



Governor's Proposed Budget FY16-FY17

Appropriations Hearing, Conservation and Development

Department of Housing

Wednesday, February 10th, 2016

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL
MISSION OF BRISTOL, INC.
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Dear Legislators:

The St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Bristol, Inc. (SVDP) asks for your support for continued investment in effective solution to end Homelessness.

- **Expand Permanent Supportive Housing for High Need and Chronic Homelessness:** Permanent Supportive Housing (**PSH**) (affordable housing with supportive services) continues to be the most effective housing model to assist people with high needs and those experiencing chronic homelessness and is proven to cut system costs by up to 70%. The Central Connecticut Coordinated Access Network (CCCAN) (New Britain, Bristol, Southington, Plainville and Berlin) has housed 30 Chronically Homeless Individuals since July 2015. These individuals are your tent and vacant building dwellers and those that constantly use up our precious shelter and community resources. Eight (8) of these housed people are from Bristol. We are now out of slots into which to put the additional chronic homeless people living in Bristol. We are working with the current tent dwellers in Bristol, getting them document ready, but without more PSH slots, we will have nowhere to put them!
- Support the Reaching Home Campaigns proposal for \$1.5 million for rental subsidies and \$1.125 million for services in FY 17 to reach the goal of ending chronic homelessness in Connecticut.
- **Support Coordinated Access to Homeless Resources-** Connecticut's eight Coordinated Access Networks (CANs) of providers are working together across the state as teams to serve those in need more effectively from emergency shelter through the full range of housing options. This important system change is yielding real results, but requires dedicated support to realize its full potential to serve those in urgent need and make the most effective use of available resources to end homelessness. **Please support the Reaching Home Campaigns proposal for the allocation of \$747,000 in FY 2017 for additional funds to support Coordinated Access Network (CAN) coordination during this critical start-up phase.**



Bristol Homeless Shelter. 589-0702. Fax 589-4970

Elms Transitional Living Center. 583-8318. Fax 583-2950

Women with Children Transitional Center. 585-9673. Fax 589-4970

- **Provide Immediate Assistance for Homeless Youth in Crisis-** Great strides have been made in advancing the Opening Doors for Youth Plan, including the completion of a homeless youth count which estimated 3,000 homeless/housing unstable youth in our state. We need immediate options to support vulnerable youth facing homelessness in our state. Please support the Reaching Home Campaigns proposal for \$2 million in FY 2017 for crisis response and housing supports to plug critical gaps in the housing continuum for youth and young adults.
- **Expand Rapid Re-Housing:** Rapid re-housing (housing location and short-term housing subsidy) is a cost effective way to help many singles and families exit homelessness quickly and permanently – over 80% of single adults, 90% of families did not return to homelessness three years after rapid re-housing assistance. Building adequate capacity for Rapid Re-Housing efforts is central to laying the foundation for success of Coordinated Access, which depends on the exit of clients to housing so that emergency shelter space can be made available for new clients in urgent need. Please support the Reaching Home Campaigns proposal for the allocation of \$2 million in FY 2017 for Rapid Re-Housing.
- Homelessness is an unacceptable condition for any Connecticut resident, and an expensive public policy problem. Investments in permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and support services save public resources and help families and individuals transition to housing, stability, and hope. **Our Homeless Shelter is always full in Bristol with more people needing service than we can accommodate. Only Subsidized Housing (government and private) is the answer. It is the moral and rational thing to do.**

Thank you,



Phillip J Lysiak

Executive Director