

# Homelessness MATTERS



May 28th, 2026

## IN THIS EDITION:

- **Coalition News:** NJCEH AmeriCorps retreat inspires connection, leadership, and community impact statewide.
- **Opportunities for Action:** Help unhoused residents vote: key deadlines and voting options; S.H.I.E.L.D. New Jersey: urgent action needed to combat rising homelessness; Urgent HUD deadlines threaten tenant and LGBTQ+ housing protections.
- **Resources for Providers:** Free de-escalation training returns for frontline homelessness response staff; Sign up for the next MHA Training on Food Insecurity and Mental Health; Info session on Medicaid Housing Supports program Tues 6/3
- **NJ Homelessness in the News:** New Jersey launches first street medicine program serving unhoused residents; CVS invests \$9M in senior housing linking stability, health, and care; Piscataway motel crackdown raises concerns over homelessness and housing stability
- **News From Around the Country:** Bipartisan report: housing shortage driving record U.S. homelessness levels; Utah conference highlights debate over housing-first versus treatment approaches to homelessness; Post-Grants Pass: cities split between criminalization of homelessness and housing solutions.

And much more...

## COALITION NEWS



### NJCEH AmeriCorps Attends Governor's Volunteerism Conference

This year's AmeriCorps cohort came together last week in Princeton for a two-day retreat focused on connection, growth, and community. Volunteers also attended the Governor's Volunteerism Conference, where they connected with inspiring community leaders, including Lieutenant Governor Dale Caldwell. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the Coalition's Americorps program, please contact Lauren: [Lborowick@njceh.org](mailto:Lborowick@njceh.org)

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



### Vote in NJ Primary Elections Next Tuesday, June 2nd!

Contact Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz at [rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org](mailto:rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org) for support with getting out the vote among unhoused residents and your staff.

There are 3 ways to vote:

- **Election Day: Tuesday, June 2, 6 AM-8 PM. Find your designated polling place [here](#).**
- **Early Voting: Now through Sunday, May 31st, at any early voting location in your county. Hours are 10 AM–8 PM Wednesday–Saturday and 10 AM–6 PM Sunday.**
- **Mail-In Voting: If you have a mail-in ballot, it must be returned by 8 PM on Tuesday, June 2 via ballot drop box, bring it to your County Board of Elections office, or mail it back postmarked by 8 PM Election Day. To ensure timely postmarking, mail ballots several days early or request a manual postmark at a USPS counter.**

\*Note: While the online deadline to request a mail-in ballot has passed, voters may still apply for a mail-in ballot in person at their County Clerk's office until 3 PM on Monday, June 1st.



### [Your Voice Needed: Urge the Governor and NJ Legislature to Invest to S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ Residents from Homelessness](#)

The time to act is now! Homelessness in NJ has surged 57% in just three years, pushing the system to the brink. Without immediate action, the NJ Department of

Community Affairs projects that by the end of 2026, **emergency shelter demand could rise 91% and street homelessness 94%.**

[Use this action alert to contact Governor Sherrill and your state legislators](#)— New Jersey must take bold, decisive steps to address this growing crisis and ensure everyone has a safe place to call home:

**S** — Shelter: emergency shelters and operations

**H** — Housing: rapid re-housing and supportive housing

**I** — Intervention Through Outreach: street outreach connecting unsheltered individuals to services and housing

**E** — Eviction Prevention: sustainable funding to prevent homelessness

**L** — Landlord Engagement: housing navigation and landlord partnerships

**D** — Data & Coordination: tools to strengthen NJ homelessness data systems and municipal supports

For more information or to get involved, contact Coalition Policy Associate Raisa at [rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org](mailto:rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org)



### Act Now Against Two HUD Proposals that Threaten Housing Stability:

**TWO urgent deadlines are approaching to speak out and submit written comments against harmful HUD rules that could worsen homelessness:**

- **[By Monday, June 1: Oppose HUD's proposal to rollback tenant protections against retaliation and unsafe living conditions in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program \(HOME\) program](#)**
- **By Monday, June 29:** HUD's proposal seeks to strip away longstanding protections for LGBTQ+ people in HUD shelter and housing programs — and if adopted, would threaten funding for agencies that do not comply with the directive, even if the rule conflicts with state and local law. **[Tell HUD to safeguard access to shelter and housing regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.](#)**

## RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



**De-Escalation Skills Training for Frontline Staff**

Based on overwhelming demand, the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness is thrilled to offer a second round of free training focused on practical de-escalation skills for frontline staff working across the homeless response system.

In partnership with SAMHSA's Opioid Response Network, we will host a live, interactive **90-minute De-Escalation Training** on June 8, 9, and 10:

Register below:

Monday, 6/8, 8 AM - 9:30 AM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/fQ4GN2ZmTuCCGmYXrTN8aQ>

Monday, 6/8, 1 PM - 2:30

PM: [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/0QS3Y5D\\_QheKPsO7drEbcQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/0QS3Y5D_QheKPsO7drEbcQ)

Tuesday, 6/9, 1 PM - 2:30 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/4aerOgByQVeijchbm3jsXg>

Tuesday, 6/9: 7 PM - 8:30 PM:

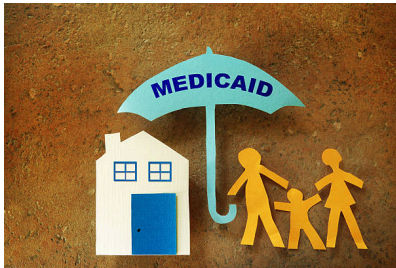
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/7JEGlLJZRpaMqo52TxkxjQ>

Wednesday, 6/10, 8 AM - 9:30 AM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/X8SvolysTMyRMzpRARjihg>

Wednesday, 6/10, 7 PM - 8:30 PM:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/rNXdu\\_qBRK-TeYyjK4lpQg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/rNXdu_qBRK-TeYyjK4lpQg)



## **Additional Medicaid Housing Supports Program (HSP) Provider Grants Expected Soon - Coalition to Hold Info Session Tuesday, June 3rd**

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) are preparing to release another round of provider expansion funding designed to strengthen participation in the Medicaid Housing Supports Program.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) is expected within the next week. Providers are encouraged to ensure their DCA SAGE profiles are current in advance of the release.

To support providers interested in learning more about the Housing Supports Program and preparing for this opportunity, Mary Gay Abbott-Young will host a virtual informational session for current and prospective Housing Support Program providers on **Tuesday, June 3rd at 9:00 AM**. If you're interested in joining, please contact [MG@NJCEH.org](mailto:MG@NJCEH.org)

---

# Food Insecurity and Mental Health



Wednesday, June 17, 2026

During this 1-hour workshop, we will discuss:

- \* How unmet basic needs such as food impact mental health
- \* Signs and survival responses to food stress and trauma
- \* Reducing stigma around misunderstood behaviors

**Session  
times:**

6-7AM  
8-9AM  
10-11AM  
2-3PM  
4-5PM  
6-7PM



[bit.ly/17juneMH](https://bit.ly/17juneMH)

- \* Please register for this workshop in advance by scanning the QR code or clicking the link.
- \* When registering, be sure to indicate the time slot you plan to attend.



Mental Health  
Association in  
New Jersey, Inc.

Please contact Jaime Angelini with any questions regarding this training:  
[jangelini@mhanj.org](mailto:jangelini@mhanj.org)



## GIVE YOUR STAFF ANOTHER TOOL TO CRAFT BETTER CLIENT COMMUNICATION

NJCEH is offering a free, virtual, 45-minute class designed to:

- Increase the positive outcomes of interviews for clients
- Help staff keep control of their time
- Keep initial intake to 15 minutes
- Highlight and define the 5 key markers of a good interview

This class, known as “BATHE” – *the Background, Affect, Trouble, Handling, Empathy Technique* – will be tailored to meet the needs of your specific program and can be held at your convenience.

Email [JCantermen@NJCEH.org](mailto:JCantermen@NJCEH.org) now to schedule a BATHE Technique training for your staff.

The NJ Coalition to End Homelessness is working for your program to make every day a better day.



**THE NONPROFIT TIMES**  
The Leading Business Publication For Nonprofit Management

The NJ Coalition to End Homelessness, in partnership with the NonProfit Times, is pleased to offer homeless service providers and partners an exclusive 25% discount on the [Certificate in Nonprofit Management](#) through the NonProfit Times.

This online certificate program introduces learners to key management and leadership issues facing nonprofit organizations today. Topics include fundraising, board and volunteer development, budgeting, financial management, leadership, marketing, and strategic planning. Participants will also gain insight from nonprofit professionals through real-world video commentary and practical case studies.

Each self-paced course (approximately 3–5 hours) includes interactive exercises, videos, readings, self-assessments, and decision-making scenarios designed to strengthen practical nonprofit management skills. Some courses also offer CFRE credits.

## Discounted Trainings for Service Providers From the National Alliance to End Homelessness

### Courses include:

- Key Skills for Shelter Staff: a 7 course series
- Understanding How We Got Here: How Historic and Ongoing Structural Racism Creates Racial Disparities
- Fueling Connections: Strategies for Homeless Outreach Staff



- Deep discounts for organizations with smaller budgets
  - Contact us at [learning@naeh.org](mailto:learning@naeh.org)
- 15% off all courses for NJCEH member organizations
  - Use NJCEH15 at checkout
- 20% off specific courses for NJCEH member organizations
  - Use NJCEH20 at checkout

Contact Jessica Cantermen with any questions: [jcantermen@njceh.org](mailto:jcantermen@njceh.org)

## NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



### [RWJBarnabas Health Launches NJ's First Ever Street Medicine Program to Serve Unhoused Population, Deliver Critical Care and Lower Mortality Rates](#)

*RWJBarnabas Health*

RWJBarnabas Health has launched New Jersey's first Street Medicine Program through RWJBarnabas Health and Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth, bringing medical and behavioral health care directly to



### [A Time for Hope, a Time for Change](#)

*New Jersey Globe*

New Jersey continues to face rising housing instability, with growing concerns about homelessness, food insecurity, and widening economic disparities across the state, according to a sponsored opinion piece in New Jersey Globe. The article argues that worsening affordability and lack of stable housing are contributing to broader family stress and community

people experiencing homelessness. The mobile program will provide urgent care, mental health services, substance use support, and connections to housing and long-term care, helping address the severe health impacts and barriers faced by unhoused residents. The initiative comes as homelessness in New Jersey has reached a 10-year high, with nearly 14,000 people experiencing homelessness statewide.

breakdown, particularly as costs for basic necessities continue to rise. It calls for a statewide shift toward prevention-focused policies, including proposed legislation aimed at strengthening families and addressing the root causes of housing and economic insecurity before they lead to homelessness.



## [Congress Revives Stalled Housing Legislation, Though Snags Remain](#)

*NJ Spotlight News*

Congress has revived bipartisan legislation aimed at expanding the U.S. housing supply, responding to a nationwide shortage of an estimated 4 to 7 million homes that has driven up rents and contributed to rising housing instability and homelessness. The bill includes provisions to speed up construction, expand financing tools, and increase flexibility for local governments to build more housing, though some policy disagreements could still delay final passage. Lawmakers and housing advocates say the effort reflects growing urgency to address the affordability crisis and ensure more Americans have access to stable housing



## [CVS Health, Diocese of Camden, and The Walters Group Unite to Bring Senior Affordable Housing to Williamstown, New Jersey](#)

*PR Newswire*

CVS Health helped finance the new Mews at St. Mary affordable senior housing development in Williamstown through a \$9 million investment aimed at expanding housing stability for older adults. CVS Health described the investment as part of its broader strategy linking housing and health outcomes, recognizing stable housing as a key factor in improving health and



## [Piscataway May Start Fining 'Nuisance Motels' \\$1,000 Per Day](#)

*Patch*

Officials in Piscataway are considering new penalties for motels labeled as “nuisance properties,” including fines of up to \$1,000 per day tied to police calls and alleged criminal activity. The proposal follows local concerns about motels being used to house people experiencing homelessness and individuals recently released from prison, raising questions about how communities respond to homelessness

preventing housing instability and homelessness among vulnerable populations. In addition to funding the development, CVS Health and Aetna Better Health of New Jersey are supporting on-site health, wellness, and social services designed to help residents remain safely housed and connected to care.



### **Clark Pushes Back on State ADU Bill as NJ Towns Fight Trenton Housing Mandates**

*Patch*

Officials in Clark voted to oppose proposed state legislation that would require some New Jersey municipalities to allow accessory dwelling units, such as garage apartments and backyard homes, on residential properties. Supporters of the bill say expanding housing options is one strategy to address New Jersey's growing affordable housing shortage, which contributes to housing instability and homelessness for many residents. The debate reflects broader tensions across the state between local zoning control and efforts to increase access to affordable housing.

when adequate housing, services, and supportive follow-up are lacking. Advocates warn that punitive approaches targeting temporary housing sites can further destabilize vulnerable residents without addressing the root causes of homelessness.



### **County Encouraged to Focus on Homeless Population, Providing Options**

*TAPinto Flemington/Raritan*

County officials and community members in Hunterdon County are being urged to expand responses to homelessness as rising numbers of residents are found living in tents, cars, and unsheltered conditions during extreme weather. Advocates highlighted gaps in overnight shelter availability and pointed to limited Code Blue warming center capacity, noting that some residents have no consistent place to go during cold nights. The discussion underscores growing concern that even relatively affluent New Jersey counties are facing a housing shortage that is contributing to visible homelessness and unmet basic shelter needs.

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY**



## Homelessness, Housing Markets, and Federal Policy: Local Lessons and Policy Implications

*Bipartisan Policy Center*

A report from the Bipartisan Policy Center highlights that homelessness remains at historically high levels in the United States, driven primarily by a severe shortage of affordable housing for extremely low-income households. It finds that while local communities have developed innovative responses, they are often constrained by limited resources, expiring pandemic-era supports, and the need for stronger federal coordination and sustained investment. The report emphasizes that addressing homelessness effectively requires long-term, bipartisan solutions that focus on prevention, housing affordability, and better alignment between federal, state, and local systems.



## In the Shadow of Grants Pass, Some Communities Reject Homeless Crackdowns

*SHELTERFORCE*

A new Shelterforce report examines how U.S. cities and states are responding to homelessness policy in the wake of the Supreme Court's Grants Pass decision, which allows criminalization of sleeping outdoors even without adequate shelter. While many jurisdictions have expanded encampment enforcement, other states are pursuing countermeasures such as decriminalization bills, protections for service providers, and bans on "hostile architecture," alongside efforts to strengthen housing-focused responses. The article underscores a growing policy divide between enforcement-based approaches and housing-first strategies, even as experts emphasize that long-term solutions depend on expanding access to affordable housing and supportive services.



## Trump Pledged to House 6,000 Homeless Vets. His Budget Funds Zero

*NPR*

Despite a long-standing pledge to house 6,000 homeless veterans at the West Los Angeles VA campus, the Trump administration's proposed



## Trump Homeless Adviser Comes to Utah, Says Blue Cities Are Embracing Crackdown Strategies

*Utah News Dispatch*

A conference in Utah highlighted growing debate over how to respond to homelessness, with federal adviser

budget provides no funding for new housing, raising confusion and concern among lawmakers and advocates. The plan has been criticized for lacking transparency, clear costs, and coordination, even as veterans continue to face difficult living conditions on the campus and ongoing homelessness nationwide. Officials say some capacity has increased, but questions remain about whether federal plans match the scale of the promise or the need.

Robert Marbut promoting a shift away from “Housing First” models toward treatment-based approaches emphasizing addiction recovery, behavioral health services, and “self-sufficiency.” Critics argued homelessness is driven primarily by housing affordability and warned that stricter, requirement-based systems could make it harder for people to access stable housing and basic assistance. Experts noted that while some individuals have complex treatment needs, most are affected by rising housing costs and a shortage of affordable homes.



## [NY Lawmakers Rally for Internet Access in Homeless Shelters Before Session Ends](#)

*ABC News 10*

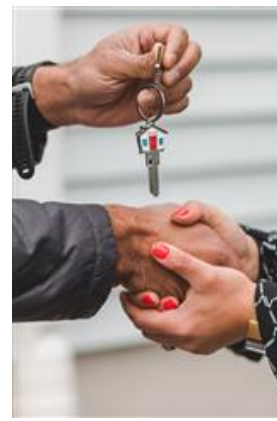
New York lawmakers and housing advocates are calling for free, high-speed internet access in homeless shelters statewide, arguing it is essential for residents to apply for jobs, secure housing, and complete schoolwork. While the state has invested about \$20 million to improve shelter internet infrastructure, advocates say that without a binding law there is no guarantee of coverage, speed, or privacy. Proposed legislation would require all shelters to provide broadband in both common and private areas, with the state reimbursing costs through the ConnectALL program.



## [Local Homelessness Expert Helps Create National Toolkit](#)

*yahoo! news*

A California homelessness service provider, Carlos Baldovinos of The Mission at Kern County, participated in a White House–hosted federal summit focused on developing a national toolkit of best practices for addressing homelessness and addiction. The initiative reflects a broader federal shift toward scaling “treatment-first” approaches and standardizing guidance for communities nationwide, including debates over funding timelines, recovery supports, and the role of education and workforce pathways in long-term stability. Baldovinos highlighted extended recovery models and partnerships with local colleges as examples of strategies aimed at helping people transition from homelessness into sustained employment and housing stability.



## [Housing is Just a Start: Why the Path from Homelessness to Self-Sufficiency Isn't Linear](#)

*Saporta Report*

A piece from Hope Atlanta argues that exiting homelessness is not a linear process and that securing housing is only the first step in a longer journey toward stability and self-sufficiency. The article emphasizes that many individuals need sustained “wraparound” supports—such as behavioral health care, substance use treatment, case management, and economic mobility services—to navigate challenges that often emerge after housing placement. It reflects a broader national shift in homelessness policy toward recognizing long-term stabilization, not just housing placement, as central to reducing returns to homelessness and improving outcomes.



## [Utah Housing Model is the Wrong Way To Go](#)

*The Progressive Magazine*

This opinion piece critiques a Utah proposal for a centralized “homeless campus,” contrasting it with evidence-



## [Preventing Homelessness Is More Effective Than Criminalizing It](#)

*Ripple*

This opinion piece frames California's homelessness debate as a clash

based housing-first approaches. It argues that while supporters frame the model as a bold solution centered on control, enforcement, and involuntary treatment, research shows that large centralized facilities do not reduce homelessness and may underperform compared to permanent housing strategies. The article emphasizes that the real divide is between systems focused on containment and visibility versus those that prioritize stable housing as the proven path to lasting reductions in homelessness.

between two approaches: one focused on prevention and keeping people housed before they entered crisis (AB 1924), and another focused on managing encampments and displacement after homelessness had already occurred (AB 1606). It argues these reflect fundamentally different philosophies—prevention treated homelessness as a solvable housing stability failure, while the other treats it as a problem to control through cleanup and enforcement. By contrasting the two, the author argues that the mainstream “manage the symptoms” approach was both more costly and less humane than preventing homelessness in the first place.

---

**We love to share news about the accomplishments, events job opportunities and noteworthy activities of NJ's homelessness service agencies. If you have something to share, please send it to us at [info@NJCEH.org](mailto:info@NJCEH.org)**

**DONATE TO SUPPORT THE COALITION'S WORK TO END HOMELESSNESS**



NJ Coalition to End Homelessness | 10 Mercer Street | Princeton, NJ 08540 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!