

Homelessness MATTERS



August 21st, 2025

COALITION NEWS



Trenton's Medical Respite Center Offers New Hope for People Experiencing Homelessness

The Rescue Mission of Trenton in partnership with the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness, has launched the city's first Medical Respite Center, giving unhoused patients a safe place to heal after hospital stays. With the help of a Princeton University Fellow, the program has grown into a vital resource, reducing hospital readmissions and helping people transition toward stability. It also highlights how innovative partnerships can create lasting solutions for New Jersey's most vulnerable residents.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



Tell HUD and Congress to Honor its Promised 2-Year Funding Cycle for

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. Recently, HUD indicated that it intends to retract this commitment and make homeless service providers apply again for FY25 CoC program funding— significantly delaying critical funding and creating the risk that HUD could weaponize this funding in alignment with the [new executive order](#) to penalize programs that engage in proven approaches like Housing First and harm reduction. [Urge HUD and congressional leaders](#) to keep the 2-year Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in place!



Join the "Homeless Does Not Mean Voteless: Power to the Polls" Campaign!

New Jersey is facing a pivotal election year. On Tuesday, November 4th, voters will decide the future of our state, with the Governor and the entire NJ Assembly on the ballot. It's critical that every voice is heard—including those of our unhoused neighbors.

To host a voter registration event ahead of the October 14th registration deadline, please complete [this form](#) or contact Raisa at rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org. The Coalition will help offset the costs of these events to ensure full participation.

Tell Gov. Murphy & NJ Legislators:

Restore The Affordable Housing Trust Fund!

Click Here **HouseNJ.org**

Urge New Jersey Leaders to Restore the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The NJ budget diverted \$125 million from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF), a critical resource for building affordable housing for low income and very low-income residents. With a shortfall of nearly 290,000 affordable homes in NJ, restoring this fund needs to be a top priority. [Contact Governor Murphy and your state legislators](#) to urge them to restore the AHTF, using revenue from the new mansion tax.

RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

QUALITY & AFFORDABLE HELP

WHEN YOUR STAFF – OR YOU – NEED IT

An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for agencies of any size, providing Shelter and/or Services to those experiencing homelessness in New Jersey.



Register for the Info Session
Wednesday, September 3rd
1pm over Zoom

The NJCEH will be holding an Information Session (over Zoom) with EAP provider ResponseWorks, Inc.

Contact Robin to sign-up and learn more: RBuckingham@njceh.org
Check out ResponseWorks, Inc. at www.responseworks.com

Reasons for your Agency to Engage an EAP

- Increased employee productivity
- Reduced absenteeism
- Enhanced employee retention
- Improved workplace morale and culture
- It is the right thing to do!

Quality EAP

- Up to Four (4) Therapy Sessions for free; then employee is linked to their own work benefits for further sessions (if needed)
- Dependent Care, Consultation and Referral Services
- Financial and Legal Consultation
- EAP services available to all family members of your employees
- Monthly access for all employees to an online interactive resource: *MindHealth Matters*

Affordable Care

- Base fee per Agency: \$500/year (for 20 or fewer employees)
20+ Employees: Base fee plus \$24 per employee each year
- NJCEH is making this EAP available to All Agencies that serve those experiencing Homelessness.
- EAP services are available to Full-time and Part-time employees.

Learn more on our EAP Information Session: September 3rd, 1pm
[Register here.](#)

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



[Trump's 'Cruel and Costly'](#)

Homeless Policy Slammed

NJ Spotlight News

Nonprofit leaders in New Jersey are condemning President Trump's plan to remove unhoused people from Washington, D.C., calling it cruel, costly, and ineffective. Advocates argue that criminalizing homelessness and dismantling encampments only deepen the crisis, while research shows housing-first solutions and supportive services are far more effective. They warn these federal policies, paired with local ordinances in New Jersey, could increase homelessness and urge lawmakers to invest in affordable housing and pass stronger protections like the Homeless Bill of Rights.

In Camden and Atlantic City, Health Care Systems are Treating Housing as a Public Health Issue

WHYY

Health care systems in South Jersey, like AtlantiCare and Cooper University Health Care, are stepping into housing as part of their patient care, recognizing that stable homes are critical for health. These efforts include down payment assistance, digital referral networks, Medicaid-funded housing supports, and partnerships to prevent evictions and expand affordable housing. With homelessness rising, hospitals are tracking housing stability as a health outcome and working alongside community groups and state programs to address the crisis at its roots.



New Jersey Church Drops Effort to Open Shelter for Unhoused People

ENS

Christ Episcopal Church in Toms River has decided not to appeal the town's denial of a zoning variance that would have allowed a 17-bed overnight shelter on its property. The church cited the loss of county grant funding, limited resources, neighbor opposition, and the mayor's threat of land seizure as factors in its decision. While disappointed, church leaders emphasized that the proposal sparked a broader conversation about homelessness in Ocean County and pledged to continue supporting housing efforts through partnerships with nonprofits.



NJ Home for Domestic Violence Survivors Closing

msn

Dottie's House, a transitional housing program in Brick Township for women and children escaping domestic violence, will close on Oct. 15 after 25 years of service. The nonprofit's president, Mary Furmato, said ongoing financial struggles, reduced funding, and declining donations made it impossible to continue operating. Each year the facility supported up to 20 women and 50 children, helping survivors rebuild their lives and work toward self-sufficiency.



Nigerian Wins Prestigious Award for Tackling Homelessness

THIS DAY

Nigerian scholar Olorunfunmi Adebajo received the 2025 Chancellor's Award for Student Civic Engagement for her groundbreaking research on shared housing as a preventative solution to homelessness in Camden County. Her capstone project showed that shared housing could cut shelter costs by 40%, reduce public spending, and help people stabilize more quickly, while also drawing on her cultural and lived experience with communal living. Beyond research, she engaged directly with unhoused residents and stakeholders, making her work both data-driven and rooted in real community needs.



After 6,745 Evictions, NJ City Moves to Stop 'Crisis' Among Renters

NJ 101.5

Passaic is considering stricter rent control after county evictions jumped from 2,652 in 2021 to 6,745 in 2024, with housing advocates blaming steep rent hikes far above inflation. The new ordinance would lower the current cap on annual increases from 6% to 3% and eliminate vacancy decontrol, which lets landlords sharply raise rents when tenants move out. Supported by both renters and some landlords, the proposal reflects growing concern that rising housing costs are pushing working families and immigrants out of their homes. The council will take a final vote on Sept. 2nd.



What Can Be Done to Improve New Jersey's Housing Crisis?

YouTube

Steve Aduabato interviews Staci Berger, President and CEO of the Housing & Community Development Network of New Jersey, about the state's affordable housing crisis and possible solutions. The discussion highlights the need to expand affordable housing, increase funding for housing trust funds, and push for policy reforms that treat housing as a foundation for stability and opportunity. Berger stresses that investing in housing is essential to strengthening communities and creating long-term equity across New Jersey.

This Is The Human Cost to Medicaid Cuts. New Jersey's Vulnerable Are In Danger

Daily Record

The 2025 Budget Reconciliation Act threatens to strip Medicaid coverage and services from millions, including adults with autism, Down syndrome, and other disabilities who rely on it for daily independence. Advocates warn that new work requirements, eligibility restrictions, and overwhelming paperwork will push vulnerable people off the rolls, not because they don't qualify, but because they can't navigate the bureaucracy. Spectrum Care Management & Counseling stresses that while policy debates often overlook the human cost, services like transportation, personal care aides, and adaptive equipment are lifelines that preserve dignity, health, and community inclusion.



How The Truth About Affordable Housing in NJ Was Killed by Identity Politics

Burlington County Times

Rev. Eric Dobson of Fair Share Housing Center reflects on the loss of truth in politics, faith, and especially housing. He argues that society often avoids confronting the gap between its ideals and actions. Opposition to affordable housing, he notes, is often disguised as concern over parking or density but is really rooted in fear and exclusion. Dobson calls for honesty about these contradictions, emphasizing that real change requires facing uncomfortable truths—and recognizing housing as a basic right that shapes who belongs in New Jersey communities.



Calling All Landlords: City of Plainfield Wants to Know About Your Sub-\$1800 Units

TAPinto Plainfield

Plainfield is asking landlords to report any rental units under \$1,800 so the city can match them with tenants in need of affordable housing. The initiative aims to boost housing stability, connect landlords with ready-to-move tenants, and support efforts to reduce homelessness and aid re-entry. Landlords can share available units by contacting City Hall via email or phone.



Mobile Outreach Project: the Rescue Mission's Van Offers Addiction Recovery Services



Homeless Face Jail Time or \$2000 Fines in Toms River, NJ

NJ Spotlight News

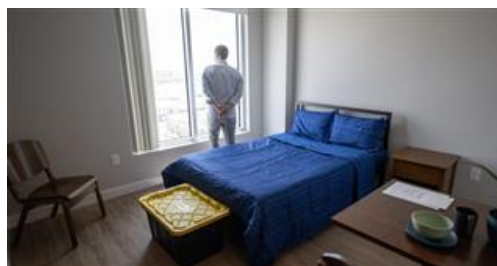
The Rescue Mission of Trenton runs a mobile outreach program that brings addiction recovery services directly to people in Mercer County, especially those experiencing homelessness. Staffed by peer recovery specialists with lived experience, the van operates six days a week, offering food, clothing, Narcan kits, medical connections, and pathways to housing and treatment. Since launching in 2022, the initiative has become a trusted resource, building relationships through consistency and compassion while supporting individuals at every stage of recovery.

Toms River has passed a controversial ordinance banning people experiencing homelessness from taking shelter in the public parking garage near the library, with violations carrying up to 90 days in jail or fines of \$2,000. Mayor Dan Rodrick defended the move, saying nonprofits were using the homeless as “political pawns,” while advocates and some council members argued the measure is cruel and ineffective. Critics warn that criminalizing homelessness will not solve the crisis and only adds costs for the township without addressing root causes.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

What Would It Take to End Homelessness in America?

JOHN'S HOPKINS BLOOMBURG SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH



The 2024 Point-in-Time count recorded 771,840 people experiencing homelessness in the U.S., the highest number ever, with housing costs identified as the main driver. Research shows that Housing First, which provides permanent housing without preconditions, is both effective and cost-saving, as seen in the dramatic reduction of veteran homelessness when it was applied at scale. Experts stress that prevention, supportive services, and community-based responses work far better than criminalization, and that ending homelessness is achievable if resources and policies prioritize housing as a basic human need.

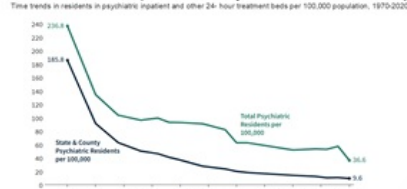


Criminalizing Poverty Won't Solve Homelessness- But it Will Harm and Violate Civil Rights

HealthAffairs

President Trump's 2025 Executive

As Mental Health Services Shifted Toward Outpatient Care During Deinstitutionalization, Residents in Psychiatric Beds Declined Sharply



A Look at the New Executive Order and the Intersection of Homelessness and Mental Illness

KFF

President Trump's new executive

Order Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets reframes homelessness as a crime problem, prioritizing law enforcement, involuntary treatment, and institutionalization over housing and voluntary care. Legal experts warn it undermines constitutional due process and violates disability rights under the ADA and the Supreme Court's Olmstead decision by promoting unnecessary segregation. Critics stress that proven strategies like Housing First, Medicaid-supported behavioral health services, and community-based care already exist, and that shifting resources away from them will worsen homelessness while eroding civil rights and public health.

order on homelessness, mental health, and substance use shifts federal policy toward criminalization and involuntary treatment, encouraging states to ban public drug use, expand civil commitments, and end support for Housing First programs. Instead, funding will prioritize programs that require treatment before housing, marking a sharp break from decades of deinstitutionalization and community-based care. Critics warn the order, coupled with federal funding cuts, risks worsening homelessness and mental health outcomes by sidelining evidence-based solutions while expanding coercive and punitive approaches.



Amid Growing 'Scandal' of Elder Homelessness, Health Care Groups Aim to Help

NPR

At 82, widow Roberta Rabinovitz found herself without stable housing until PACE Rhode Island, a Medicaid- and Medicare-funded program, secured her a small apartment tied to supportive services. Across the U.S., PACE programs and some hospitals are stepping into housing as older adults face rising rents, shrinking incomes, and federal cuts that threaten their stability. These efforts show how health care providers are expanding beyond medicine to address housing insecurity, recognizing that safe, affordable homes are essential to keeping seniors healthy and independent.



ROAD HOME: How Trauma Shapes Homelessness and The Path to Recovery



To Stem the Housing Crisis, Religious Congregations Are Building Homes

THE CHRONICLE of PHILANTHROPY

Unaddressed trauma often traps people in cycles of housing loss, but trauma-informed care can break that pattern by focusing on safety, trust, and empowerment. At Blue Door, individualized housing and employment plans, wraparound supports, and ongoing retention services help people heal, build resilience, and sustain long-term stability. Interim CEO Emmy Kelly emphasizes that this approach not only improves housing outcomes but also restores dignity, independence, and hope for those who have experienced homelessness.

Arlington Presbyterian Church in Virginia made the bold decision to sell its land and historic building to a nonprofit developer, transforming the property into a 173-unit affordable housing complex while continuing to worship in the new space. The church's move reflects a growing national trend of faith communities converting underused property into housing as congregations shrink and maintenance costs rise. With support from nonprofits, foundations, and initiatives like Enterprise's Faith-Based Development program hundreds of houses of worship are now exploring how to use their land to address the affordable housing crisis while sustaining their missions.

NYC Tenants Are Being Evicted During Extreme Heat. A New Report Says It Should be Illegal

Gothamist

HUD-VASH has shown that Housing First works, cutting veteran homelessness by more than half. Yet while veterans largely keep these protections, the new policy shift could deny the same approach to others experiencing homelessness. As advocates note, society frames veterans as "deserving," while non-veterans are too often judged and left without the same chance at stability.

Gothamist

Donate

NYC tenants are being evicted during extreme heat. A new report says it should be illegal.



Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images



By Samantha Max

Published Aug 15, 2025 at 9:01 am ET

49 comments

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



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