

Thank you for this opportunity to share some thoughts from our perspective relative to the work being undertaken in support of families experiencing homelessness across the state. We appreciate and agree with much of what was offered during Thursday morning's virtual meeting and are grateful for the seriousness and commitment the Administration has demonstrated in these efforts.

Along those same lines, we wish to offer some additional recommendations that were not explicitly raised during that discussion:

- **Enhanced Communication between State and Local Continuum of Care.** While it is apparent from the ongoing efforts of the Administration that there is a commitment to consistent and clear communication with municipalities, there is an opportunity for greater integration with local Continua in a practical, 1-1 sense relative to what EA is doing within the CoC and how CoCs and EA officials can better communicate for shared understanding. There is sometimes the sense, at least within our CoC and among EA-funded family shelter providers, that family shelters are somehow separate from what is being done locally as they are beholden to the state and state shelter system, not the local CoC. Reinforcing the value of working alongside others in the CoC and especially with our Coordinated Entry System Team with all funded family shelter projects would help both the CoC and EA system. The current format does not encourage integration of state family and local individual and family resources for homelessness, which has caused a communication gap and accountability sink between agencies operating these respective programs. HUD funding coming to CoCs could be better leveraged with state resources if this were improved. *In the short term, we recommend that one EA staff person be assigned to each CoC as a liaison so that we have a designated resource with whom we can easily connect and a face that could be present and participate in local CoC discussions (virtual meetings). In the long term, EOHLC should consider distributing some or all state funding toward homelessness in conjunction with or through local CoC processes to create a seamless infrastructure.*

Again, please know of our appreciation for this opportunity and our ongoing commitment to work with you in these efforts to move our processes and successes forward. We are more than happy to further discuss.