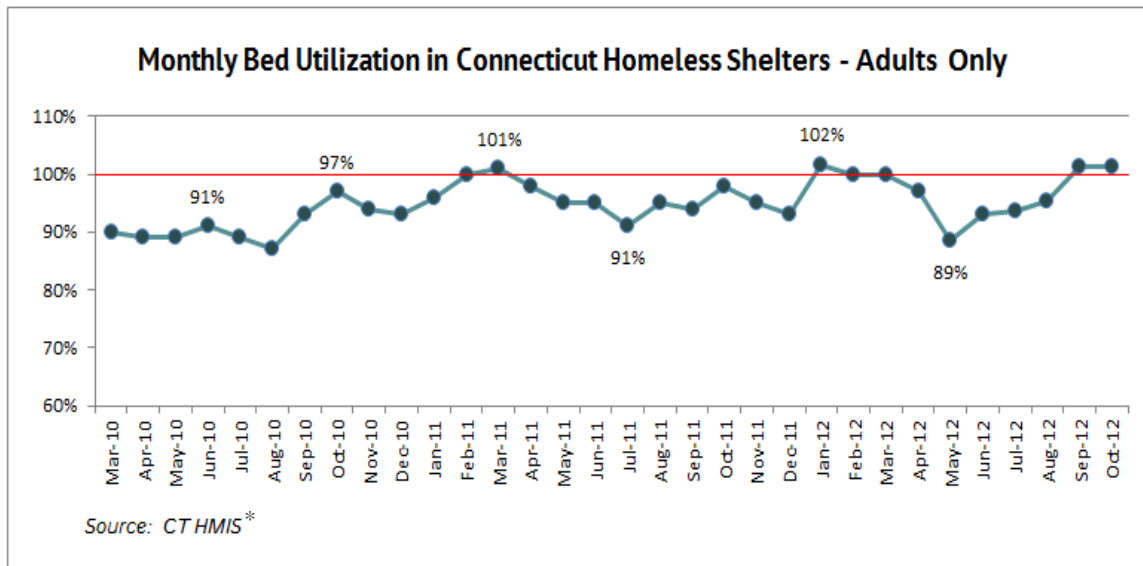




Homeless Shelters Remain Full, But We Have the Tools to Empty Them

The solution to homelessness is not more shelter beds, but rather a housing-based approach to emptying our state's shelters, and ultimately learning how to prevent housing crises before they occur.



* Connecticut Homeless Management Information System

Imagine a system that meets families in a housing crisis at the front door and asks, ‘What are your options? What do you need right now in order for you and your children NOT to enter this shelter tonight?’ Imagine a system that immediately provides that very assistance and never shelters that family again. With a little immediate help, families do not return to shelter.

**Retooling the Crisis Response:
the Right Interventions
to the Right People
at the Right Time**

The country and Connecticut have both seen that *rapid rehousing works*. Short-term financial assistance is effective for most clients and it works for almost all families. Rapid rehousing uses a combination of housing relocation and stabilization services

with short term financial assistance to help families move quickly into permanent housing. Time limited funds are typically used for security deposit, first few months rent, utility arrearages, and move-in costs. In Connecticut, three-quarters of families experience only one episode of homelessness. The majority move back into private housing on their own -- within three months. Just about all of the Connecticut families who have received rapid re-housing assistance have never returned to shelter.

It would take only 1% of the state's 1.5 million housing units to house all of the residents experiencing chronic homelessness in Connecticut

People who experience chronic homelessness do need longer-term, deeper assistance than families and most others in shelter. Of the approximate 13,000 people who stay in Connecticut's emergency shelters each year, about 2,500 are chronically homeless.



Join the movement. There is a Connecticut framework for ending chronic and veteran homelessness by 2016 and ending homelessness among families, youth, and children by 2021. This new [plan](#) includes new partners, and new focuses on improving economic security, healthcare, and housing for our neighbors who need it most.

CCEH is helping to lead a statewide workgroup aiming to change the housing crisis response system from temporary solutions, such as shelters and transitional housing, to more permanent solutions such as rapid rehousing and prevention. Join our [advocacy committee](#) or participate in [meet-ups](#) to get involved.

Act Locally. Around the state, community plans to end homelessness are aligning with the new statewide framework to respond to emerging federal performance measures and meet the needs in the community more efficiently. Contact your local continuum of care¹ or community plan to end homelessness, or contact Tracy Helin at thelin@cceh.org.

www.cceh.org

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¹ A U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development planning and grants entity