



## 4.2 Homeless

*CHANGE*

Homeless persons include individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence; and individuals who have a primary nighttime residence that is (a) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, (b) an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or (c) a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. A chronically homeless person is an unaccompanied individual who has been continuously homeless for over one year.

Special needs housing addresses a critical and growing need within the City of Meriden. Economic circumstances play a critical part in the plight of the homeless. This has been particularly true with public assistance programs, where benefit levels have not kept pace with the cost of living. Reductions in grants to the extremely poor, including individuals, seniors and families, along with the potential reductions in Section 8 rental assistance, are expected to increase the number of homeless.

At any point in time in Connecticut, it is estimated that there are close to 4,200 people who are homeless. According to the 2009 Annual-Point-in-Time Count, Meriden was listed as the place of last residence for 33 homeless households – 30 adult single and 3 adults in families. The Annual-Point-in-Time Count projected 0 homeless households unobserved in 2009 in Meriden.

Table 22  
Continuum of Care Housing Gap Analysis Chart (2009)

		Current Inventory	Under Development	Unmet Need/ Gap
<b>Individuals</b>				
<b>Beds</b>	Emergency Shelter	38	0	22
	Transitional Housing	18	0	349
	Permanent Supportive Housing	48	0	32
	<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>403</b>
<b>Persons in Families with Children</b>				
<b>Beds</b>	Emergency Shelter	110	0	92
	Transitional Housing	15	0	0
	Permanent Supportive Housing	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>

Source: Continuum of Care, March 2010.



Table 23  
Continuum of Care: Homeless Population and Subpopulations Chart, 2009

Part 1: Homeless Population	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
	Emergency	Transitional		
Number of Families with Children (Family Households):	475	23	40	538
1. Number of Persons in Families with Children	50	5	0	55
2. Number of Single Individuals and Persons in Households without children	150	15	0	165
<b>(Add Lines Numbered 1 &amp; 2 Total Persons)</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>703</b>
Part 2: Homeless Subpopulations	Sheltered		Unsheltered	Total
a. Chronically Homeless	31			
b. Seriously Mentally Ill	137			
c. Chronic Substance Abuse	118			
d. Veterans	5			
e. Persons with HIV/AIDS	6			
f. Victims of Domestic Violence	30			
g. Unaccompanied Youth (Under 18)	50			

Source: Continuum of Care, March 2010.

### 4.3 Non-Homeless Special Needs

Non-homeless populations in Meriden with specialized supportive housing needs include the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical or developmental) and persons with HIV/AIDS and their families.

#### Elderly and Frail Elderly

Elderly households are defined as 1 or 2 member households, either person 62 to 74 years old; extra elderly households includes 1 or 2 member households, either person 75 years or older. Throughout Meriden, elderly households experienced overcrowding, living in units with physical defects and/or spending in excess of 30 percent of household income on housing. Over 60 percent of low income households with mobility or self care limitations had housing problems. Of total households, 50.1 percent of renters and 39.2 percent of owners had housing problems. Among low income elderly households or households with mobility or self care limitations, 37.5 percent of renters and 62.2 percent of owners suffered from housing problems. All elderly owners with extremely low income experienced housing problems, which is disproportionately higher than other households within this income category. The moderate income category renter households contained 21.0 percent households with housing problems and 39.1 percent of total owners with housing problems. Non-elderly owner households with mobility or self care limitations experienced the most housing problems (60.9 percent).

Challenges continually faced by the elderly in maintaining an independent environment include: fixed incomes, which limit their ability to pay increasing rents, maintenance, utilities and property tax costs; medical care expenses (including prescription medications); special transportation needs due to medical and physical conditions; daily assistance needs; housing that accommodates changing physical needs; lack of housing choice; and eligibility requirements which force seniors to ‘spend down’ assets in order to access housing and care. Non-elderly residents with mobility and self care limitations share many of these challenges.

Table 24  
Housing Problems for Elderly and Non-Elderly Households, City of Meriden (2000)

	Renters				Owners				Total HH
	Extra Elderly 1 & 2 Member HH	Elderly 1 & 2 Member HH	All Other HH	Total Renters	Extra Elderly 1 & 2 Member HH	Elderly 1 & 2 Member HH	All Other HH	Total Owners	
Income <=50% MFI	365	255	925	1,545	389	94	139	622	2,167
Income <=30% MFI	225	155	585	965	149	45	29	223	1,188
% w/housing problems	66.7	58.1	71.8	68.4	76.5	100.0	86.2	82.5	71.0
Income >30 to <=50% MFI	140	100	340	580	240	49	110	399	979
% w/housing problems	50.0	45.0	63.2	56.9	35.4	28.6	68.2	43.6	51.5
Income >50 to <=80% MFI	65	45	200	310	149	130	230	509	819
% w/housing problems	0.0	44.4	22.5	21.0	22.8	19.2	60.9	39.1	32.2
Income >80% MFI	10	23	255	288	212	159	745	1,116	1,404
% w/housing problems	0.0	17.4	5.9	6.6	3.8	8.8	9.4	8.2	7.9
Total Households	440	323	1,380	2,143	750	383	1,114	2,247	4,390
% w/housing problems	50.0	49.2	50.4	50.1	32.1	25.6	27.8	28.9	39.2

Source: SOCDs CHAS Databook, 2000.

### Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities are in the midst of an increasingly acute affordable housing crisis. In Connecticut, no one receiving Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and State Supplemental Income (AABD) benefits can meet the Federal criteria for affordable housing and pay only 30 percent of their monthly income for rent. Neither the Federal nor State entitlement/income streams have kept pace with the rising cost of living. The vast majority of persons with disabilities in Connecticut severely lack housing choices, and face the very real prospect of becoming homeless.

Individuals were classified as having a disability if they (1) were five years old and over and reported a long-lasting sensory, physical, mental or self-care disability, (2) were 16 years old and over and reported difficulty going outside the home because of a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or more, or (3) were 16 to 64 years old and reported difficulty working at a job or business because of a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or more. In 2000, there were 11,083 persons with disabilities in Meriden. Of this population, 28.7 percent were 65 years or older, and 31.6 percent were unemployed.

Table 25

Persons with Disabilities by Employment Status, City of Meriden (2000)

	Number	Percent
Age 5-64, Employed with Disability	4,402	39.7
Age 5-64, Unemployed with Disability	3,502	31.6
Persons 65 and Older with Disability	3,179	28.7
<b>TOTAL PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</b>	<b>11,083</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 3, 2000.

Table 26

Persons with Disabilities by Disability Type, City of Meriden (2000)

	Number	Percent
<b>Age 5 to 64 Years Old</b>	<b>13,865</b>	<b>69.9</b>
Sensory Disability	1,133	5.7
Physical Disability	2,625	13.2
Mental Disability	2,184	11.0
Self-Care Disability	779	3.9
Go-Outside-Home Disability	2,599	13.1
Employment Disability	4,545	22.9
<b>Age 65 Years and Older</b>	<b>5,968</b>	<b>30.1</b>
Sensory Disability	1,149	5.8
Physical Disability	1,959	9.9
Mental Disability	630	3.2
Self-Care Disability	626	3.2
Go-Outside-Home Disability	1,604	8.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,833</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 3, 2000.

### Persons with HIV/Aids

According to the Connecticut Department of Health *AIDS Surveillance Data*, there were 338 persons, or 0.57 percent of the City's population living with HIV/AIDS (this did not include people with HIV who may have tested positive prior to 2002 when HIV became a reportable disease). Of persons who reported HIV/AIDS, 1 or 0.3 percent were under the age of 19.

Table 27

Meriden Population Living with HIV/AIDS by Sex/Race, City of Meriden (1980-2009)

Total	Sex		Race			
	Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
338	66.6	33.4	36.7	16.0	47.0	0.3

Source: Connecticut Department of Health, *AIDS Surveillance Data*, 2009.

Statewide, there were 538 new cases of HIV/AIDS reported. There is no group residence for persons with HIV/AIDS in Meriden; however, Shelter NOW, a homeless shelter, reserves up to six beds for persons with HIV/AIDS. As noted in the *2005-2010 Consolidated Plan*, there was no mention of a need for group residences for persons with HIV/AIDS at public hearings and no requests for public funding were made.

## 7.2 Homelessness

The City will allocate \$43,635 of the CD-36 funds to address homelessness. Specifically, through its public services grants, the City supports the operations of several private non-profit organizations whose mission is to provide temporary and transitional housing and other related counseling services for the homeless in Meriden. During 2010-2011, the City of Meriden will implement projects that impact homelessness and relieve the cost burden on special needs populations. The following funding allocations specifically address the homeless needs identified in the Consolidated Plan:

- Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Child Advocacy
- Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services
- Shelter NOW
- Women and Families Center Project REACH
- Women and Families Center SACS
- Connecticut Legal Services
- Child Guidance Clinic

The Meriden Housing Authority (MHA) also works to address homelessness in the City of Meriden. MHA is responsible for providing decent, safe and sanitary housing for individuals residing in Meriden with low and moderate incomes. The Meriden Housing Authority has the following goals to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness:

- “Expand the supply of assisted housing”
- “Increase assisted housing choices”
- “Promote self-sufficiency and asset development of families and individuals”
- “Ensure equal opportunity in housing for all Americans”

The Meriden Housing Authority will address homelessness by providing Section 8 vouchers and to provide first time homeowner loan assistance aimed at transitioning residents from public housing into the private housing market. The Meriden Housing Authority will apply if funds are available for new Section 8 Certificates or vouchers for households experience severe cost burden.

*Homelessness.* To address its homelessness objectives, the City will allocate resources towards the provision of housing and counseling services to individuals who are either homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless. The City estimated that 663 unduplicated persons receive emergency shelter during the course of a year and an additional 40 individuals are unsheltered.

*Chronic homelessness.* To end chronic homelessness, the City intends to implement the strategies outlined in its 2010-2015 Comprehensive Plan as well as to support public service projects that provide counseling and support services to the homeless. These programs include the Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis, Inc. Domestic Violence Services and Child Advocacy programs, Shelter NOW, Women and Family Center-Sexual Assault Crisis Service (SACS), and Women and Family Center-Project Reach. In addition, the City will support the Child Guidance Clinic, which provides counseling to at-risk youth in order to alleviate future behavioral and other developmental problems that could lead to chronic homelessness, and Connecticut Legal Services, which provides legal assistance to Meriden residents facing homelessness.

*Homelessness Prevention.* The Meriden Housing Authority has found that providing rental subsidies to households below 80% of the median income level for the area is the most cost effective and practical means to address pending homelessness. The Meriden Housing Authority currently provides 485 units of Federal Public Housing at Mills Memorial (140), Community Towers (221) and Chamberlain Heights (77) housing complexes; 626 Section 8 Housing Assistance vouchers; and 215 units of State Moderate Income housing at Johnson Acres (52) and Yale Acres (163). The Meriden Housing Authority will secure additional Section 8 Housing Assistance vouchers as they become available so that more individuals can be served. MHA also has 213 relocation vouchers associated with the renovation of Chamberlain Heights.

### 7.3 Other Special Needs

The City of Meriden will allocate \$45,391 to non-homeless special needs projects. Projects include: New Opportunities, Inc.-Chore Project for Elders, Casa Boricua de Meriden, Inc., Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc.-Mobile Work Crew, Franciscan Home Care and Hospice Care. This year, the City will also fund the Nurturing Families program administered by the Community Health Center. The project will fund a Spanish prenatal group intended to foster parenting skills to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.

Table 1B  
Special Needs (Non-Homeless) Populations

Special Needs (Non-Homeless) Subpopulations	Priority Need Level High, Medium, Low, No Such Need	Unmet Need	Multi-Year Goals	Annual Goals
Elderly	M	873	10	2
Frail Elderly	M	617	0	0
Severe Mental Illness	H	374	0	0
Developmentally Disabled	L	0	0	0
Physically Disabled	L	2,256	10	2
Persons w/ Alcohol/Other Drug Addictions	M	43	0	0
Persons w/HIV/AIDS	M	148	0	0
Victims of Domestic Violence				
Other (Public Housing Residents)	H	1,968	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	6,279	20	4