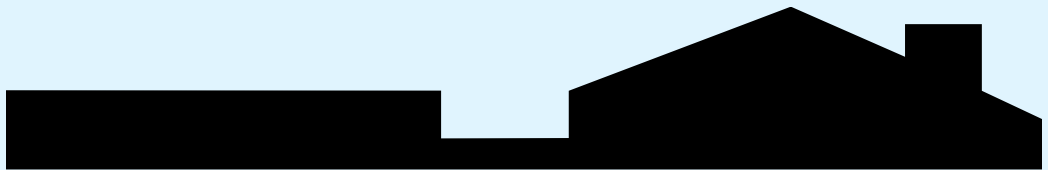


State of Connecticut Court Support Services Division (CSSD) and Head Start on Housing (HSOH)

Steve DiLella, Director
Individual and Family Support Unit
MARCH 2026



1

Housing Stability Survey



2

Why is this important?

- We know stable housing provides a platform which increases client engagement and supervision, affords the client the opportunity to participate in community-based programs and services, leading to better client outcomes and reduced recidivism and increased public safety.
- Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD) in collaboration with Reaching Home Campaign partners (CCEH, PSC, CCA, DOH and other community stakeholders) developed a brief Housing Stability Survey to more accurately identify homelessness and housing instability in the criminal justice system.
- The Survey is incorporated into JBCSSD's Case Management Information System (CMIS) to efficiently manage data quality.

Page 3 

3

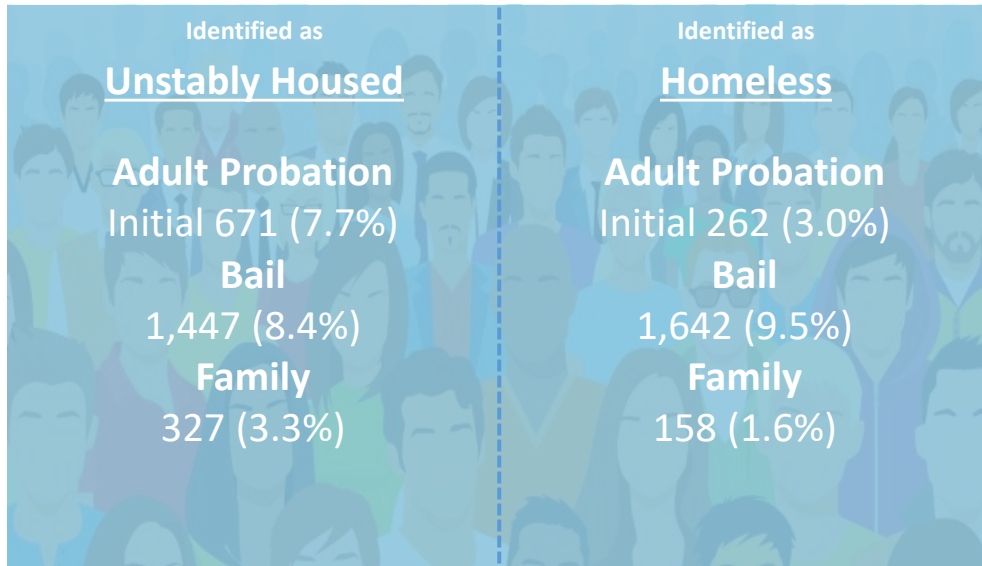
About the survey

- The Housing Survey is currently being utilized in all JBCSSD disciplines. (Adult and Juvenile Probation, Bail and Family Services and Juvenile Residential Services)
- For some disciplines, a second survey is conducted at Discharge.
- The Housing Survey went live June 28, 2020, for Adult and Juvenile Probation, as well as Juvenile Detention.
- Bail and Family Services were brought online September 20, 2020.
- In addition to collecting data related to housing status, it provides action steps for staff including but not limited to; administering shelter diversion protocol, contacting Coordinated Access Network (CAN), call 2-1-1, or make a transitional housing referral.

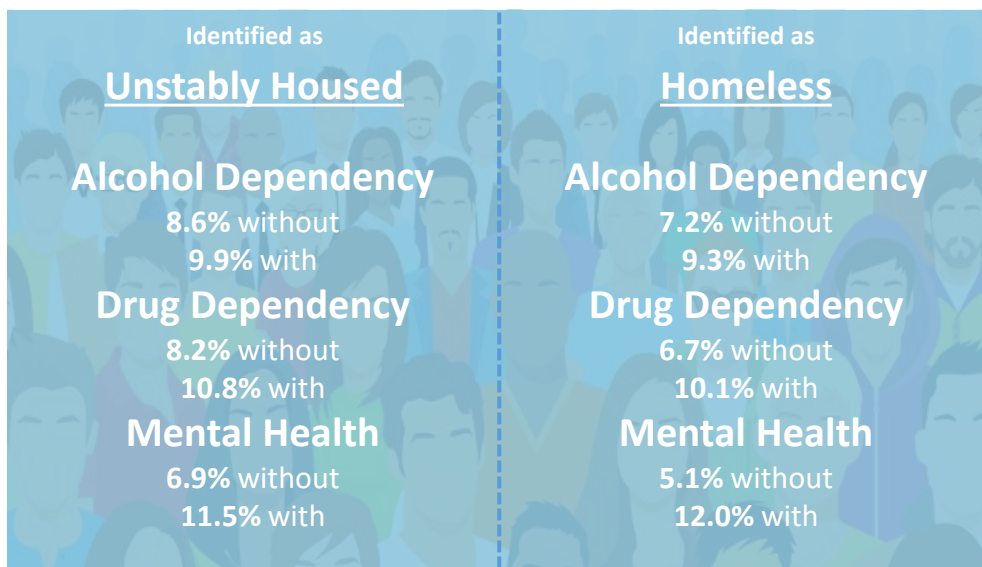
Page 4 

4

Calendar Year 2025 Adult Housing Statistics



Calendar Year 2025 Adult Housing Statistics



Rapid Re-Housing Program

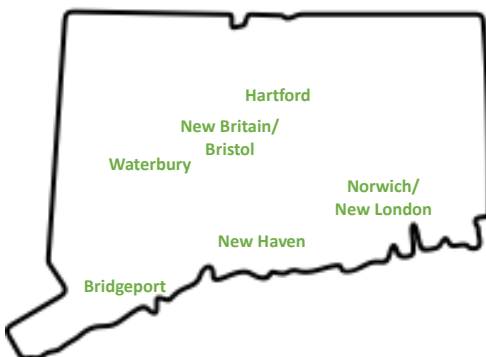
• A collaboration between the Department of Housing (DOH) and the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD) with a criminal justice focus



- Expanding on the existing Rapid Rehousing Model
- Participants pay 0-30% of income toward rent thru various stages
- JBCSSD funds the Housing Case Manager, DOH provides the subsidy
- Utilizing existing DOH providers
- Started in New Haven with Columbus House
- Probation referrals from New Haven
- First Referral – September 2019

Rapid Re-Housing Program

• A collaboration between the Department of Housing (DOH) and the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD) with a criminal justice focus



- Currently operating in New Haven, Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Britain/Bristol, Norwich/New London
- Calendar Year 2025 Stats:
 - 227 Referrals
 - 48 Actively Housed

Head Start on Housing



9

Overview of Head Start on Housing

The Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) has allocated Rental Assistance Program (RAP) and Section 8 vouchers for families whose children are participating in CT's Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) programs.

- In January 2022, the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) received 25 RAP vouchers from DOH for EHS/HS families.
- In June 2022, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, DOH and OEC announced an additional 35 Section 8 vouchers for this program.
- In September 2022, CT Department of Housing changed its administrative plan to allocate approximately fifty (50) Section 8 vouchers annually for Head Start and Early Head Start families.



Connecticut Office
of Early Childhood



nchcw
NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOUSING & CHILD WELFARE

Page 10 

10

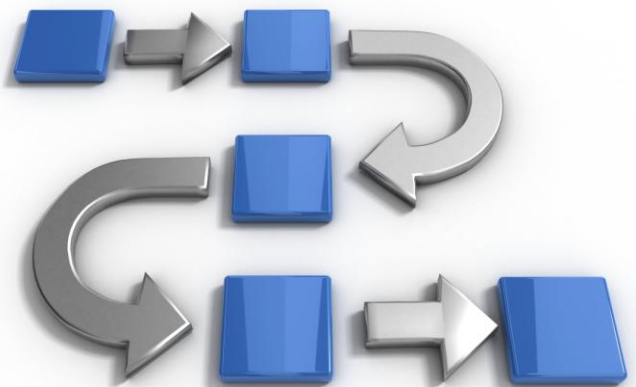
Connecticut Families Experiencing Homelessness

Program Information Report (PIR) 2020-21	# of Families	# of Children	% of Children
Total number of <i>children</i> experiencing homelessness that were served during the enrollment year	324	353	7.1%
Total number of <i>families</i> experiencing homelessness that acquired housing during the enrollment year	91		
Total number of <i>families</i> experiencing homelessness that did not acquire housing during the enrollment year	233		

The Big Picture – in 2018, nearly 1.5 million children nationwide experienced homelessness, with 7% of these children under 6 years of age. Nine percent of those children under 6 were enrolled in Head Start/ Early Head Start, or programs funded with federal dollars through McKinney-Vento grants.

Process and Prioritization

- Head Start staff identify families who meet program eligibility and complete the Prioritization Tool and Document List
- NCHCW and Head Start staff discuss and agree on families to refer
- The referral list is sent to the statewide housing authority contractor to begin voucher application process
- NCHCW and Head Start staff work with each family to complete application and gather appropriate documentation for voucher application process



Prioritization Tool

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name
ECHO number		Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)		Head Start Agency Name

Please identify the family's current living arrangements. Please check one box:

Check all that apply (s)	Housing Questionnaire Choice	(ECHO Team Use Only) Code
<input type="radio"/>	Unsheltered - Unsheltered (residence not ordinarily used as sleeping accommodation, i.e. car, park, train station)	U
<input type="radio"/>	Shelter - Emergency, temporary, transitional shelter, or time-limited residential treatment	S
<input type="radio"/>	Other Unsafe Living Situation - Overcrowded housing, doubled-up, motel, or any other inadequate living space or moving frequently.	O
<input type="radio"/>	Rapid Rehousing - Participating in Rapid Rehousing and in need of continued housing assistance.	R
<input type="radio"/>	Low Income - Income is at or below 30% of Area Median Income	I

Indicate below whether the Household is interested in the Rental Assistance Program:

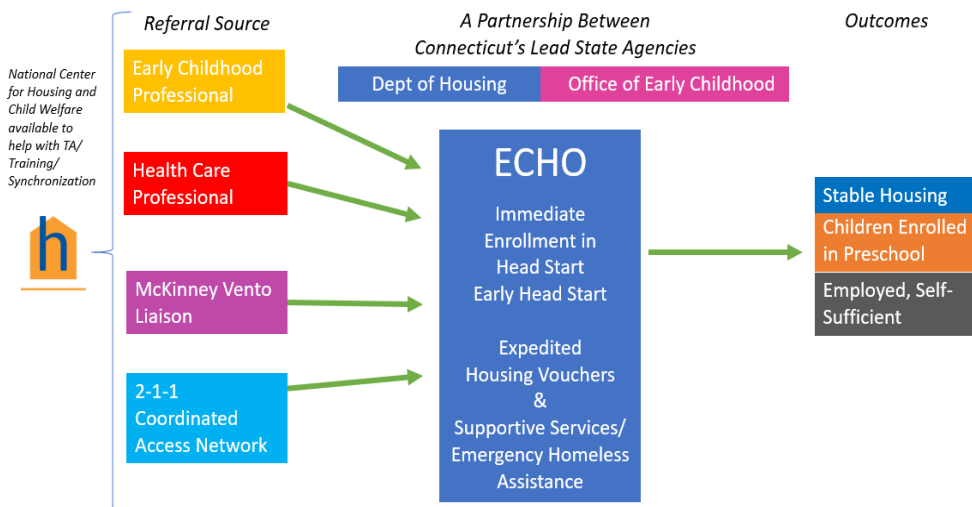
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interest in a permanent housing subsidy - Head of Household is interested and eligible* for the Rental Assistance Program (RAP).	Enter "Y" if Applicable
--------------------------	--	-------------------------

Head Start Staff Person	Title	Date
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- To be completed by the Head Start Staff and provided to the Housing Lead.
- This tool is intended to prioritize families but also to be used as a discussion tool for staff.
- Families will be served on a first come, first-served basis.

13

Early Childhood Housing Outreach (ECHO) Expedited Access to Resources



14

Voucher Commitment and Future Plans

- 150 families and 329 children housed since January 2023.
- Mix of State Funded Rental Assistance Program Certificates and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Vouchers created through an administrative plan change
- Additional 250 State certificates coming online on 7/1/26

