

Homelessness MATTERS



May 20th, 2026

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- **Resources for Providers:** Discounted Online Nonprofit Management Training for homeless services providers; Mental Health Basics Training for Homeless Service Providers TODAY; Free "BATHE" training available to improve communications with clients
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- **News From Around the Country:** Congress clashes over HUD cuts as homelessness risk rises; Data confirms each individual in the U.S. experiencing chronic homelessness costs taxpayers 30k -\$50k per year; Nearly half of all U.S. renters face rising eviction risk as housing costs surge; Bill aims to prevent rural housing loss and rising homelessness

And much more...

COALITION NEWS



Garden State Leader Alum, Melissa Lapinski, Featured at NJ Policy Perspective's May 7th Budget and Brews Event

The Coalition was proud to help coordinate Garden State Leader alum Melissa Lapinski's participation as a speaker on last Thursday's NJ Policy Perspectives

(NJPP) panel on affordability and the challenges facing New Jersey's budget. Thank you, Melissa, for helping shine a light on the real system gaps impacting New Jersey families — and thank you to NJPP for convening such an honest and necessary conversation about the policy choices shaping our state.

The conversation served as an important reminder that, over the last 30 years, cuts and changes to cash assistance and other safety net programs have made it increasingly difficult for low-income families across New Jersey to remain financially stable and securely housed. For too many households, a single emergency, missed paycheck, or unexpected expense can quickly spiral into a housing crisis.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



[Your Voice Needed: Urge the Governor and NJ Legislature to Add Another \\$75 Million to S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ Residents from Homelessness](#)

The Coalition was honored to recently meet with Governor Sherrill's Senior Director and Director of Legislative Affairs, Jay Redd and Eash Haughton, to discuss the *S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ* campaign and the need for greater investment into our state's homeless response system. We have also met with over 20 state legislators so far to advocate for this essential funding.



Protect New Jersey Residents from Homelessness

S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ

A plan to **begin turning the tide** on New Jersey's homelessness crisis.



The time to act is now! Homelessness in NJ has surged 57% in just three years, pushing the system to the brink.

[Use this action alert 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 an additional \$75 million on top of the \$25 million included in the Governor's budget proposal, we can S.H.I.E.L.D. New Jersey residents from experiencing homelessness:

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

RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



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.

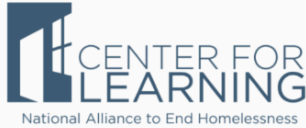
Discounted Trainings for Service Providers From the National Alliance to End Homelessness

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*



NEW JERSEY COALITION TO
END HOMELESSNESS



CENTER FOR
LEARNING

National Alliance to End Homelessness

- 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

[Sign Up for a Free Mental Health Training Offered TODAY May 20th](#)

Provided by the Mental Health Association of NJ in Partnership with NJCEH for Individuals Working Across NJ's Homeless Response System

It's not too late to sign up for one of **today's one-hour virtual workshops** that will cover how to tell the difference between mental health and mental illness, an overview of common mental health conditions and the impact of stigma, and how mental health challenges may present in shelter settings and within the community.

To make the training as accessible as possible, the same session is being offered at multiple times throughout the day. Please register for the time that works best for you using the link here and on the flyer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/MSWPpRHZTSGuTP17PcvDTg>

Available sessions:

- 2:00–3:00 PM
- 4:00–5:00 PM
- 6:00–7:00 PM

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



Stewart Bill Aims to Expand Temporary Housing Options for Domestic Violence Survivors

Survivors
TAPinto Paterson

Assemblyman Kenyatta Stewart has introduced legislation aimed at helping domestic violence survivors avoid homelessness by quickly connecting them to safe, temporary housing. The proposal would create a statewide housing registry and offer tax credits to landlords who provide below-market rental units, with emergency placements targeted within 24 to 48 hours to help survivors move rapidly from crisis situations into stable housing.

Baraka: Newark Is Doing Its Part On Homelessness. The Rest Of New Jersey Must Do

Theirs
New Jersey Globe

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka argues that Newark has become a regional hub for homelessness services because many surrounding communities are not providing enough shelter and support for their own residents. In the opinion piece, Baraka highlights Newark's investments in emergency housing, outreach, mental health services, and transitional housing, while calling on other municipalities and the state to take greater responsibility and increase funding for affordable and supportive housing.



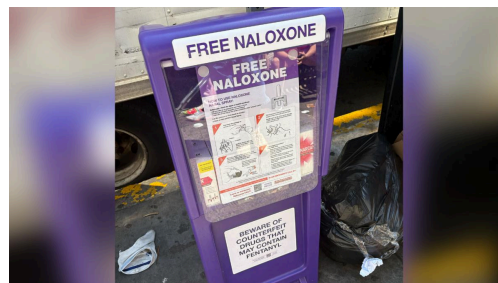
NJ Housing Supply is Lagging Behind Population Growth

New Jersey Monitor

New Jersey's housing supply is failing to keep pace with population growth, with the state adding far fewer homes than new residents since 2020. This shortage is intensifying housing instability, pushing rents higher and limiting affordable options for low- and moderate-income households. Advocates warn that the gap between demand and supply increases the risk of homelessness as more families are priced out of stable housing.



New Jersey Moves to Turn 'Dying' Office Parks into



Overdose Rescue Hits The Streets Via Free Self-Serve Naloxone Kiosks

NJ Spotlight News

Housing, Bypassing Local Red Tape

yahoo! news

New Jersey lawmakers are advancing legislation that would make it easier to convert long-vacant office parks and retail centers into mixed-use housing developments, including affordable housing units. Supporters say the proposal could help address the state's housing shortage and reduce housing instability by repurposing underused commercial properties, while critics argue it would weaken local zoning control and could lead to legal disputes.

Black Lives Matter Paterson is expanding access to free naloxone through self-serve kiosks across Paterson as part of a harm-reduction effort aimed at preventing overdose deaths, particularly during nights and weekends when services are limited. New Jersey's Naloxone Direct program also provides free overdose-reversal medication to shelters, recovery centers, libraries, and community organizations serving people experiencing housing instability or homelessness, helping vulnerable residents access life-saving care along with treatment and support services.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



HUD Secretary Under Bipartisan Fire for Proposed Housing Program Cuts

UPI

Bipartisan members of Congress are warning that President Trump's proposed \$10.7 billion

cuts to HUD could significantly worsen homelessness, including reductions to Homeless Assistance Grants, the Continuum of Care program that funds permanent supportive housing, and hundreds of millions in Native American housing programs. Lawmakers argued the cuts could put hundreds of thousands of people at risk of losing stable housing and weaken proven long-term solutions. HUD Secretary Scott Turner defended the proposal as promoting "self-sufficiency" and criticized the "housing-first" model, arguing homelessness should be addressed through more emphasis on treatment and behavioral factors. The debate highlights a broader split between approaches focused on prevention and permanent housing versus those prioritizing reduced federal spending and more conditional support.



Rent Is Swallowing Household Incomes

The New York Times

Nearly half of American renter households are now "rent-burdened,"



Proposed Change to Rural Housing Program Would Address Looming Preservation Crisis

SHELTERFORCE

spending more than 30% of their income on housing and utilities as rents continue to outpace wages. The report underscores a deepening housing crisis driven by limited supply and rising costs, warning that severe rent burden is tightening household budgets, increasing eviction risk, and sharply raising the likelihood of housing instability and homelessness for millions of lower-income renters.

A proposed federal housing bill would help preserve hundreds of thousands of affordable rural rental homes financed through the USDA's Section 515 program, which primarily serves older adults, people with disabilities, and extremely low-income residents. Supporters say the legislation could help prevent housing loss and homelessness in rural communities by allowing properties to retain rental assistance even after federal loans mature, helping keep vulnerable tenants stably housed and preserving affordable housing options where few alternatives exist.



[Does Each Chronically Homeless Person Cost Taxpayers \\$30,000 to \\$50,000 Per Year?](#)

The Colorado Sun

A fact-checking study confirms that estimates commonly cited in policy discussions are broadly consistent: people experiencing chronic homelessness are reported to cost taxpayers roughly \$30,000–\$50,000 per year, largely due to repeated use of emergency healthcare, shelter systems, and interactions with the criminal-legal system. It notes that multiple studies and advocacy groups converge on similar figures, and that supportive housing can significantly reduce these costs. The piece ultimately uses this comparison to reinforce the argument that stable housing interventions are not only more humane but also more cost-effective than allowing chronic homelessness to persist.

[The Housing Department Is Late on Reporting Homelessness Data](#)

NOTUS

A tense congressional exchange unfolded as Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand pressed HUD for the overdue 2025 Annual Homelessness Assessment report, which tracks the nation's homeless population. She argued that without updated data, lawmakers could not evaluate whether current homelessness policies were working, while HUD Secretary Scott Turner pointed to shutdowns, litigation, and past administrations as reasons for the delay. The piece highlighted a broader accountability issue: the debate was not just about homelessness policy itself, but whether the federal government was even producing the basic data needed to measure the crisis.



[Utah Housing Model Is the Wrong Way To Go](#)

The Progressive Magazine

This opinion piece critiques a Utah proposal for a centralized “homeless campus,” contrasting it with evidence-based housing-first approaches. It argues that while supporters frame the model as a bold solution centered on control, enforcement, and involuntary treatment, research shows that large centralized facilities do not reduce homelessness and may underperform compared to permanent housing strategies. The article emphasizes that the real divide is between systems focused on containment and visibility versus those that prioritize stable housing as the proven path to lasting reductions in homelessness.



[Preventing Homelessness Is More Effective Than Criminalizing It](#)

Ripple

This opinion piece frames California’s homelessness debate as a clash between two approaches: one focused on prevention and keeping people housed before they entered crisis (AB 1924), and another focused on managing encampments and displacement after homelessness had already occurred (AB 1606). It argues these reflect fundamentally different philosophies—prevention treated homelessness as a solvable housing stability failure, while the other treats it as a problem to control through cleanup and enforcement. By contrasting the two, the author argues that the mainstream “manage the symptoms” approach was both more costly and less humane than preventing homelessness in the first place.



[‘This Is Not a World Cup for The People’: Residents in Host Cities Sound Alarm Over Housing Affordability](#)

The Guardian

Cup approaches in U.S. host cities, affordable housing advocates warn that rising short-term rentals and speculative pricing could tighten rental markets and worsen housing insecurity.

TELEGRAPH HERALD

Connecting our Community

[Regarding Homelessness, This Op-Ed is Part of The Problem](#)

Telegraph Herald

The op-ed argues against the common tendency to view people experiencing homelessness as a single group defined by personal failings, instead emphasizing that homelessness is shaped by broader social and economic conditions. Using Chris Arnade’s “front row/back row” framework, it contrasts surface-level compassion—often expressed through

Organizers in cities like New York and Atlanta also caution that increased displacement pressure and aggressive enforcement against unhoused residents risk escalating homelessness, echoing concerns that major events can deepen housing instability without strong tenant protections and human rights safeguards.

charity or volunteering—with the deeper need to truly understand and respect lived experience. The author argues that compassion alone can maintain distance if it doesn't include dignity and genuine recognition. Ultimately, the piece calls for treating people experiencing homelessness as fully human and centering respect as essential to any meaningful response.

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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