



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



Evonne M. Klein
Commissioner

January 12, 2016

Dear Chief Elected Officials:

Today, I am writing to ask you to join the [Department of Housing](#) and our local providers in our efforts to end chronic homelessness in the State of Connecticut.

First, I would like to share with you some of our successes. In August of 2015, Connecticut made history when it was designated by the federal government as being the first state in the nation to end chronic homelessness among veterans. The annual Point-in-Time count for last year revealed that Connecticut recorded one of its lowest populations of homelessness ever, which included a 32% decrease in unsheltered homelessness over the year and a 21% decrease in chronic homelessness. What these numbers tell us are two things:

1. The good work by our local providers has developed into a system that ensures a path to permanent, safe, stable, and affordable housing not only for our veterans, but also for all of those in need.
2. Connecticut is on a path to end chronic homelessness and homelessness throughout the state.

There is still more work to be done and we need your help to do it. The State of Connecticut has signed on to Zero: 2016. The goal of this initiative is to end chronic homelessness by the end of 2016.

What I am asking from you today is to sign on to Zero: 2016 on behalf of your community and pledge to help us end chronic homelessness across the State by the end of the year. Below are some suggestions on how you and your municipality can play a critical role in this initiative.

1. Sign the pledge to be a partner with us on Zero: 2016 by clicking [here](#).
2. Contact the [Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness](#) to learn more about how you can further benefit this initiative.
3. Work with your local Housing Authority to prioritize a percentage of units to house homeless individuals and families.
4. Build affordable housing in your community as a step towards preventing homelessness.

During the next several weeks I will be in touch with you directly, but please do not hesitate to contact me in the interim with any questions or concerns at 860-270-8037. I hope that each municipality will sign on to this initiative and play a role to help us achieve this goal.

Too often we accept homelessness as a fact of life, but we know better in Connecticut. As our data shows, we can end homelessness. In fact, we are ending homelessness. As public servants, you understand what's at stake for homeless families and individuals, especially our most vulnerable. As leaders, we have the ability to connect people with the resources to get them on a path to permanent, safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Together, as a united Connecticut of 169 strong, we will end chronic homelessness by the end of this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Evonne M. Klein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Evonne" being the most prominent part.

Evonne M. Klein
Commissioner