

Homelessness MATTERS



June 4th, 2026

IN THIS EDITION:

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- **Opportunities for Action:** Public comments needed to defend equal housing access
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- **NJ Homelessness in the News:** New housing supports program launched for Medicaid recipients in South Jersey; New street medicine program brings care directly to people experiencing homelessness
- **News From Around the Country:** Lawmakers oppose proposed work requirements for federal housing aid; New analysis highlights harms of punitive homelessness policies

And much more...

COALITION NEWS



Coalition Awards Funds to Homeless Service Providers to Support Children's Mental Health

The NJ Coalition to End Homelessness is proud to have awarded \$55,000 to eight homeless service providers through our Supporting Children's Mental Health Mini-Grant opportunity. These funds will help strengthen mental health supports and enhance services for children experiencing homelessness across New Jersey. Thank you to all who applied!

**Help Shape Future Training Opportunities Offered by the
Coalition!**

Since January, the Coalition has provided training to more than 1,000 frontline staff across over 80 partner organizations throughout New Jersey. As we continue to expand our Training Academy, we want to ensure that the free and low-cost training opportunities we offer reflect the needs of the homeless services workforce.

If you're a homeless service leader, please take five minutes to complete NJCEH's Training Needs Survey here: **[NJ Coalition to End Homelessness Training Academy Needs Assessment – Fill out form](#)**

Your feedback will directly inform future training offerings and help us build a stronger homeless service workforce!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



Protect Equal Access to Housing

Once again, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has proposed changes that would roll back longstanding Equal Access Rule protections for LGBTQ+ individuals seeking shelter and housing services funded by HUD. If adopted, the proposal could affect funding for agencies that do not comply with the directive, even if the directive conflicts with state or local laws. Find more information [here](#).

Submit public comments urging HUD to preserve equitable access to housing for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Deadline: June 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET

Submit your comments [HERE](#).

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/meeting/register/fQ4GN2ZmTuCCGmYXrTN8aQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/fQ4GN2ZmTuCCGmYXrTN8aQ)

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

PM: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0QS3Y5D_QheKPsO7drEbcQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0QS3Y5D_QheKPsO7drEbcQ)

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4aerOgByQVeijchbm3jsXg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4aerOgByQVeijchbm3jsXg)

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/7JEgILJZRpaMqo52TxkxjQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/7JEgILJZRpaMqo52TxkxjQ)

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/X8SvolysTMyRMzpRARjihg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/X8SvolysTMyRMzpRARjihg)

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/rNXdu_qBRK-TeYyjK4lpQg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/rNXdu_qBRK-TeYyjK4lpQg)

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:**

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



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



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.



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.

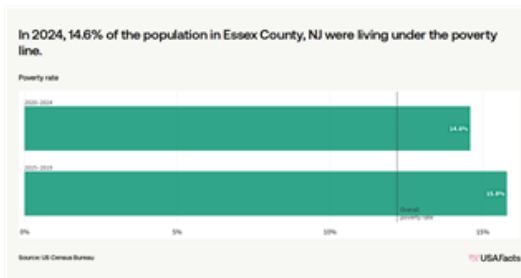
Each self-paced course (approximately 3–5 hours) includes interactive exercises, videos, readings, self-assessments, and decision-making scenarios designed to strengthen practical nonprofit management skills. Some courses also offer CFRE credits.



CSPNJ Launches Housing Supports Program for South Jersey Residents

INSIDER NJ

Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey (CSPNJ) has launched a new Housing Supports Program serving Medicaid recipients in six South Jersey counties who are experiencing housing insecurity, homelessness, or other barriers to stable housing. Funded through a state initiative, the program provides services such as housing search assistance, tenancy support, move-in services, and housing stabilization, with the capacity to serve more than 100 individuals and families as it expands



What Is The Poverty Rate in Essex County, NJ?

USA Facts

New data show that an estimated 123,600 Essex County residents—14.6% of the population—were living below the federal poverty line between 2020 and 2024. While the overall poverty rate declined slightly from the previous five-year period, more than one in seven residents continue to face economic hardship, highlighting the ongoing need for affordable housing, homelessness prevention, and supportive services across the county.



First Mobile Medical Unit Brings Health Care to Union County Streets

NJ Spotlight News

RWJBarnabas Health has launched a new Street Medicine program in Union County, bringing mobile medical care directly to shelters, encampments, and other locations where people experiencing homelessness live. The initiative provides on-the-spot treatment, chronic disease management, behavioral health



Announcing The 2026–2028 Eviction Data Response Network Cohort

New America

A new multi-year initiative from New America has selected 11 states—including New Jersey—to join the Eviction Data Response Network, a cohort focused on improving how eviction data is collected and used to prevent housing loss. The effort comes as more than 10 million Americans face eviction each year and aims to help states build better data systems so

support, and connections to services such as Medicaid enrollment and housing resources. The program comes amid rising homelessness in New Jersey, with more than 13,700 people counted statewide on a single night in January 2025, underscoring the growing need for accessible, community-based health care interventions.

policyholders and service providers can identify risks earlier and keep families stably housed.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Pushing Treatment, Trump Administration Limits Housing Aid for Homeless

NY Times

The Trump administration has issued a revised homelessness policy to shift significant federal funding away from long-term housing programs toward shorter-term, treatment-focused approaches addressing mental health and substance use. The plan continues a move away from the longstanding “Housing First” model and could redirect about \$1.2 billion in housing aid, with critics warning it may increase instability and displacement for people currently housed through these programs. The changes come after earlier proposals were blocked by Congress and a federal court, and are expected to face further legal and policy scrutiny.



Gallego, Colleagues Call on HUD to Rescind Rule That Would Kick Americans Out of Housing, Add Administrative Burden

RG

A group of U.S. senators, including New Jersey’s Cory Booker and Andy Kim, is urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development to withdraw a proposed rule that would impose work requirements and time limits on federal rental assistance. The lawmakers warn the policy could strip housing support from as many as 3 million people and increase instability



Criminalizing Mental Health Challenges Repeats Historical Failures

CLASP

A new brief from the Center for Law and Social Policy argues that punitive approaches to homelessness, substance use, and mental health—such as forced treatment, detention, and cuts to housing assistance—repeat past policy failures that contributed to institutionalization and homelessness. The report warns that criminalizing people in crisis can deepen instability rather than resolve it. Instead, the brief calls for expanded investment in

for low-income households already struggling to afford rent. They argue the proposal would add administrative burdens and higher costs while undermining access to stable housing, particularly for working families, caregivers, and people pursuing education or job training.

voluntary, community-based mental health care, peer-led services, crisis response alternatives, and supportive housing to better address the root causes of housing instability and homelessness.



‘Housing First’ Became Housing Only

THE HILL

In a recent opinion piece, HUD Secretary Scott Turner argues that the federal government’s “Housing First” approach to homelessness has failed to reduce unsheltered and chronic homelessness despite increased spending and expansion of permanent housing programs. He contends that homelessness policy has overemphasized housing placement without sufficient focus on treatment for addiction, mental illness, and pathways to employment and self-sufficiency. The article outlines a shift in federal strategy toward a more “continuum of care” model that prioritizes treatment, transitional housing, and accountability-based programs, including greater involvement from faith-based and recovery organizations. It argues that addressing homelessness requires moving beyond housing alone to emphasize recovery, behavioral health services, and long-term independence.

Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Help More Foster Youth Get Housing Vouchers

The Imprints

Lawmakers have introduced the HOME for Foster Youth Act, a bipartisan bill aimed at improving access to federal housing vouchers for young people aging out of foster care. The legislation would extend application timelines, simplify eligibility rules, and reduce administrative barriers within the Foster Youth to Independence program, which connects former foster youth ages 18 to 21 with rental assistance for up to five years. Advocates say the changes are intended to increase utilization of vouchers and address gaps that have limited access, including confusion over eligibility requirements and challenges such as credit history and landlord acceptance. The bill seeks to better connect foster youth with stable housing as they transition into adulthood, with a focus on prevention rather than crisis response.

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