**WAYS MUNICIPALITIES CAN HELP PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS**

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By Matt Morgan, Journey Home, matt.morgan@journeyhomect.org

**Homelessness Prevention/Diversion/Eviction Prevention**

* Either add part time municipal staff or fund the CAN for a portion of a Homeless prevention/Diversion staff (ideally shared with one other municipality to make an FTE) and prioritizing residents from your municipality(ies)
* Add financial assistance/utility assistance/rental arrears for homeless prevention/diversion/housing location assistance for your residents (Like West Hartford, Manchester, Windsor, Hartford have done)
* Develop homeless prevention plans on local community needs (trafficking, gun violence, etc.)

**Housing**

* Fund security deposits and short-term rental assistance for your residents who end up homeless in the region, but who last lived in your municipality. (Like Manchester)
* Add municipal staff or fund the local CAN for services (rapid rehousing) for your residents who end up homeless anywhere in the region, but who last lived in your municipality. (like Mnachester)
* Add funds for overcoming barriers to housing (application fees, identification fees, holding fees, landlord incentives, moving expenses, security deposits) (Like United Way has recently done)
* Advocate for a meeting with local housing authority to set aside units/vouchers for residents (including elderly residents) who end up homeless in the region but who last lived in your municipality. (referral-based process from CAN) (like Bristol, Enfield, Hartford, New Britain)
* Help engage existing affordable housing projects to add set-asides/priorities for individuals who are homeless and/or at risk of homelessness and take direct referrals from the CAN
* As new affordable housing develops, request that there are set-asides/priorities for individuals who are homeless and/or at risk of homelessness and take direct referrals from the CAN

**Warming Centers/Day Shelter**

* Provide local warming/cooling center information to Journey Home/CAN backbone agency for warm places people can stay during the day (senior centers/community centers) so we can share this information when people from your municipality contact us (like West Hartford, Manchester, Vernon, Hartford, New Britain, Bristol have provided)
* Identify local overnight warming center space that could be used for your residents to stay overnight when there is a severe cold weather activation (or provide funds for hoteling people from your town) (like Enfield, Manchester, Vernon, Hartford, New Britain, Bristol)

**Outreach Services**

* Provide letters of homeless verification to Journey Home/CAN backbone agency if municipal staff find clients sleeping outside
* Share CAN Outreach cards with people experiencing homelessness, including panhandlers who say they are experiencing homelessness
* Create a point of contact from local police who can connect with Journey Home/CAN backbone agency on homeless-related issues, and police officers trained in restorative justice (Like West Hartford, Hartford)
* Report unsheltered individuals and encampments to Journey Home/CAN backbone organization through Smartsheet platform (use professional judgment, and one municipal point of contact) (Like West Hartford, Hartford)
* Partner with Journey Home/local CAN backbone organization for the development and commitment to a common regional municipal encampment response plan (like Hartford)

**Strengthening Partnerships with CANs**

* Participate in some local CAN Meetings (Like several municipalities have)
* Join Basecamp platform (or local CAN communications listserv/platform) (like several municipalities have)
* Request to be added to the local CAN Release of Information (Like Enfield, Manchester, and Hartford)
* Meet with Journey Home/CAN backbone agency to improve communications, share challenges, and develop partnerships (like several municipalities have)
* Provide a point of contact for accommodating pets while residents are experiencing homelessness (animal boarding, animal control, animal rescues)
* Explore partnership with Journey Home/CAN backbone agency to provide homeless prevention and rehousing assistance or another homeless service using Opioid Settlement funding. (like Hartford has)
* Fund Journey Home/CAN backbone agency for the backbone support work that we do (Like Manchester, Windsor Locks, West Hartford, and Hartford)

Note: Many other municipalities may already do these items listed above, but the ones included here are just examples.