

Homelessness MATTERS



March 19th, 2026

IN THIS EDITION:

- **Coalition In the News:** *NJ League of Municipalities magazine features Coalition, highlights local homelessness response strategies*
- **Resources for Providers:** *Join us for upcoming trainings on effective case management strategies, suicide prevention, and so much more!*
- **Opportunities for Action:** *Tell the General Services Administration: Don't Politicize the Lifesaving Efforts of Nonprofits!*
- **NJ Homelessness in the News:** *Governor Sherrill's budget prioritizes housing, veterans, amid funding challenges; NJ Reps back housing bill targeting homelessness crisis*
- **News From Around the Country:** *VA launches controversial guardianship program to support homeless, high-need veterans; Denver cuts unsheltered homelessness 45% with expanded housing programs*

COALITION IN THE NEWS



Municipal Strategies to Turn the Tide of Homelessness: Coalition Honored to Be Included in NJ Municipalities' Magazine: "Hope for Housing" Issue

Municipalities are on the front lines of responding to the crisis of rising homelessness in New Jersey, leaving many municipalities overwhelmed and unsure of how to take meaningful action. But municipalities have proven strategies they can use to turn the tide of this crisis, including:

- Convening a Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness/local Office of Homelessness Prevention
- Leveraging municipal funding sources to fund homeless services, including municipal homelessness trust funds and opioid settlement funds

- Launching 90-Day homelessness sprints in collaboration with state, county, and nonprofit partners
- Developing encampment outreach procedures and best practices
- Avoiding criminalization of homelessness and other costly, ineffective strategies

Thank you to the NJ League of Municipalities for including the Coalition in your "Hope for Housing" Magazine issue and for your invaluable partnership.



What They're Saying: Reactions to Gov. Sherrill's First State Budget Address

The Jersey Vindicator

Mikie Sherrill's proposed state budget has sparked a wide range of reactions from political leaders, advocacy groups, and organizations, particularly around affordability, taxes, and public spending priorities. On homelessness, advocates like Connie Mercer, CEO of the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness, emphasized the urgency of the crisis, noting rising homelessness rates and praising the budget's commitment to ending veteran homelessness and supporting vulnerable residents. Overall, the debate highlights both support for addressing housing insecurity and concern that more funding and action are still needed to ensure all New Jersey residents have stable housing.

RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



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.



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:

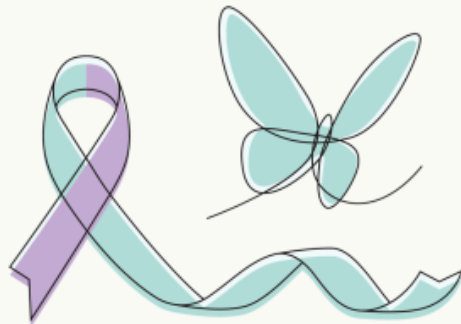
Monday, March 30th 10:00am - 11:30am:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8_obL07wQJea2KsAvHMjPg#/registration

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/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:

6-7AM
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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



[Tell the GSA by March 30th: Nonprofits' Lifesaving Efforts Should Not Be Politicized!](#)

The General Services Administration (GSA) has proposed major changes to the System for Award Management (SAM) that, if approved, would require recipients of federal financial assistance to sign new certifications under penalty of federal law that attempt to align around federal executive orders and guidance on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility and undocumented immigration.

[You have until March 30th to submit your opposition:](#) Emergency shelters and homeless service providers need to be able to keep people alive and serve all in need, without fear of funding loss or penalty.

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



[Sherill's New Affordability Plan for NJ: Who Wins, Loses](#)

Patch

Governor Mikie Sherrill highlighted homelessness in her 2027 budget address by protecting \$70 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to build more affordable homes, expanding programs to assist veterans into permanent housing, and preparing for federal cuts to emergency housing programs. Her plan emphasizes ending veteran homelessness and increasing access to safe, stable housing for low- and moderate-income New Jersey residents. Housing advocates praised the commitment but noted that the state still faces a shortage of over 200,000



[In Rare Bipartisan Burst, Congress Close to Historic Housing Law](#)

NJ Spotlight News

Congress is advancing a major bipartisan housing bill aimed at increasing supply, reducing costs, and easing regulatory barriers, with strong support from lawmakers including Andy Kim and Cory Booker. The legislation includes measures to limit large investor ownership of housing and incentivize new construction, addressing a national shortage of millions of homes. Despite broad bipartisan backing, the bill's future remains uncertain due to opposition and conditions set by the White House.

affordable homes, making full funding of these programs critical.



[Senator Andy Kim Secures Nearly \\$100 Million for New Jersey](#)

Office of Senator Andy Kim

Senator Andy Kim announced nearly \$100 million in federal funding for projects across New Jersey, including \$3.2 million for Paterson's Homeless Hub Project, which will provide a shelter while connecting residents to substance use treatment, transitional housing, and wraparound support services. This initiative aims to give homeless individuals a safe space and access to resources that promote stability and long-term reintegration into the community. The funding highlights a targeted approach to addressing homelessness alongside broader investments in infrastructure, senior services, and public safety.



[32BJ Members Push Bill to Crack Down on Rent-Setting Algorithms; Measure Moves One Step Closer to Becoming Law](#)

Insider NJ

Members of SEIU 32BJ—part of the Service Employees International Union, a national labor union representing property service workers such as cleaners, security officers, and maintenance staff—are backing New Jersey legislation that would ban the use of rent-setting algorithms, which advocates say contribute to rising housing costs by enabling coordinated pricing among landlords. The bill, advancing through the state legislature with support from multiple lawmakers, aims to strengthen antitrust protections and improve affordability for renters. Supporters view it as a key step in addressing the state's housing crisis, which has also been highlighted as a priority by Mikie Sherrill.



[Zoning Board Grants Toms River Nonprofit Organization Allowance of a Permanent Family Homeless Shelter](#)

News 12 New Jersey



[Newark OKs Plan to Convert Hotel Riviera Into Homeless Shelter and Affordable Housing](#)

TAPinto Newark

A zoning board in Toms River approved a permanent family homeless shelter operated by Interfaith Family Services at Saint Joseph's Church, allowing up to three families to stay longer and access more consistent support. Previously limited to short-term stays, the change will provide greater stability for families, helping them avoid frequent moves and disruptions. Local leaders say the small-scale shelter is a meaningful step, though broader affordable housing challenges in the area remain.

Newark's Central Planning Board approved plans to convert the historic Hotel Riviera at 169 Clinton Ave. into a mixed-use development that includes transitional housing, a family shelter, and affordable apartments. The project will provide 144 beds in 34 transitional housing suites and 13 apartments for homeless families, along with 56 additional affordable units, creating a pathway from shelter to permanent housing. Operated in partnership with the city's Office of Homeless Services, the redevelopment supports Newark's strategic plan to reduce homelessness and expand access to stable housing.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



V.A. Begins Drive to Put Some Homeless Veterans Into Guardianship

The New York Times

The Trump administration has announced a new initiative allowing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, to pursue legal guardianships for vulnerable veterans—including some experiencing homelessness—who are deemed unable to make their own health care decisions. Supporters say the policy could provide structured care and services for high-need veterans, while critics raise concerns about civil liberties and the potential for involuntary institutionalization. The effort reflects a broader federal push to expand the use of mandated treatment in addressing homelessness, particularly among those with significant medical or behavioral health needs.



Denver Cut Street Homelessness Nearly in Half

Governing

Mike Johnston, mayor of Denver, has made significant progress on his pledge to reduce unsheltered homelessness, cutting the number of people living outdoors by 45% since 2023 through rapid expansion of transitional housing, including hotel conversions and tiny home communities. The city's coordinated "tiger team" approach and focus on non-congregate shelter with supportive services have helped move hundreds indoors, even as overall homelessness continues to rise due to housing affordability challenges. Denver's model is gaining national attention as it balances immediate shelter solutions with longer-term efforts to expand permanent housing.



PERSPECTIVE: Housing Alone Isn't Enough to Solve Homelessness

The Denver Gazette

In an opinion piece, Dustin Zvonek—a former Colorado city councilman and current homelessness fellow at the Common Sense Institute—argues that homelessness is driven by factors beyond housing costs, including substance use, crime, and policing levels. The article supports a shift by the White House away from a “Housing First” approach toward more flexible strategies that incorporate treatment, employment, and public safety. Zvonek emphasizes that effectively addressing homelessness requires a more comprehensive, data-driven approach rather than focusing on housing alone.



DOJ Appeals District Court Injunction on HUD Housing Grants for the Homeless

THE PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER TEAM

The U.S. Department of Justice has appealed a federal court injunction blocking a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development policy that would change how homelessness grants are awarded, aiming to shift away from traditional “Housing First” approaches. The policy, supported by the Trump administration, emphasizes reducing encampments and promoting self-sufficiency, while critics argue it could lead to costly institutionalization rather than stable housing solutions. The legal challenge highlights ongoing national debate over the most effective strategies to address homelessness.

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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