



One Connecticut Housing Priorities

- 1. Public Housing.** Development and adoption of a plan for the preservation and revitalization of the state's close to 12,000 units of state-sponsored family and elderly/disabled rental housing. Much of the aging state housing stock is in need of immediate health and safety repairs and ongoing investment. Proper stewardship of this housing stock will improve and preserve these apartments for low-wage working families, as well as elderly and disabled people living on very limited incomes.
- 2. Beyond Shelter.** \$350,000 is needed for the expansion of the state's successful *Beyond Shelter* program to serve seven more regions of Connecticut. *Beyond Shelter* provides the extra support needed by some families in order to make the move from temporary homeless shelters to quality, stable housing. The program is currently operating in five regions—Bridgeport, New Britain, Norwalk, Norwich and Waterbury. Newly served regions will be chosen through a competitive application process, with an emphasis placed on demonstrated need.
- 3. AIDS Housing.** Request of \$500,000-\$1.5 million for expansion of housing for people with AIDS. These programs provide a variety of supportive housing to people with HIV/AIDS who face additional obstacles such as physical disabilities, mental health issues, substance use and recovery, medication compliance, and poverty. In 2004 AIDS housing providers turned away 94% of those requesting housing. Since CT AIDS Residence Coalition began collecting statistics in 1992, over 3,000 people have been housed and provided supportive services by these programs.
- 4. Rental Assistance.** The budget for the state Rental Assistance Program (RAP) should increase from \$14.1 million to \$21.6 million, requiring an additional appropriation of \$3.75 million in FY 07 (because new certificates will be phased in over the course of the year). RAP helps families who are struggling to pay rent maintain safe, decent and stable housing. RAP also provides private landlords with a reliable income stream and improves neighborhoods by requiring building maintenance. The program once served 2600 families and now serves less than 1400. In the face of desperate housing needs and cutbacks in federal Section 8 vouchers, we must restore RAP to at least its prior service level.