

Homelessness MATTERS



July 24th, 2025

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



Tell HUD and Congress to Honor Its Promised 2-Year Funding Cycle for CoCs and Homeless Service Providers

Last year, Congress decided — with bipartisan support — to extend the process to apply for HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding to a 2-year cycle, rather than making homeless service providers re-apply for CoC funding every year, which is an administrative burden.

Recently, HUD has communicated to CoCs and recipients of CoC funds that it intends to retract this commitment and require homeless service providers to apply again to receive FY2025 CoC program funding. This would significantly delay another year of CoC grants, which would directly impact homeless residents and the agencies that serve them.

[Contact HUD leadership and your congressional representatives to urge them to honor their promise to keep the 2-year Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) in place, rather than further delaying this critical funding.](#)



Speak Out Against Cuts to HUD Ahead of Today's Senate Appropriations Hearing

Today, Thursday, July 24, the Senate Appropriations Committee will consider their THUD (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development) draft budget bill.

[Please act now to tell your Senators that with homelessness on the rise, we cannot afford any cuts to HUD funding and must invest critical housing and homelessness assistance programs.](#) If you live outside NJ, especially in Pennsylvania or New York, contacting your Senators is particularly crucial.

Our advocacy has already made a difference: the House budget proposal, which passed out of committee last week, thankfully appears to reject some of the most severe cuts to HUD from the President's proposed budget! However, the House version still includes a decrease of \$939 million in HUD funding from last year's budget and [other harmful provisions.](#)



Toms River Mayor and Council Delay Vote Again on Using Eminent Domain to Seize Church in Apparent Retaliation for Homeless Shelter Plan:

Toms River officials [postponed a vote](#) that was scheduled for July 30 to seize Christ Episcopal Church property via eminent domain— widely seen as retaliation for the church's plan to build a homeless shelter on-site— to make space for pickleball courts.

The Mayor said that he plans to conduct a public opinion poll of 300-500 residents— polling financed with his campaign funds— before deciding whether to move forward with seizing the church through eminent domain, but he offered no details on how the poll will be conducted.

A group of Toms River residents recently launched [two petitions](#): one to attempt to suspend the eminent domain ordinance, should the Council pass it in the future, and another calling for a special election to recall the Mayor.

We continue to stand with preserving Christ Episcopal Church against any retaliatory actions for the homeless outreach services they provide and their attempts to build a homeless shelter in Toms River, where it is desperately needed.



Homeless Does Not Mean Voteless: Power to the Polls!

This is a major election year in New Jersey, where the Governor and entire NJ Assembly are up for election on Tuesday, November 4. The voter registration deadline is Tuesday, October 14.

If you are interested in hosting a voter registration event focused on unhoused residents, please fill out [this form](#) and we will offer you \$100 to cover costs associated with the event.

Contact Raisa at rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org to learn more.

RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS



Impacted by Federal Funding Freezes? Apply for this Emergency Fund

The Community Foundation of New Jersey launched NJ Strong: Emergency Fund, a rapid response fund aiming to provide a safety net for nonprofits to weather federal funding freezes or terminations of existing contracts to minimize disruptions in vital

services for NJ communities.

Organizations who have been in operation for three or more years and can provide documentation of funding loss, particularly if they address basic human needs and serve vulnerable populations, are encouraged to apply for grants ranging from \$10,000-\$50,000. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and organizations will be notified within 3 weeks of applying.

You can [apply here](#) using the access code **NJSTRONG**.



Free, Online Course on Caring for Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is offering [this free online course for service providers](#), as more and more older adults are experiencing homelessness, and the homeless population is aging.

Learn strategies for offering temporary and permanent housing and meeting the needs of this uniquely vulnerable population.

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



Op-Ed: Restore Money Diverted from NJ's Affordable Housing Trust Fund

NJ Spotlight News

The New Jersey Legislature's failure to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the FY2026 budget puts hundreds of urgently needed affordable homes at risk. With a statewide shortage of over 200,000



These N.J. Cities Are Joining a National Fight Against Secret Software Driving Up Your Rent

nj.com

Jersey City and Hoboken have joined a national movement to ban rent-setting algorithms that use secretive software to drive up rental prices. These systems allow

affordable units, this fund is essential for developers like Greater Middlesex & Morris Habitat for Humanity, which has 60 shovel-ready homes planned this year and 150 more in development. Without this funding, municipalities may struggle to meet their affordable housing obligations, potentially turning to high-density developments that burden local infrastructure. Housing advocates are calling on Gov. Murphy and lawmakers to restore the fund and honor their commitment to working families.

landlords to share non-public data and coordinate pricing, which officials argue leads to artificially high rents and reduced competition. Lawsuits from both the New Jersey Attorney General and the U.S. Department of Justice allege that companies like RealPage engaged in illegal price-fixing schemes that harmed renters and violated antitrust laws.



Op-Ed: How to Help People on Lower Income Build Assets

NJ Spotlight News

Many working individuals and families, known as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), earn above the poverty line but still struggle to afford basic living expenses and build financial stability. To break this cycle, employers, nonprofits, small businesses, and impact investors can provide targeted supports like emergency savings matches, micro-investment opportunities in local housing, and access to financial coaching. By reimagining wealth-building pathways, these collaborations can help ALICE communities move from just getting by to long-term financial growth and stability



Housing Program for Homeless N.J. Residents Loses State Funding

NJ Spotlight News

A long-running Housing First program led by the Camden Coalition lost all of its dedicated state funding in New Jersey's latest budget, putting critical support services for formerly homeless individuals at risk. Though the nonprofit is using reserve funds and redirecting other grants to keep the program afloat temporarily, they still face a \$500,000 shortfall. With homelessness rising statewide and federal Medicaid cuts looming, advocates warn that slashing support for proven programs like Housing First could lead to more people returning to homelessness and fewer resources available to help them regain stability.

Feds Seem to Take over Atlantic City Housing Authority Properties

NJ Spotlight News

After years of complaints about poor living conditions and a pending lawsuit from residents, the Atlantic City Housing Authority may soon be taken over by the federal



government. HUD notified the authority that due to the severity of its failures, it will bypass allowing them to fix the issues and assume control of housing operations for about 1,200 residents. While some tenants are hopeful the change will lead to long-overdue improvements, others remain skeptical after decades of broken promises.



Camden Homeless Services Facility is to be Placed Near this City Encampment

Courier Post

Camden County is building a \$3.1 million Multi-Agency Center for the Homeless near existing shelters and encampments to centralize access to social services, mental health and addiction support, and job assistance. While the center will not provide housing, its strategic location aims to help people transition from shelters to supportive services more easily. Officials hope this approach, modeled after successful efforts in other cities, will reduce homelessness in the area and connect residents with the tools they need to regain stability.



Edison Plans to Extend Lease Agreement for Homeless Shelter to 2035

TAPinto Edison

Edison Township plans to extend the lease for the Ozanam Family Shelter through June 2035, ensuring continued support for single women and families experiencing homelessness. Operated by Catholic Charities, the shelter offers housing, meals, employment help, and case management at its Camp Kilmer site. The extension reflects the township's commitment to maintaining vital services for vulnerable residents.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



FY26 Appropriations: Update on Homelessness and Housing Funds

NAEH

Congress is advancing its process to fund HUD for FY 2026, but both the Administration and House proposals fall short of what's needed to meet the growing homelessness crisis.

The House Appropriations Committee's bill would slightly increase funding for Homeless Assistance Grants but not enough to sustain existing services, while also eliminating or underfunding key programs like HOME, rental vouchers, and domestic violence support. Advocates are urging lawmakers to increase investment in proven solutions and reject harmful cuts or policy changes.



Trump Housing Proposal Could Displace over 1 Million Low-Income Families, NYU Study

NEWSBREAK

A proposed Trump administration policy to limit rental assistance to two years could displace over 1.4 million low-income families, most of them working households with children, according to a new NYU study. The report warns this move would create chaos for public housing systems already under strain, with few clear guidelines for exemptions or support. Researchers say this approach could worsen housing instability, especially in high-cost areas, and lacks a proven model for nationwide implementation.



Map Show States with Higher Rates Of Homelessness

msn

Despite billions in federal and state funding, homelessness in the U.S. continues to rise, with a record 771,480 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2024. Experts say the root cause is a severe housing shortage caused by restrictive zoning and rising home costs. States with more flexible housing policies, like Texas, have much lower homelessness rates than places like California and New York.



Is Medicaid Rife with Fraudsters? One Man Explains Why He Breaks a Rule

npr

James, a man in recovery working a low-wage job, relies on Medicaid for life-saving medications but became ineligible after a small raise pushed him just over the income limit. Unable to afford private insurance or treatment, he chose not to report his new income,



Op-Ed: Why New York City Puts Housing First in The Fight Against Homelessness

amNY

New York City embraces the 'Housing First' model because it prioritizes immediate access to permanent housing without preconditions, then connects people to supportive services like mental health and addiction care. This evidence-based

saying it feels like survival rather than fraud. His story shows how rigid Medicaid rules can trap people between working and keeping the care they need.

approach has been proven to reduce homelessness, increase employment, and even save public money. Unlike 'Treatment First' models, which often delay housing until certain conditions are met, 'Housing First' helps people stabilize first—laying the foundation for long-term success.

Tech Entrepreneur Vows to Make Homeless Housing Affordable and Profitable

Los Angeles Times

Better Angels, a nonprofit founded by tech entrepreneur Adam Miller, is challenging the belief that affordable housing requires taxpayer subsidies. With plans to build 212 affordable units and a medical office building using private equity and conventional loans, the organization aims to deliver housing faster and at lower cost than traditional tax credit-funded models. Backed by a \$300 million fund, Better Angels is positioning housing as both a solution to homelessness and a viable business model.



Letter: A Lived Experience Perspective on Homelessness & Addiction

The Owen Sound Current

In a powerful letter, advocate Jacob Morris-Wheeler shares his lived experience with homelessness and addiction, urging society to shift away from harmful narratives that criminalize and stigmatize vulnerable people. He calls for compassion, accountability, and evidence-based solutions, reminding us that addiction is a health issue and that everyone deserves dignity, support, and a chance to heal. His message challenges us to examine the beliefs that shape our perspectives and to lead with empathy instead of judgment.



NYC Vowed to Put More Social Workers in Shelters So Far The Result are Promising

Gothamist

Two years after New York City passed a law requiring family shelters to provide on-site mental health support, most shelters now have at least one social worker, and early results show real promise. Referrals to outside mental health services have more than doubled and psychiatric crises dropped by 67%, though providers warn that funding and staffing challenges remain. Advocates say this investment is key to breaking the cycle of homelessness and improving long-term outcomes for children and families.

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

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HOMELESSNESS**



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