



Dream Homes Community Center

To: Mayor Mark Boughton and the City Council
 From: Elke Sweeney, LCSW, Housing Advocate
 Re: November 2015 Monthly Report
 CC: ARC Executive Director & ARC Board of Directors

I. Program Synopsis

Per the proposal endorsed by Mayor Boughton and the City Council, Dream Homes Community Center (DHCC) was established at ARC to serve as the Point of Entry for people who are homeless or low-income renters, and to facilitate first-time home ownership for people with hard-to-serve backgrounds.

Program Updates

Dream Homes Community Center continues to persevere in the efforts to assist Danbury’s “Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness”. Through our Coordinated Access Services, Dream Homes Community Center has served **124 people** in the city of Danbury alone since July 1, 2015.

Point of Entry

Since July 1, 2015, DHCC has provided services to **105 people** through the Point of Entry at ARC. The following is a breakdown by town:

Town	This Month (November 1–November 30, 2015)	Year to Date (July 1, 2015 – November 30, 2015)
Danbury	27 (11 households)	124
Bethel	4 (2 households)	4
Brookfield	0	0
New Fairfield	0	0
New Milford	3 (2 households)	31
Newtown	0	0
Redding	0	0
Ridgefield	0	0
Sherman	0	0
Other Towns	0	0
Total	34 (15 households)	159 ppl

Continued on Next Page

November Outreach Highlights: Dream Homes Housing Advocates attended the following meetings and trainings:

1. Met with *landlords* & performed inspections for clients' potential homes.
2. *Continuum of Care (COC)* meeting to discuss prioritization of **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Vouchers** to be used for housing chronically homeless individuals with a disability in Danbury.
3. *Housing First Collaborative* to discuss how clients chronicity of homelessness and VI-SPDAT scores will be used to select individuals for PSH and learn about program model designed to support newly housed clients.
4. *Housing Placement Committee (HPC)* to collaborate with other housing providers in order to determine which clients will receive the PSH Vouchers.
5. Statewide *Coordinated Access Network* to collaborate with providers from other counties on service models to best fit client needs.
6. *Housing sub-committee* for the **Danbury Housing Partnership** assisting with planning Landlord Coalition breakfast.
7. *Landlord Breakfast* was conducted this month to provide education for Danbury area Landlords about advocacy, assistance, and support given to individuals and families with housing needs. This educational breakfast was sponsored by the **Danbury Housing Partnership**.

II. Because of the **City Grant**, the Point of Entry was able to leverage and renew additional funds to help end and prevent homelessness, including:

1. *Homeless Educational Grants*: Provides costs toward tuition, child care, school supplies, transportation, and/or uniforms while participants are attending school. Clients must meet HUDs definition of homelessness or have proof of homelessness within the last 18 months. Case management is provided for 3 months to implement budgeting & financial planning.
2. *Vouchers 1*: Provides rent for chronically homeless, one of which has one member of the household with a disability.
3. *Vouchers 2*: Provides rent for veterans who were chronically homeless & one of which the majority of rent is paid for a family with a veteran who was chronically homeless per DMHAS contract.

III. ***Program Highlights***—Story of one individual served by DHCC this month
A Point of Entry and Coordinated Access Success Story
(Names changed to maintain confidentiality)

Kate, is a young single mother who was connected to ARC through 211 infoline. Katie is a survivor of domestic violence which contributed to job loss and loss of apartment. As a result, she was temporarily separated from her daughter, who resided with a family friend, and Katie was living in her car for 3 months.

Recently, Katie was approved for low-income housing. She was beyond thrilled and was looking forward to reconciling with her daughter and living in her own home. With limited knowledge on housing and renting issues, Katie reached out to ARC to seek assistance in Housing Advocacy in order to receive housing and support services for herself and her daughter. ARC's Housing Advocate served as a guide and support system in finding safe, secure, and sanitary housing. ARC's Housing Advocate provided case-management by engaging in a monthly budgeting program with Amy, and developing a housing stability plan.

Once housed, Katie and ARC's Housing Advocate set-up a care plan for her housing and case-management needs. ARC's Housing Advocate also served as a referral source by connecting Katie to programs such as CAAWC for energy assistance, and DSS for SNAP and child support assistance. ARC assisted with Security Deposit.

Katie is grateful for the support, assistance, and advocacy ARC was able to provide. In addition, ARC provided Katie with a Welcome Basket which consisted of household supplies to make the move an easier transition for them. ARC continues to contact Katie on a weekly basis to see how she is doing.