

Homelessness MATTERS



April 2nd, 2026

IN THIS EDITION:

- **Resources for Providers:** Fundraise smarter, strengthen your impact, and have fun doing it! Join our free training for homeless service programs and walk away with practical strategies you can put into action to level up your fundraising. Plus, access to additional trainings on case management and suicide prevention is available.
- **NJ Homelessness in the News:** New Jersey expands supportive housing for veterans in Montclair and approves a new family shelter program in Toms River.
- **News From Around the Country:** Bipartisan efforts aim to prevent youth homelessness through early intervention, while a new documentary highlights the human stories behind the housing crisis.

RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



Learn how to fundraise for your homeless service program with passion and results...

...and have fun doing it!

The Coalition invites you to a **FREE** indispensable [Zoom session](#) with expert fundraisers, Robert "Bobby" Thompson, Jr. and Connie Mercer

Thursday, April 9th
12:00-1:30 p.m.

This will be an interactive seminar designed specifically for homeless services leaders. Please come prepared with questions and pain points.

Bobby has served as Chief Development Officer at New York City Relief and is a fundraising consultant and coach helping resource the ambitions of numerous local and global nonprofit organizations including UNICEF, Save the Children, Columbia University Medical Center, and other impactful groups. Connie is CEO of NJ Coalition to End Homelessness and founder and former CEO of HomeFront: NJ's most innovative homeless service provider serving families.

[Register today](#) for this Zoom event!



GIVE YOUR STAFF ANOTHER TOOL TO CRAFT BETTER CLIENT COMMUNICATION

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

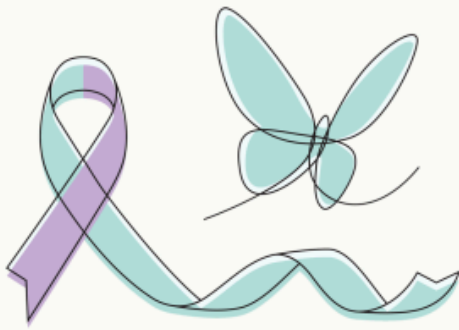
- Increase the positive outcomes of interviews for clients
- Help staff keep control of their time
- Keep initial intake to 15 minutes
- Highlight and define the 5 key markers of a good interview

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 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.





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:

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



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

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



[Montclair American Legion Redevelopment to Add Veteran Housing](#)



[Toms River Zoning Board Approves Church-Run Shelter](#)

A redevelopment project in Montclair will transform an American Legion site into a veterans service center that includes **11 supportive housing units** for homeless and at-risk veterans. The project combines housing with on-site services, reflecting a broader push in New Jersey to address veteran homelessness through integrated, long-term solutions. With hundreds of veterans still experiencing homelessness statewide, efforts like this highlight the need for targeted housing paired with support services.

A Toms River zoning board approved a church-run shelter that will house up to 14 people in families experiencing homelessness, allowing for longer stays and on-site support services. The program aims to transition families into permanent housing within three months, reflecting a focus on short-term stabilization. The decision highlights both the growing need for family shelters and ongoing community tensions around placing homelessness services in residential areas.



With Federal Changes Coming to Medicaid, NJ Pursues Way to Keep People Enrolled

NEW JERSEY MONITOR

New federal Medicaid changes could leave hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents without health coverage due to added paperwork and work requirements, raising concerns about impacts on vulnerable populations. Advocates warn that losing healthcare can increase housing instability and the risk of homelessness, especially for low-income individuals and those with health conditions.

Gov. Sherrill's FY27 budget proposes over \$10 million to strengthen Medicaid enrollment systems, aiming to reduce delays and help residents maintain coverage and stability.

NJ Mall Left for Dead a Decaded Ago Will Become 276 Apartments in Housing Crisis Push

NEW JERSEY DIGEST

A vacant mall in Raritan, NJ will be redeveloped into a mixed-use housing site with 276 apartments, including 42 affordable units, as part of efforts to address the state's housing shortage. Projects like this highlight how repurposing unused commercial spaces can help expand affordable housing and reduce housing instability. While not a full solution, increasing housing supply is a critical step in preventing homelessness.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



[Murkowski, Murray Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Address Youth Homelessness](#)

U.S. SENATOR FOR ALASKA

A bipartisan bill, the *Preventing Youth Homelessness Demonstration Act*, would invest \$105 million in prevention efforts aimed at keeping young people from becoming homeless in the first place. The funding would support community-based programs like case management, helplines, and family supports that address the root causes of youth homelessness before a crisis occurs. By focusing on early intervention, the legislation highlights that youth homelessness is preventable with the right resources and local partnerships.

['Homeless' Uses the Power of Documentary Cinema to Illuminate America's Housing Crisis](#)

SF WEEKLY

The documentary *HOMELESS* follows individuals experiencing homelessness in Las Vegas, using personal stories to highlight the human side of housing insecurity rather than statistics or stereotypes. By showing the contrast between visible wealth and life on the margins, the film underscores how homelessness is driven by systemic failures, not individual shortcomings. It aims to build empathy, restore dignity, and shift how people understand and respond to the crisis. *HOMELESS* will be released later this month.



[A Build America, Buy America Law is Causing Construction Delays Amid the US Housing Crisis](#)

AP NEWS

A federal “Build America, Buy America” law is slowing the construction of affordable housing by requiring U.S.-made materials that are often difficult to source, leading to delays and increased costs. Developers report projects stalling or scaling back during a time of rising housing need, limiting the creation of new affordable units. These delays are worsening the housing shortage and

contributing to longer waitlists and increased risk of homelessness for low-income individuals and families.



Formerly Homeless People, Including Veterans, Could Be Evicted If Trump Administration Plan Is Implemented

CNN

Bellevue, long the cornerstone of New York City's shelter system, is closing due to severe disrepair, with residents transferred to other facilities. Mayor Zohran Mamdani emphasizes connecting homeless New Yorkers to housing rather than just crisis beds, and outreach workers—not police—will engage with encampments. DSS Commissioner Erin Dalton is implementing a data-driven, individualized approach based on her Allegheny County experience. The story illustrates that addressing homelessness in NYC is about more than beds—it requires balancing safety, dignity, and effective pathways to permanent housing, while modernizing facilities that have long outlived their usefulness.

Building Understanding, Strengthening Response: How Grand Junction, CO Came Together to Develop the Unhoused Survey, Needs Assessment and Strategy

NLC

Grand Junction, Colorado developed a community-wide strategy to address homelessness by combining data, cross-sector collaboration, and input from people with lived experience. The effort revealed that homelessness is driven by factors like lack of affordable housing, health needs, and service gaps, requiring coordinated, long-term solutions rather than isolated programs. The initiative highlights that addressing homelessness effectively requires system-wide investment in housing, outreach, and prevention, along with strong partnerships across the community.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Another New Record as More Than 17,300 People in Emergency Accommodation Last Month

*The Journal
Homelessness In Ireland*

Homelessness has reached a new record, with over 17,300 people in emergency accommodation, including more than 5,400 children and 2,600 families. Rising rents and policy changes are being cited as key drivers, with advocates warning that eviction pressures and lack of affordable housing are overwhelming the system. As numbers continue to climb, service providers say urgent policy action is needed to prevent further homelessness and move families out of emergency housing.

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

DONATE TO SUPPORT THE COALITION'S WORK TO END HOMELESSNESS



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

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