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ODFC CONTACT: David Rich (860) 671-1715
david@supportivehousingworks.org

2018 Point-In-Time Count Shows Progress in Fairfield County's Efforts to Combat Homelessness

Bridgeport, CT – The HUD mandated annual census of homelessness conducted on January 23, 2018, also known as the annual Point-In-Time (PIT) count, shows a remarkable 36% reduction in the number of “unsheltered” homeless residents in Fairfield County over the last three years, 2015-2018.

While the PIT count provides only one of many data points by which the region can track progress towards its goal of decreasing homelessness, the 36% reduction is an important milestone. Over the last four years, Fairfield County has transformed once siloed services such as town specific emergency shelters, supportive housing, and affordable housing, into a coordinated regional system. This system now can prioritize recipients based on need, reducing service redundancies, and filling service gaps.

This highly collaborative service delivery approach has transformed the region's homeless emergency response system. It better meets the varied needs of the individuals it serves, and it deploys the County's limited service dollars and other resources in a significantly more efficient manner. The 2018 PIT data underscores the success of Fairfield County's collaborative approach.

Adam Bovilsky, Co-Chair of Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC), the organizing body of over two-hundred regional service providers and stakeholders, speaks to Fairfield County's most recent PIT count data. “I am proud of this collective effort from committed stakeholders across the region working tirelessly to end homelessness. By continuing to advance sustainable system changes including enhanced collaboration and improved data systems, we will accomplish our goal. “

As the region, the state of Connecticut, and the nation prepare to focus more directly on addressing family and youth homelessness in the coming months, Fairfield County's successful, collaborative regional approach places it in the forefront of national models in addressing homelessness, and sets the stage for continued countywide success in addressing all forms of homelessness.