



Beth-El Center

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Neighbor-to-Neighbor Guide to Support Those With Lived Experience of Homelessness



Written By : Jennifer Paradis, Executive Director Beth-El Center, Inc.

WE ALL PLAY A ROLE IN SOLVING HOMELESSNESS

There is no denying, homelessness has increased in our community. This reality can be identified through data, recent statistics show that homelessness has increased for the third year in a row, however we can also see this impact on our daily walks, drives through town and as we access community resources such as our wonderful public libraries.

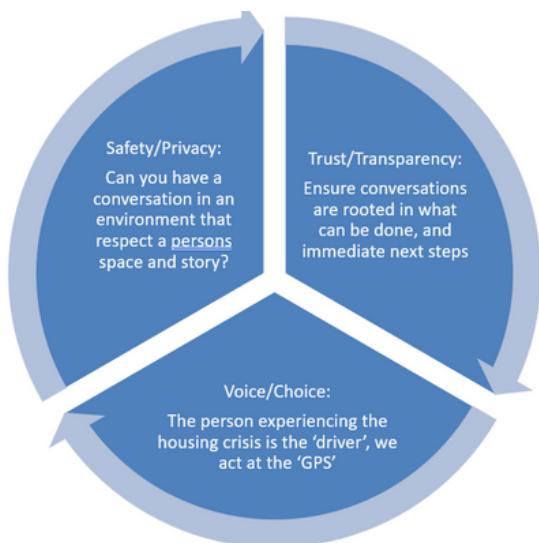
In times like this, collaboration is key. This guide is intended to support all neighbors who wish to be solution-focused, leading with compassion and empathy. History has shown that homelessness is caused by our cost of living being too high, and our wages being too low, making our most vulnerable neighbors more likely to experience homelessness. History has also proven that when root causes are addressed with root solutions, all residents do better.

Thank you for committing to creating a future where there is no wrong place to turn for help, and that we are all free from the stigmas of poverty and homelessness

Someone having a housing crisis may be overwhelmed and unsure of what to do next. The purpose of this document is to support you in asking guiding questions to refer them to the most helpful next step.

Where is the best place to start? Ask: How can I help you?

It's a privilege to be the trusted party who supports a household experiencing homelessness, remember the following as you engage with them.



Please note: There are different resources for different communities. All resources written in **BLUE** are for Shoreline communities and all resources written in **GREEN** are for Valley communities. If blue or green are not indicated, the resource is universal.

Shoreline: Covering Milford, Guilford, Madison, Branford, North Branford, Northford and East Haven

Valley: Covering Milford, Orange, West Haven, Shelton, Derby and Ansonia

The Basic Needs Resources listed on page 3, are centered for those in the Milford area and not intended to be an exhaustive list of services in the Greater New Haven area

Scenario 1: If a person is looking to find affordable housing options or is seeking financial resource options for housing related needs

Resource Option: You can refer them to TEAM, Inc's Support Services department at 203-736-5420 during regular business hours.

Resource Option: You can refer them to Community Renewal Team department at:

555 Windsor Street

Hartford, CT 06120

Tel: (860) 560-5600

Web site: www.crtct.org

Scenario 2: If a household is being evicted and has to leave their home within 14 days for a family or 5 days for an individual. Please note, proof is needed such as a Notice to Quit or written letter from shared living arrangement.

Resource Options:

- 1.) Have them call the Greater New Haven CAN Hub at 203-691-4218, Monday-Friday 10am to 4pm
- 2.) Call the 211 Housing Crisis line 24/7 to schedule a CAN appointment
- 3.) Refer them to Valley CAN Diversion Specialist, Kesha White, for a walk in appointment at TEAM on Wednesday's from 10am-2pm TEAM Inc. - 30 Elizabeth St, Derby, CT 06418
- 4.) Call the Beth-El Center, Inc. at 203.876.0747 and complete an Outreach and Diversion Referral with Front Desk Staff

Scenario 3: It is during cold weather, and someone does not have a safe, warm place to sleep.

Resource Option: Check the www.UWGNH.org site for the most up to date Warming Center locations Scenario

Or scan this QRCode:



Scan me!

Scenario 4: You have identified a person who is unsheltered; living outside, in their vehicle or living in a place without running water and/or heat

Resource Option:

Contact Bobbi Jo Evans, BSN, MPH - Housing Outreach Program Manager- BHCare

bevans@bhcare.org

203-533-8456

Any additional questions: Call Beth-El Center, Inc.

203.876.0747



Meeting Basic Needs

All of these services are available at the Beth-El Center
(unless otherwise noted)

90 New Haven Avenue

Milford, CT

06460

(203) 876.0747

Info@bethelmilford.org

MEALS:

1.) Prepared meals are available 7 days per week 11:30am-1:00pm and on weekdays from 5-6pm, throughout the community. A prepared meal calendar is located on our website bethelcenterct.org.

Please scan to see our monthly meal calendar:



2.) There is also a Milford Food Resources Guide, aiding with access to prepared meals and shelf-stable items. This can be found on the Milford Health Department website.

SHOWERS:

Our Shower Program operates daily from 8:50 am - 3:00 pm. We allow community members to sign up in advance for showers by calling the Center at (203) 876.0747. Towels and toiletries are provided!

CLOTHING:

Available through the Clothing Boutique at the Storehouse Project 192 Meadow Street, Milford, CT 06461- Phone: 203-668-6297

Restrooms:

Beth-El Center allows any member of the community to access the restroom 24/7.

MAIL SERVICES:

Mailing to 90 New Haven Avenue, Milford CT 06460 is available for those who sign up with a mailing commitment. This can be done through calling the Beth-El Center and completing an Outreach and Engagement referral.

MEDICAL CARE:

In partnership with Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, medical providers are on site at Beth-El Center weekly on Tuesday's from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

In partnership with BRIDGES Healthcare, Substance Misuse resources including Suboxone treatment and Peer Support Specialists are on site on Monday's from 11:30am-1:30pm

Most of these services are offered free of charge.

WiFi/Internet Connection & Phone Charging:



Beth-El Center offers free WiFi access available in our Community Kitchen Dining Room and Phone Charging upon request.