

Homelessness MATTERS



April 16th, 2026

IN THIS EDITION:

- **Opportunities for Action:** Contact your legislators to advocate for the S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ Campaign to protect the homeless response system; Act now to help keep families together
- **Resources for Providers:** Free training for frontline service providers on co-occurring disorders; Discounted National Alliance to End Homelessness Training available; Mental Health Basics Training for Homeless Service Providers; Free "BATHE" training available to improve communications with clients
- **NJ Homelessness in the News:** NJ homelessness funding falls far short of demand, advocates warn; NJ boosts veteran homelessness efforts with \$11M housing plan
- **News From Around the Country:** Older adults discharged from long term care into homelessness amid housing gaps and rising risk; Loss of low-cost single-room housing has driven rise in homelessness, study finds

And much more!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

A blue banner with a yellow horizontal stripe. At the top, it says "Protect New Jersey Residents from Homelessness". On the left is a shield-shaped logo with "S.H.I.E.L.D." at the top, "NJ" in the center, and three stylized figures below. To the right of the shield, the text "S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ" is written in large, bold, blue letters. At the bottom left, it says "A plan to fund sheltering people now and to prevent homelessness before it starts." At the bottom right is the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness logo and tagline.

Your Voice Needed: Urge the Governor and NJ Legislature to Invest \$100 Million to S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ Residents from Homelessness

Homelessness in NJ has surged 57% in just three years, pushing the system to the brink. Without immediate action, the NJ Department of Community Affairs projects that by 2026, **emergency shelter demand could rise 91% and street homelessness 94%.**

NOW is the time to act. [Use this sign-on letter to contact Governor Sherrill and your state legislators](#)—New Jersey must take bold, decisive steps to address this growing crisis and ensure everyone has a safe place to call home.

With \$100 million, we can S.H.I.E.L.D. New Jersey residents from homelessness. Funds will be used for:

S — Shelter: emergency shelters and operations

H — Housing: rapid re-housing and supportive housing

I — Intervention Through Outreach: street outreach connecting unsheltered individuals to services and housing

E — Eviction Prevention: sustainable funding to prevent homelessness

L — Landlord Engagement: housing navigation and landlord partnerships

D — Data & Coordination: tools to strengthen NJ homelessness data systems and municipal supports

For more information or to get involved, contact Coalition Policy Associate Raisa at rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org



[Act Now Against HUD Proposals that Threaten Housing Stability:](#)

Three urgent deadlines are approaching to oppose harmful HUD rules that could worsen homelessness:

- By April 21: [Tell HUD to keep mixed-status families together in housing](#)
- By April 27: [Preserve 30-day eviction notice protections for tenants in HUD-subsidized housing](#)
- By May 1: [Reject optional time limits and work requirements on rental assistance](#)

[Learn how to take action now from the National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)

RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



The Intersection of Crisis: Co-Occurring Disorders and Homelessness in New Jersey

The Coalition is excited to partner again with SAMHSA's Opioid Response Network to offer a free training for frontline staff in New Jersey's homeless response system.

This free training designed for frontline service providers will be led by Dr. Dolores Blackwell, LMSW and will explore how co-occurring disorders present and provide practical, evidence-informed tools to support engagement and connection to care.

With over 152,000 NJ residents seeking homelessness-related services last year, this is a critical conversation for frontline providers.

Register for a session by clicking on a date below:

- [May 5, 8:00–9:30 AM](#)
- [May 12, 12:00–12:30 PM](#)
- [May 19, 7:00–8:30 PM](#)

[Click here](#) to download the flyer with more information.

Discounted Trainings for Service Providers From the National Alliance to End Homelessness

Courses include:

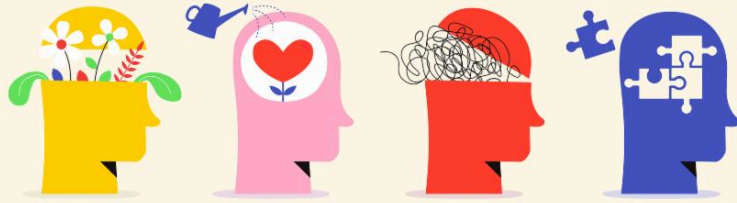
- *Key Skills for Shelter Staff: a 7 course series*
- *Understanding How We Got Here: How Historic and Ongoing Structural Racism Creates Racial Disparities*
- *Fueling Connections: Strategies for Homeless Outreach Staff*



- Deep discounts for organizations with smaller budgets
 - Contact us at learning@naeh.org
- 15% off all courses for NJCEH member organizations
 - Use NJCEH15 at checkout
- 20% off specific courses for NJCEH member organizations
 - Use NJCEH20 at checkout

Contact Jessica Cantermen with any questions: jcantermen@njceh.org

Mental Health Basics



Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Join us for a *Mental Health Basics* training, designed to build foundational understanding and practical awareness of mental health in everyday settings.

This training will cover:

- * The difference between mental health and mental illness
- * An overview of common mental health conditions and the impact of stigma
- * How mental health challenges may present in shelter settings and within the community

Session times:

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



bit.ly/20mayMHB

This training is ideal for anyone looking to strengthen their knowledge, reduce stigma, and better support individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

- * Please register for this workshop in advance by scanning the QR code or visiting the URL.
- * 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.



NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



[NJ's Homeless Budget Doesn't Match The Crisis. Here's What We Need](#)

nj.com

An opinion piece by Coalition Board member Richard Uniacke of Bridges Outreach argues that New Jersey's proposed \$25 million investment in homelessness services falls far short of



[Governor Sherrill Highlights Commitment to Ending Veteran Homelessness, Expanding Housing](#)

State of New Jersey, Office of the Governor

New Jersey is ramping up efforts to end veteran homelessness, with \$11 million in the proposed FY2027 budget

the roughly \$345 million needed to meet current demand. Citing state data, he highlights a sharp decline in housing placements and a growing number of people unable to access stable housing as costs rise and federal funding expires. Uniacke warns that without significantly greater, sustained investment, the state will be unable to keep pace with the deepening homelessness crisis.

dedicated to expanding the Bringing Veterans Home initiative, which helps move veterans into permanent housing. State officials say the program has already supported more than 1,400 placements and aims to reach all known homeless veterans this year. The effort is part of a broader strategy that also includes new affordable housing developments and additional funding to address homelessness statewide.



[How Camden County Is Using Shared Housing to Tackle Homelessness - Without New Funding](#)

Shelterforce

Camden County is testing a shared housing model to address rising homelessness by pairing unrelated individuals to live together and split costs, making housing more affordable without requiring new construction or major funding increases. Using existing resources, the county is supporting pilot programs that include landlord incentives, master leasing, and wraparound services to help residents stay stably housed. Officials say the approach offers a flexible, scalable way to prevent homelessness amid shrinking federal support and a tight rental market.



[Motel 6 Sues Piscataway Over Hotel/Motel Law, Progressive Democratic Challengers in Council Races](#)

Insider NJ



[Affordable Senior Veteran Housing Units Coming to Woodbridge](#)

PIX 11

A new 60-unit affordable housing development in Woodbridge aims to help reduce veteran homelessness, particularly among senior veterans facing rising housing costs. The project,

A lawsuit filed by Motel 6 is challenging a Piscataway ordinance that limits how long guests can stay in hotels and motels, a policy critics say unfairly targets people experiencing homelessness. Community advocates and local political challengers argue the measure could worsen housing instability, particularly for vulnerable groups like domestic violence survivors, while exposing taxpayers to legal costs. The dispute highlights ongoing tensions over how municipalities address homelessness and housing insecurity.



[Homeless Housing in Hopelawn Will Not Be a 'Shelter', Will Be Permanent Housing, YMCA Says](#)

Patch.com

A new Hopelawn housing project aims to address homelessness by providing 28 units of permanent, supportive housing for individuals experiencing housing instability, including those displaced by emergencies or fleeing domestic violence. Unlike a temporary shelter, the development will offer private apartments and long-term stability for up to 40 residents. Local officials say the initiative is part of a broader effort to expand housing solutions for people facing homelessness in the area.

part of New Jersey's "Bringing Veterans Home" initiative, addresses a key gap between housing vouchers and the lack of affordable units. With supportive services planned on-site, officials say developments like this are critical to providing stable housing solutions for veterans in need.



[New Housing Center in Montclair Will Uplift Homeless, Aging Military Veterans](#)

Patch.com

A new Montclair Veterans Service Center is planned at the historic American Legion Crawford Crews Post 251, transforming the site into 11 units of supportive housing for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The project will also include on-site services and community space, aiming to provide both housing stability and wraparound support for aging and vulnerable veterans. Developers say the effort is part of a broader statewide push to reduce veteran homelessness while preserving the site's historic legacy.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



[Older Adults Are Being Discharged Out of Long-Term Care Facilities - and into Homelessness](#)

FOX 13

An investigation highlights a growing trend of older adults being discharged from long-term care facilities into homelessness, often without safe or appropriate placement. Advocates say rising housing costs, limited affordable options, and gaps in discharge planning are leaving vulnerable seniors at risk of poor health outcomes and repeated hospitalizations. Experts warn that without better coordination and expanded housing solutions, more aging adults could fall into a cycle of homelessness and medical instability.

[Proposed Federal Rules Could Jeopardize Housing Security for Millions](#)

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Advocates warn that proposed HUD rule changes could significantly increase homelessness by restricting access to housing assistance for low-income households, including removing aid from mixed-status families and imposing work requirements and time limits on benefits. They argue these policies could force millions of people—including children—out of subsidized housing and deepen housing instability nationwide. The National Alliance to End Homelessness urges public participation in the comment process, arguing the proposals would undermine housing security rather than address the root causes of homelessness.



[Cheap Rooms Once Prevented Homelessness. We Need Them Back.](#)

Governing

The article argues that rising homelessness in the U.S. is closely tied to the loss of inexpensive single-room-occupancy (SRO) housing, which once provided basic, affordable shelter for very low-income residents. It claims that decades of zoning and building regulations made these small units difficult to build or maintain, leading to

[Court Again Limits HUD Changes on Care for Homeless](#)

Baptist News

A federal appeals court has upheld a lower court ruling temporarily blocking HUD from implementing changes to its homelessness grant programs, finding that the proposed rules could cause widespread harm. The case, brought by a coalition including the National Alliance to End Homelessness, argues the changes would disrupt funding for housing programs and increase homelessness among vulnerable

the loss of over a million SRO units and contributing to increased homelessness.

The authors propose bringing back modernized SRO-style housing—along with loosening zoning rules, enabling office-to-housing conversions, and allowing more shared or small-unit living—as a practical way to expand deeply affordable housing. They argue that reducing regulatory barriers would help restore a housing option that historically kept homelessness far lower in the United States.

populations such as families, veterans, and youth. Advocates and plaintiffs say the ruling helps prevent immediate destabilization of critical housing services while litigation continues.



[Don't Leave Out People With The Most Severe Mental Illnesses](#)

News From The States

People with severe mental illnesses are often caught in a cycle where gaps in care—limited psychiatric beds, underfunded community treatment, and weak housing supports—push them between hospitals, streets, and sometimes the criminal justice system. The article highlights that a significant share of unsheltered homelessness involves people with serious mental illness, who frequently cannot maintain stability without continuous, structured support. It argues that addressing this requires more than general mental health services, calling for a stronger system that includes inpatient capacity, permanent supportive housing, and consistent outpatient care tailored to the most severely affected individuals.



[Mom, Kids, and Nowhere to Go](#)

The American Prospect

Family homelessness is rising sharply in the U.S., driven by high housing costs, childcare expenses, and cuts to social safety-net programs like SNAP and Medicaid, leaving many working parents unable to afford stable housing. The article highlights how families often cycle between doubled-up living situations, shelters, and temporary assistance, with Black single mothers disproportionately affected by evictions and housing instability. Through personal stories, it shows how even employed parents can fall into homelessness due to childcare costs, stagnant wages, and rising rent, while struggling to regain stability despite short-term housing aid. Advocates warn that recent policy changes and reduced federal support are making it harder for families to avoid repeated episodes of housing insecurity.



Hostile Architecture Raises Concerns for Those Facing Homelessness

Spectrum News 1

Advocates in Rochester argue that “hostile architecture” — including benches with barriers, spikes, and armrests — is making public spaces increasingly unusable for people experiencing homelessness, pushing them out of parks and other areas where they might otherwise find temporary rest. While supporters say it is intended to deter loitering, critics note it not only worsens conditions for unhoused residents but also makes public amenities less accessible and comfortable for everyone in the community. The piece highlights growing calls for local policy changes that prioritize housing solutions and more inclusive public spaces over design choices that restrict use.



The Truth About Tiny Homes and Homelessness: Data Shows How The Initiative Is Performing

AS USA

Tiny home villages are increasingly being used across the U.S. as a way to move people out of homelessness and into permanent housing, and research shows they generally perform better than traditional dorm-style shelters at helping residents transition to stable homes. Studies in states like California and Oregon suggest that roughly 25% to 50% of participants in tiny home programs eventually secure permanent housing, compared to far lower rates in conventional shelters, especially when residents can stay longer and receive consistent support. While advocates see them as a promising, lower-cost alternative to large shelters, researchers caution that they still require significant ongoing services and funding to meaningfully reduce homelessness long-term.



No Place to Land: Housing Insecurity Among Caregiving College Students

Caregiving college students—those supporting children or other dependents—face widespread housing insecurity driven by rising rents, unsafe conditions, and repeated forced moves. Most are unaware of or unable to access financial aid that could help stabilize their housing, and many also encounter discrimination in the housing market. The report concludes that addressing these gaps will require coordinated action from federal, state, and campus leaders to expand emergency aid, improve data collection, and better align financial support with the real costs caregiving students face.

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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