

**MINUTES**

**Vol 27, Page 345**

**CITY COUNCIL & WPCA**

**PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSEOUT OF SMALL CITIES GRANT - #SC2014301**

**CITY HALL AUDITORIUM/ZOOM**

**May 6, 2024**

A **PUBLIC HEARING** was held by the City Council & WPCA of the City of Torrington on Monday, May 6, 2024, to solicit citizen input regarding the closeout of FY 2020 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program #SC2014301, Homeless Diversion Grant.

Attendance was in person. Present at City Hall were Mayor Elinor Carbone, Corporation Counsel Michael Magistrali, and City Councilors Drake Waldron, Stephan Ivain, Molly Spino, Anne Ruwet, Paul Cavagnero, and David Oliver. Also present in person were Public Works Director Ray Drew, Facilities Manager Jamie Sykora, Superintendent of Public Works Tim Cote, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Stephen McDonald, Comptroller John Monks, Human Resources Director Denise Kurpiewski, Assessor Thomas DiStasio, WPCA Administrator Ed Tousey, and Treasurer Dan Farley. No one joined via Zoom.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

City Clerk Carol Anderson read the legal notice into the record.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jessica Kubicki, Chief Initiative Officer for the Housing Collective, did a close-out presentation of the FY 2020 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program #SC2014301. \*See Presentation

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED**

Mayor Carbone declared the public hearing closed at 6:46 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Heather Abraham, Asst. City Clerk*

ATTEST:

*Carol L. Anderson*

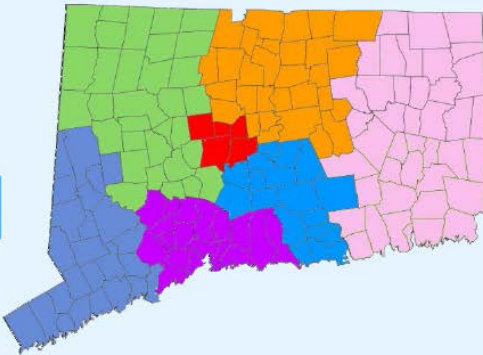
CAROL L. ANDERSON, CITY CLERK

**\*Presentation:**





WHO IS THE HOUSING COLLECTIVE?



MUTUAL EFFORT. GREATER IMPACT.  
THE BACKBONE FOR ORGANIZATIONS WORKING TO END HOMELESSNESS  
AND ENSURE STABLE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

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TORRINGTON’S SMALL CITIES TEAM

1 FTE WITH HARTFORD HEALTHCARE

- Embedded at the Gathering Place
- Supports all walk-in’s & community referrals
  - Accommodates all in person CAN appointments



1 FTE WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONNECTICUT

- A part of the navigation team that includes 2 additional full-time navigators.
- Consistent supervision & support
  - Team model
  - Takes on all 2-1-1 scheduled CAN appointments
  - Can accommodate in person or call back CAN appointments



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Purpose of the **CAN appointment** is to help identify safe, appropriate places individuals and families to stay in the community.

WHAT IS DIVERSION?



Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate, safe alternative housing arrangements, and if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing.

- Diversion strategies include:
- Conflict resolution / mediation
  - Transportation / relocation assistance
  - Rental arrearages / assistance
  - Security deposits
  - Case management

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## COVID IMPACTED THE HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM



CAN = COORDINATED ACCESS NETWORK

- Housing inventory, housing affordability, and stricter screening process by landlords
- Length of time in ES increased = less turnovers
- Previous evictions has increased
- Sustainability income doesn't match housing prices
- Poverty becoming top reason households access the CAN
- 211 Wait times increased
- Need outweighed capacity
- Significant increase of elderly & families accessing the CAN

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## IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO THE SYSTEM AS A RESULT OF COVID

Adjustments were made through the following assessments:  
Data review; feedback and suggestions from funders, providers, and participants; and conferencing with other CANs.

### HOW CAN WE SERVE THE POPULATION IN NEED AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE?

SAME DAY CALL BACK APPOINTMENTS FOR THOSE THAT CAN RECEIVE CALL BACKS

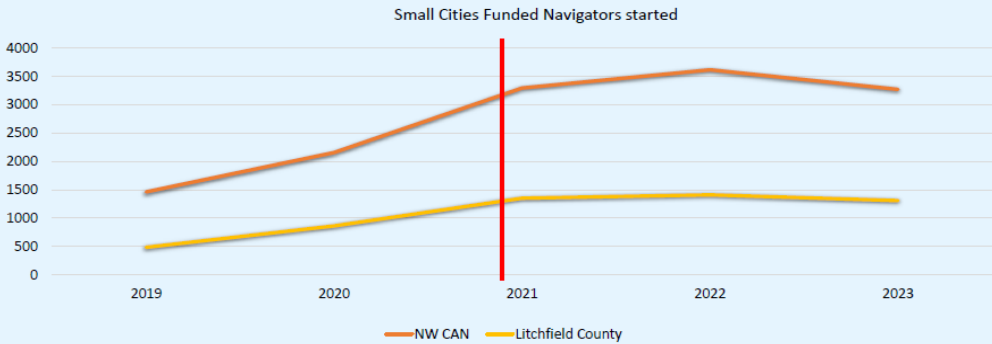
IN PERSON APPOINTMENTS & WALK INS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY HUB FOR EXPANSION OF ACCESSIBILITY

INCREASED COLLABORATION BETWEEN NAVIGATORS & OUTREACH TO ENSURE THOSE UNSHELTERED ARE THE ONES GOING IN TO SHELTER

SUPPORTS PARTNERS WORKING WITH THE POPULATION ACCESS TO REFER THEIR CLIENTS

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INFLOW  
ALL COMPLETED CAN APPOINTMENTS

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