

Governor's Proposed Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2023  
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Representative Gibson, Senator Hartley, Representative Kennedy, Senator Somers and distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today on House Bill 6439. I am here to discuss the important investments through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to support efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. My name is Kellyann Day and I work in New Haven and Bridgeport and live in Cheshire, CT.

For the past 26 years I have worked at New Reach, an organization that is dedicated to ending homelessness by providing services that prevent entry into the crisis system; provide crisis services such as emergency shelter to women and families; and

I respectfully request that they committee support the following proposals and expansions from the Governor's Budget for DMHAS:

- The proposed budget for the Housing Supports and Services line at \$23.4 million in each year of the biennium.
- A new targeted investment of \$2.5million in the Housing and Support Services line to provide services to an additional 300 households.
- Support the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance proposal to restore \$461 million over the next few years to community nonprofit providers.
- Support S.B. 340 to enact a law requiring state agencies to ensure that funding levels for homelessness and housing assistance services reflect the true cost of services delivery, namely, to pay adequate wages to front-line workers who staff shelters, Coordinated Access Network appointments, homeless outreach, and housing navigation and case management services.

Nonprofit providers have continued to work through the COVID pandemic and should be receiving the following:

- Pay living wages, overtime, hazard pay, and benefits for front-line staff;
- The ability to maintain client caseload sizes to meet industry standards; and
- Adequate funding for other-than-personnel costs such as supplies/PPE, staff training and professional development, technology, etc.

Thank you for providing me the ability to testify today.  
Kellyann Day, MSW, CEO New Reach, Inc.

*It is the mission of New Reach to inspire independence for those affected by homelessness and poverty through a continuum of housing and support using the most innovative and progressive methods.*

