



Appropriations Budget Hearing
On Governor's proposed Mid-term Budget Adjustments for FY2021
Department of Housing
Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, Representative Lavielle, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today on the important investments through the Department of Housing to support efforts to end

homelessness in Connecticut.

Please maintain vital homeless system resources for youth, individuals and families. This includes funding the Department of Housing's Housing/Homeless Services line at \$85.8 million, and the Homeless Youth line at \$2.3 million. While the Governor's mid-term budget adjustments protect and preserve the Department of Housing's Housing/Homelessness Services line and Homeless Youth line, the following additional investments are necessary in making homelessness rare, brief and one time:

- Create a stable funding stream for the Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) 2-1-1 by providing \$2.3 million annually to the Department of Housing's Housing/Homeless Services line.
- A targeted investment of \$1.47 million in the Department of Housing's Housing/Homeless Services will enhance our state's capacity to quickly resolve episodes of homelessness for individuals and youth requiring shelter through the use of flexible funds for diversion and rapid exit.

Homelessness is a costly problem, in the toll it takes on human lives, and in consuming substantial public resources. We know what works to end homelessness – through coordinated efforts to secure the right housing and supports, we can resolve homelessness – one person, one family at a time. The net gain to those we serve, to our communities, and to our state is clear: it costs more to allow homelessness to persist than it does to resolve it. Working together, I know we can spare all Connecticut residents the trauma and indignity of homelessness.

Sincerely,

Ann Faust

Executive Director

Coalition on Housing & Homelessness