How the Coordinated Access Network (CAN) works.

The CAN is a network of service providers working together to streamline individuals’ and families’ access to housing assistance. Anyone experiencing a housing emergency anywhere in the state can call 2-1-1 for assistance. Initially, housing specialists help callers problem solve by identifying possible ways to stay in current housing. If that is not an option, the caller is scheduled for an in-person follow-up meeting for an in-depth assessment and referral to the most suitable community resources within a geographic region. Our CAN encompasses Middlesex County, Meriden and Wallingford.

**STEP 1**

Individuals and families seeking service should call 2-1-1 to connect to the CAN system and start the assessment process. Select option 3 and then option 1 to reach a trained housing specialist.

**STEP 2**

A housing specialist will help the caller problem solve by identifying possible ways to retain current housing and divert them from the need for emergency shelter. Callers may be eligible for one-time financial assistance if they can prove the assistance will return them to financial stability and housing independence.

**STEP 3**

If the initial assessment determines the caller cannot be diverted from emergency shelter, an in-depth assessment is conducted in a follow-up meeting. To identify the most suitable housing solution (as well as the potential need for services), the housing specialist will ask about length of homelessness, age, military service, and disabilities, among other things.

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Ann Faust  
Middlesex Coalition on Housing and Homelessness  
100 Riverview Center Suite 230  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457  
(860) 346-8695

Go to www.anendinten.org to donate or to join the effort to end homelessness.

July, 2017