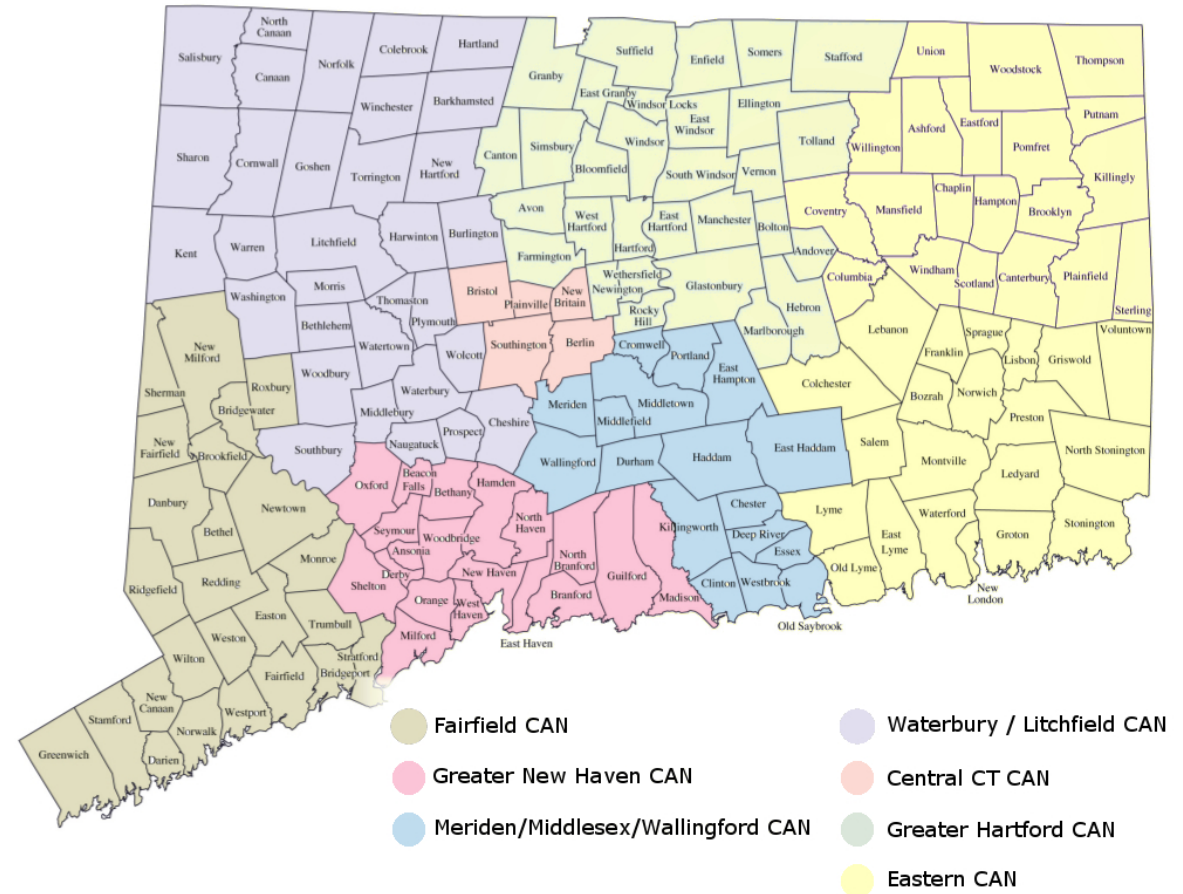
# Context and goals of training

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- Connecticut's homeless response system is divided into regions, coordinated by 211 and given structure by the HUD Categories of Homelessness
- This training in response to municipal staff request
- Goals
  - Orientation to HUD language and homeless system response
  - Sharing examples of municipal support
  - Connection of Sustainable CT/My Town Cares actions

# Where We Work

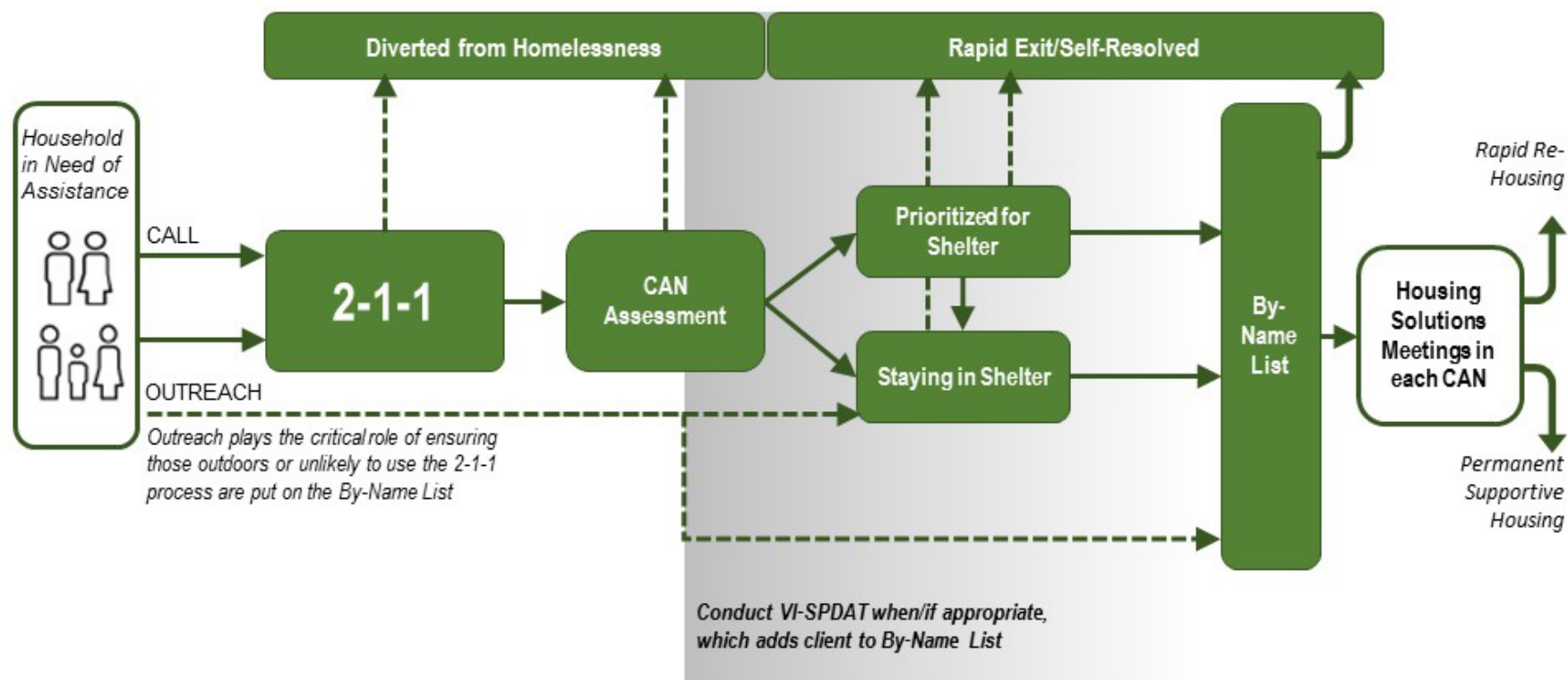
- We work with partners across Connecticut. We aim to have partnerships in all 169 towns.
- CCEH created the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) system. There are 7 CANs in Connecticut. Having a CAN system systematizes resources and data and has been instrumental in reducing the prevalence of homelessness.
- We collect data from the CANs to better track trends and create evidence based solutions.



# CAN System Diagram

## CAN System Overview

A high-level diagram of the coordinated access process from entry to exit



# Category 1 Literal Homelessness

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- Example(s): automobiles, campers, outside, encampments
  - An individual in their car at Walmart
  - People utilizing Little League dugouts (Brooklyn)
  - In a house without utilities or services
- System response and system gaps
  - Dedicated outreach is concentrated
  - Enfield and Journey Home connection
  - Community Partners expanding outreach: food sites, LMHA's, YSB's

## Sustainable CT action(s):

- Contact person for Municipality for homeless services (12.2, 12.4)
- Team of municipal staff to support unsheltered assessment (12.4)
- Data sharing (12.3)
- Improving Outcomes (proposed 12.6)

# HUD Category 1 Literal Homelessness

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- **(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:**
  - (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
  - (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
  - (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

# Category 2 Imminent Risk of Homelessness

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- Examples: Eviction, displacement
  - A family facing eviction within 14 days
  - Doubled-up families or individuals forced to move due to lease agreements
- System Response and Gaps
  - 14 days response involves a discussion about 'diversion'
- Sustainable CT:
  - Supporting Diversion Monies through CDBG opportunities (Hamden) (12.5)
  - Working group at municipal level examining unsheltered should include McKinney Vento or other school district contact (See Category 3) (12.2, 12.4)

# HUD Category 2 Imminent Homelessness

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- Imminent homelessness
- **(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence**, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing



# Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes

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- Examples: McKinney Vento and School based outreach, Runaway Homeless Youth service centers
    - Evidenced by doubled up families identified by the school system or those who are hoteled/moteled with support from district
  - System response system gaps
    - McKinney Ventos are to level terrain of access to all of school opportunities to homeless children
    - Minor homelessness is difficult to track, address from system perspective
    - Anecdotally 427 students 'doubled up' in Waterbury SD
    - RHY CT numbers estimate 2020 show... 3 providers statewide
- Sustainable CT
- School district participation is vital for understanding the scope of homelessness and at-risk of homelessness populations. (12.1, 12.2, 12.4)

## HUD Category 3 Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes

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- **(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:** (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers

# Category 4 Fleeing/Attempting to Flee

- Examples: DV State response is mandated. Strong actors are municipalities that support local providers. (CCADV)
  - Residents fleeing DV are linked with appropriate regional opportunities for housing. This is an anonymous system and in coordination with local public safety/police response.
- System Response System gaps
  - Youth definition has specific differences (violence in home)
  - Anonymity of system has presented challenges with homeless system interaction
  - Sustainable CT
    - How does the municipality support the work of local DV emergency shelter and service providers? (12.5)

# Category 4: Fleeing/Attempting to Flee DV

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- (4) Any individual or family who: (i) Is **fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence**; (ii) Has no other residence; and (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing