

# Homelessness MATTERS

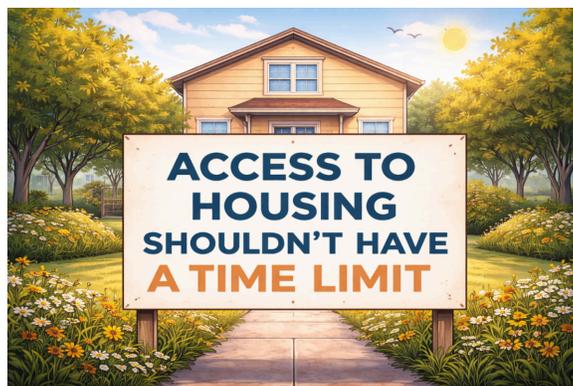


March 5, 2026

## IN THIS EDITION:

- **Opportunities for Action:** *Urge HUD to reject time limits and work requirements on rental assistance; Tell HUD: Keep mixed-status families together*
- **Resources for Providers:** *Three upcoming training opportunities with our partners: NJCEH & SAMHSA: Client Engagement Training for Case Managers, NJCEH & MHANJ : Suicide prevention training, NJCEH & DMHAS: The basics of mental health recognition and response for frontline staff*
- **New Jersey Homelessness in the News:** *NJ positioned as national affordable housing leader; Warren County advocate challenges lack of local shelter*
- **News From Around the Country:** *Research questions effectiveness of involuntary substance use treatment, How mixed income housing drives neighborhood revitalization, and much more...*

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



### [Urge HUD: Reject Time Limits and Work Requirements on Rental Assistance that Keeps People Housed](#)

HUD has proposed a rule that would allow public housing agencies and HUD-assisted properties to impose work requirements and a two-year time limit on rental assistance — putting an estimated 3.3 million people, including 1.7 million children, at risk of losing their housing support. Housing assistance is often the only barrier preventing eviction and homelessness for low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities. We urge community members and service providers to contact their federal representatives and submit public comments opposing policies that would increase housing instability. Now is the time to speak up to protect safe, stable housing for vulnerable households.

**[Submit comments to HUD here:](#)** Rental assistance is a critical basic need, not a luxury. Families struggling to meet ends meet shouldn't have to jump through more

hoops to avoid becoming homeless.



### [Tell HUD: Keep Families Together - Don't Push 80,000 Families Toward Homelessness](#)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has proposed a rule that would force up to 80,000 mixed-status families to make an impossible choice: break the family apart to keep their housing or stay together and lose their housing assistance— putting nearly 37,000 children at risk of homelessness. This harmful policy would create new bureaucratic barriers, strip families of critical housing support, and push vulnerable households into crisis.

Today, the law has not changed, and families with mixed immigration status still have the right to stay in HUD housing if they choose to, but we must ensure that it stays this way.

We have until **Tuesday, April 21st** to speak out and submit comments opposing this proposed rule. [Tell HUD to withdraw this proposal: Families should never have to choose between separation and homelessness.](#)

## RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



Opioid  
Response  
Network

You asked, we listened! We are so excited to share a free training opportunity for Case Managers working in homeless services across New Jersey.

The NJ Coalition to End Homelessness is proud to partner with SAMHSA's Opioid Response Network to offer **Meeting Clients Where They Are: Stages of Change and Communication Strategies for Case Managers** on March 30th. This session will focus on practical tools to strengthen client engagement, enhance motivation, and support individuals navigating complex behavioral health and housing challenges.

Please see [this flyer](#) for full details. You can register using the links below:

Monday, March 30th 10:00am - 11:30am:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8\\_obL07wQJea2KsAvHMjPg#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8_obL07wQJea2KsAvHMjPg#/registration)

Monday, March 30th 2:00pm - 3:30pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/K0d0a9orTLKKDwf7-t3UGA#/registration>

Please feel free to share widely with your teams, and keep your eyes peeled for more exciting trainings in the coming months.



# Suicide Prevention

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

**During this 1-hour workshop, we will:**

- \* Understand the impact of suicide as a public health issue
- \* Learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide
- \* Learn how to offer hope to someone in crisis
- \* Know how to get help and save a life

**Session times:**

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



[bit.ly/14aprSP](https://bit.ly/14aprSP)

- \* 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)

# BE BOLD

## JOIN US

Be BOLD training sessions

March 17th

at 8 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.

Presented by the NJ Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, **Be BOLD** is an opportunity for frontline staff to learn the basics of mental health recognition and response. The training will prioritize the impact of perspective and importance of de-escalation and self-care.



The links below lead directly to registration:

Register for the 8:00 AM-9:00 AM Session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/TF8Sk-MJRcyFDoxAwgf8BQ>

Register for the 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM Session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/vgrwkmxdTt2kru-xTEGu-A>

Register for the 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/4tPBvu3wREaVZwEKNhprMg>

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



## [Under Sherrill, NJ Has Momentum to Become a National Leader for Affordable Housing](#)

*nj.com*

An opinion column by Adam Gordon, executive director of the Fair Share Housing Center, argues that under Gov. Mikie Sherrill, New Jersey is positioned to become a national leader in affordable housing production. The state's 2024 affordable housing law (A4/S50), grounded in the Mount Laurel Doctrine, cleared a major hurdle last week when the Supreme Court of the United States declined an emergency appeal to block its implementation in late February 2026, allowing municipalities to continue moving forward with affordable housing plans. Gordon calls for full funding of housing programs, stronger tenant protections and action to address federal homelessness funding cuts, framing expanded affordable housing as essential to preventing displacement and reducing homelessness statewide.



## [Advocate Challenges Phillipsburg Leaders Over Lack of Warren County Homeless Shelter](#)

*TAPinto Phillipsburg*

In Phillipsburg, NJ, homelessness advocate Tosha Rutledge highlighted the county's lack of a permanent shelter at a February 27, 2026, town council meeting, describing the "constant fight" to secure housing for over 35 unhoused individuals she currently assists. Mayor Randy Piazza confirmed that limited hotel placements and the small capacity at Safe Harbor leave many residents without consistent support, despite local efforts like warming centers and drone-assisted outreach programs. Rutledge and local leaders stress that securing a dedicated facility remains critical, but rising real estate costs and limited available properties continue to block progress.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



## [HUD Proposes Time Limits and Work Requirements for Rental Aid](#)

*NPR*



## [Get The Facts: Work Requirements and Time Limits Will Worsen Housing Instability](#)

*National Housing Law Project*

The National Housing Law Project (NHLP) and partners released a fact sheet explaining how proposed HUD rules imposing strict work requirements

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development proposed a rule on February 27<sup>th</sup> that would impose strict time limits and work requirements on Federal Rental Assistance, including Section 8 vouchers, potentially putting millions at risk of losing housing amid rising rents and record-high homelessness. Critics, including Deborah Thrope of the National Housing Law Project, warn that such limits could force vulnerable families and individuals back into homelessness, noting that many recipients already work and face systemic barriers to achieving self-sufficiency. With the rule set for a 60-day public comment period, housing advocates are urging HUD to consider the real risks to people struggling to maintain stable homes before enforcing these restrictions.

and time limits on rental assistance would worsen housing instability. The fact sheet highlights that millions of families—including 3.2 million children—could lose federally assisted housing, even though most “work-able” adults already hold jobs. These policies disproportionately threaten people of color, older adults, and those with disabilities, while doing little to increase wages or long-term employment. Advocates stress that work requirements and time limits create unnecessary paperwork, administrative costs, and evictions, ultimately putting families at higher risk of homelessness. The resource aims to help the public and policymakers better understand the risks of these proposed changes and supports evidence-based solutions to keep low-income and working families stably housed.



## [HUD Seeks to Reduce Time Allowed For Tenants to Receive Notice Before Evictions For Nonpayment](#)

*Stateline*

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has proposed rescinding a 2024 rule that requires public housing agencies and federally assisted landlords to provide 30 days' notice before filing an eviction for nonpayment of rent. If finalized, the change would revert to older standards that can require as little as a few days' notice, depending on the housing program and state law, and would remove requirements for landlords to include detailed rent ledgers or information about available assistance in eviction notices. Tenant advocates warn the rollback could reduce transparency and increase eviction risk for federally assisted households, and several legal challenges have already been filed.



## [There's a Way to Nearly Eliminate Homelessness](#)

*The New York Times*

New York City's “right to shelter” policy guarantees beds for people



## [Great News: The US Government Changed it's Approach to Homeless Veterans and the Results Are Stunning](#)

experiencing homelessness but has created a costly, reactive system that keeps thousands cycling through temporary shelters without addressing the root problem: the lack of permanent housing. The author argues that the city should shift its focus to providing affordable, supportive housing and rental assistance, making homes the default and shelters truly temporary. By prioritizing housing over emergency beds, Mayor Zohran Mamdani could move from merely managing homelessness to actually solving it.

Upworthy

A new report from the VA, HUD, and USICH shows that veteran homelessness in the U.S. has dropped 55.6% since 2010, thanks to “Housing First” programs, grants, and policy changes that make housing more accessible. While 32,882 veterans were still unhoused in 2024, coordinated government efforts demonstrate that providing stable homes is an effective solution to ending homelessness.



## [What Decades of Research Reveal About Involuntary Substance Use Treatment - and Why Evidence Points Elsewhere](#)

*Yahoo! News*

Across the U.S., some cities are exploring involuntary treatment for people experiencing homelessness with substance use disorders, but research shows these programs often do more harm than good, increasing risks of overdose, relapse, and even death. Experts emphasize that voluntary, lower-barrier approaches—like supportive and permanent housing, harm-reduction services, and access to medications—are far more effective at stabilizing people, improving health, and keeping them off the streets. In short, evidence shows that helping people stay housed and engaged voluntarily saves lives and prevents homelessness more reliably than forced treatment.

## [RFK Jr. Expands Faith-Based Addiction Care as Drug Use and Homelessness Rise](#)

*Hematology Advisor*

The federal government is launching a \$100 million pilot program to help people experiencing homelessness who also struggle with addiction or serious mental illness. Led by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the STREETS initiative will expand access to faith-based recovery programs, medication-assisted treatment, and coordinated support—from first contact on the street through long-term recovery and employment. With the aim of keeping families together and preventing people from “falling through the cracks,” the program represents a major shift from traditional housing-first approaches, integrating treatment, housing, and community support into one system.





## How Mixed-Income Housing Drives Neighborhood Revitalization

*Multi-Housing News*

Across the U.S., underused commercial and industrial sites are being transformed into mixed-income, housing-anchored developments that provide both affordable and market-rate units. Projects like The Crossings in New Jersey and Willets Point in New York City show how adding permanent housing can stabilize neighborhoods, expand economic opportunity, and reduce housing insecurity—offering a path to prevent homelessness rather than simply responding to it. By prioritizing residential density and integrating services, these redevelopments turn neglected areas into vibrant, inclusive communities where more people can access safe, long-term housing.



## Who We Are: Homelessness Crisis

*City Journal*

On the latest *City Journal Podcast*, Rafael Mangual talks with Stephen Eide of the Manhattan Institute about homelessness, serious mental illness, and urban policy in New York City. Eide explains that homelessness is rarely just about housing—it often results from untreated mental illness, addiction, and the breakdown of family support. They discuss the limits of

## Finland Virtually Ended Homelessness by Providing Shelter for All in Need

*NJTODAY.NEWS*

Finland has nearly eliminated long-term homelessness by adopting a Housing First approach that prioritizes providing people with permanent housing before addressing other challenges. Individuals are offered stable apartments along with tailored support services, such as mental health care, addiction treatment, and employment assistance. This model recognizes that people are better able to address complex issues once they have a safe, stable place to live. The approach proves that stable housing is both a human right and a cost-effective solution, sharply contrasting with the U.S., where homelessness continues to rise due to a lack of affordable housing and political will. Finland’s success shows that solving homelessness is possible—but only when society treats homes as the foundation, not the reward.



## Silicon Valley Homeless Prevention Program Goes National

*U.S. News and World Report*

A successful homelessness prevention program from Santa Clara County is now going national—and it could be a game-changer for families throughout the country. Destination: Home’s “Right at Home” initiative teams up with 10 cities and communities to provide rental assistance and case management before people lose their homes, aiming to help thousands stay stably housed. With data showing 90% of participants remain in their homes

“housing first” approaches, the necessity of law enforcement and social services working together, and the challenges of civil commitment for those who cannot care for themselves. Both emphasize that meaningful solutions require a realistic mix of housing, mental health care, and public safety, alongside policies that acknowledge the complexity of human behavior.

two years later, this approach highlights how proactive support can prevent eviction and strengthen communities across the country. You can also listen to this article.

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**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)**

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