

Homelessness MATTERS



June 5th, 2025

With the NJ primary elections coming up next week, we'd like to take a moment to highlight the gubernatorial candidates' stands on homelessness. We are grateful to the candidates who submitted written statements to the Coalition on what they would do as Governor to address the 45% rise in homelessness in our state over the past two years. You can see the statements that candidates submitted [here](#).

NJ Spotlight also has a [comprehensive story highlighting where each gubernatorial candidate stands on housing issues](#). See below for details on how and when to vote.

Thank you to the campaigns of Steven Fulop, Sean Spiller, and Steve Sweeney, who joined our May Shelter Providers Consortium meeting to speak directly with shelter providers and people with lived experiences of homelessness about their plans to prevent and end homelessness.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



It Just Makes Sense: Tell Your Legislators to Include \$10 Million to Keep Homeless Shelters' Doors Open

[Please take action here to urge Governor Murphy and your state legislators to include \\$10 million to keep shelters' doors open](#). This budget resolution is dedicated to paying and retaining frontline shelter staff, the incredible, life-saving workers who are the backbone of every shelter operation and deserve to be paid a fairer wage.

Please also share widely the [It Just Makes Sense video campaign](#), featuring videos from NJ leaders who know that it just makes sense to address the rising rates of homelessness in our state.

Homelessness in New Jersey has risen 45% over the past two years. Massive

proposed federal cuts to HUD, if enacted, will put at least another 10,766 New Jerseyans at imminent risk of homelessness.

Now, more than ever, we need collective action to gather the public and policymakers behind tangible solutions that just make sense.



NJ Primary Election: This Tuesday, June 10th! **Homelessness is on the Ballot**

This **Tuesday, June 10** is the New Jersey Primary election! 2025 is a major election year in New Jersey, with the Governor and entire state General Assembly up for election.

There are **3 ways to vote in NJ**:

- 1) During the early voting period, which ranges from June 3-Sunday, June 8. Voters can go to *any* [early voting site](#) in their county;
- 2) On Election Day (Tuesday, June 10 from 6 AM-8 PM) at their assigned polling place. Voters can find their [designated polling place](#) here;
- 3) Return a vote-by-mail ballot by 8 PM on Election Day (Tuesday, June 10). Mail-in ballots can be returned via secure **ballot drop box**, to their **county Board of Elections office**, or by mail (must be postmarked by 8 PM on June 10). You can apply for a mail-in ballot in person at your **County Clerk's office** until 3 PM on Monday, June 9.

Homeless does not mean voteless! While the voter registration deadline for the primary election has already passed, homeless residents who are already registered in NJ can vote in the primary. You can check whether someone is already registered to vote in NJ [here](#). Those who are not registered can still register to vote ahead of the general November election.

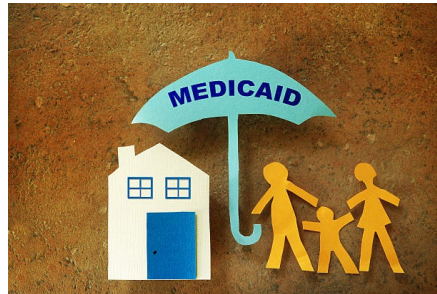
You can find more information on NJ's [Voter Information Portal](#) or call 1-877-NJ-VOTER (1-877-658-6837).

**Join the Coalition at the Housing
and Community Development
Network of New Jersey's (HCDNNJ)**

Legislative Day on June 12th!

Register [here](#) to join HCDNNJ's Legislative Day in Trenton for their Legislative Day on Thursday, June 12th, advocating to grow the Affordable Housing Trust Fund without diversions, prevent the criminalization of homelessness, and strengthen tenant voices. All are welcome!

This Legislative Day is a great opportunity to have your voice heard in the NJ Legislature during a difficult budget year, where state policy matters more than ever.



Summary of Impact of Medicaid Cuts on NJ The Unthinkable Impact of Proposed Federal Housing and Medicaid Cuts on New Jersey

Congress is pushing a budget reconciliation bill that would result in the largest cut to Medicaid in history. [1 in 5 New Jersey residents](#) currently enrolled in Medicaid would be at risk of losing their coverage.

Simultaneously, the federal Office of Management and Budget released a [budget proposal](#) that, if enacted, would slash \$33.6 billion from federal housing programs, putting **10,766 additional New Jerseyans** at imminent risk of homelessness.

It can feel like your voice does not matter, especially when it comes to what's happening at the federal level, but it does. **Your representatives need to hear from you about how devastating these cuts would be**, especially if you live in the districts of Representatives Jeff Van Drew (CD-2), Chris Smith (CD-4), and Thomas Kean Jr. (CD-7), who voted in favor of the reconciliation bill.

For more information, here is [our one pager](#) highlighting the detrimental impacts of HUD and Medicaid cuts nationally and on New Jersey specifically.

MENTAL HEALTH 101

(PART ONE OF TWO)



Wednesday, June 11, 2025

During this 1-hour workshop, we will:

- * Explore common mental health challenges impacting adults.
- * Learn to identify the signs and symptoms of a developing mental health challenge.
- * Discuss the impact of mental health challenges for guests/residents/clients we serve.

**Session
times:**

6-7AM

8-9AM

10-11AM

1-2PM

3-4PM

7-8PM



bit.ly/MH101p1

- * 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.
- JOIN US FOR PART TWO OF THIS 2-PART WORKSHOP ON TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025 -**



**Mental Health
Association in
New Jersey, Inc.**

Please contact Jaime Angelini with any questions regarding this training:
jangelini@mhanj.org



Impacted by Federal Funding Freezes? Apply for this Emergency Fund

The Community Foundation of New Jersey launched NJ Strong: Emergency Fund, a rapid response fund aiming to provide a safety net for nonprofits to weather federal funding freezes or terminations of existing contracts to minimize disruptions in vital services for NJ communities.

Organizations who have been in operation for three or more years and can provide

documentation of funding loss, particularly if they address basic human needs and serve vulnerable populations, are encouraged to apply for grants ranging from \$10,000-\$50,000. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and organizations will be notified within 3 weeks of applying.

You can [apply here](#) using the access code **NJSTRONG**.



Free, Online Course on Caring for Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is offering [this free online course for service providers](#), as more and more older adults are experiencing homelessness, and the homeless population is aging.

Learn strategies for offering temporary and permanent housing and meeting the needs of this uniquely vulnerable population.



PSE&G Neighborhood Partners Program

The PSEG Foundation's newest grant cycle includes Equity and Economic Empowerment (EEE) Grants for supportive services.

Consideration for these grants will be given to programs that provide comprehensive support services that address pressing economic needs: affordability, food security and workforce development initiatives.

For more information [click here](#).

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



NJ Primary 2025: Candidates for Governor on Housing Issues

NJ Spotlight News

Affordable housing is a top concern for New Jersey voters in this year's gubernatorial primary, with candidates offering sharply different solutions to address rising costs and a shortage of over 200,000 units. Some Republican candidates want to repeal or roll back the state's affordable housing law, arguing it leads to overdevelopment, while Democrats generally support expanding housing access, with proposals that include rent caps, increased funding, and stronger tenant protections. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka has pledged to declare a state of emergency on housing if elected, while other candidates focus on zoning reform, public-private partnerships, and targeting investment-driven price hikes.

Hoboken Moves to Ban Algorithmic Rent-Setting Software

TAPinto Hoboken

In response to a state lawsuit accusing landlords of using algorithmic software to fix rents, Hoboken is proposing an ordinance to ban the use of rent-setting algorithms in the city's housing market. The legislation aims to stop landlords from using tools like RealPage to coordinate pricing and occupancy, which officials say inflates rents and undermines fair competition. If passed, landlords who violate the ordinance could face fines, jail time, or community service.



Church at Center of Homeless Shelter Debate Targeted for



James Soloman Releases Plan to Address Homelessness in Jersey City

Jersey City Times

Seizure

NJ Spotlight News

Christ Episcopal Church in Toms River is at risk of being seized through eminent domain as the township pursues plans to build a recreational park. The church has been a vital resource for people experiencing homelessness and is currently seeking approval to build a 17-bed overnight shelter in partnership with a local nonprofit. Advocates say the timing of the ordinance appears retaliatory and reflects a broader national trend of local governments restricting services for unhoused residents.

Jersey City Councilman and mayoral candidate James Solomon has proposed a plan to combat the city's rising homelessness crisis, which grew 16% in the past year. His approach focuses on expanding affordable housing, strengthening tenant protections, and increasing access to mental health and addiction services through a housing first model. Solomon's proposal emphasizes prevention, support, and regional collaboration to create long-term solutions



304-Unit Affordable Housing Community in Trenton Getting \$124 Millions Renovation

JERSEY GIGS

Renovations are underway at Kingston Apartments, a 304-unit affordable housing complex in Trenton, as part of a \$124 million project led by Sena Affordable Communities and Cortell Development Group. With funding support from NJHMFA, TD Bank, and Raymond James, the modernization will upgrade all units, improve accessibility, and extend affordability through 2072. The project ensures long-term stability and quality housing for hundreds of Trenton residents while preserving a vital community asset.

Paterson Council Back Bridge Program's \$1.9M State Funding Push

TAPinto Paterson

The Paterson City Council has endorsed the Paterson Bridge Program, a grassroots-led initiative seeking \$1.9 million in state funding to reduce homelessness through outreach, safe zones, and a housing first model. Developed in response to a previously rejected ordinance that would have criminalized homelessness, the program emphasizes collaboration with local organizations to provide housing and support services. With homelessness in Paterson rising over 60% in a year, advocates say the Bridge Program offers a compassionate, data-





[Access to Social Workers Will Expand in NJ, But Not Just Yet](#)

NJ Spotlight News

New Jersey has joined a national interstate compact that will allow licensed social workers to practice across state lines without needing additional licenses, aiming to ease the state's shortage of behavioral health and substance use treatment providers. While the law is expected to expand access to care and improve continuity for clients, it won't take effect until late 2026 due to implementation delays and vacancies on the state's social work licensing board. Supporters say the compact will modernize social work and expand telehealth access, but emphasize the need for better education and support as the state prepares to roll it out.



[Beyond the Doctor's Office: How One NJ Health System is Tackling Food, Housing and More](#)

NJ.com

Hackensack Meridian Health's Healthy Connections program is tackling social determinants of health by addressing food insecurity, housing instability, and access to medications alongside traditional care. With over 3,200 families supported last year, the initiative pairs patients with community health workers who help navigate benefits, secure stable housing, and access nutritious meals.



[Roots and Wings: Empowering New Jersey's Foster Youth, One Home At a Time](#)

FOCUS

Roots & Wings is a Morris County-based nonprofit dedicated to supporting youth aging out of the foster care system by providing housing, life skills, education, and emotional support. With a home in Parsippany and a comprehensive, no-cost program, the organization helps young adults transition from instability to independence. In 2024, Roots & Wings served 20 former

and affordable prescriptions. Leaders say the goal is to create a replicable model that improves health outcomes and quality of life both in New Jersey and across the country.

foster youth, many of whom are now pursuing degrees, certifications, or careers in high-demand fields.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Visualizing the Impact of The President's FY2026 Budget: Returns to Homelessness and Major Setbacks

National Alliance to End Homelessness



The President's proposed FY2026 budget recommends eliminating the Continuum of Care (CoC) program—a key federal source of funding for permanent supportive housing—and shifting those resources to the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. This change would cut essential services and jeopardize housing for more than 217,000 formerly homeless individuals, particularly in rural and suburban areas that rely heavily on CoC funds. While the proposal is not law, if enacted, it would represent a major setback in national efforts to end homelessness and could result in a 36% spike in homelessness across the country.



**NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION**

Trump Administration Releases Additional Details of FY26 Budget Request Slashing HUD Rental and Homelessness Assistance

National Low Income Housing Coalition

The proposed FY2026 federal budget includes a 44% cut to HUD, eliminating direct support for critical housing programs and consolidating them into a new State Rental Assistance Block Grant. This change would phase out funding for long-standing programs like Housing Choice Vouchers, Public Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing, shifting control to states and adding time limits for some recipients. If implemented, these cuts could increase housing instability for millions of low-income families and significantly worsen homelessness across the country.



Making The Case for Housing as a Human Right

NJPR

In her book *And Housing for All: The Fight to End Homelessness in America*, Maria Foscarinis exposes the systemic roots of the homelessness crisis and argues that housing must be recognized as a human right. Drawing on decades of advocacy and real-life stories, she dismantles myths about personal failure and highlights how bipartisan policy decisions have deepened inequality. The book offers a powerful, evidence-based call to action for lasting change.

UL Interview: Jeff Olivet Analyzes The Current State of Homelessness in The United States

URBAN LAND



At the ULI 2025 Spring Meeting, homelessness expert Jeff Olivet called for bold and collaborative action to tackle the nation's housing crisis. Speaking at the Homeless to Housed Symposium, he emphasized the importance of cross-sector partnerships, racial equity, and a stronger focus on prevention and long-term solutions. His message was clear: ending homelessness will take collective effort from developers, health systems, and communities working together.



A Warrior's Homecoming: Trump's Push to End Veteran Homelessness

Real Clear Defense

A recent opinion piece criticizes the Biden administration for prioritizing funding for non-citizens over support for U.S. veterans, highlighting rising veteran homelessness and housing costs. The author praises former President Trump's executive order creating a National Center for Warrior Independence as a step toward redirecting resources to those who served. Could Trump's approach be a return to common-sense governance focused on veterans, border security, and economic stability?



Opinion: Listen to the Voices of the Homeless

BUCKS COUNTRY BEACON

Including people with lived experience in shaping homelessness policy and solutions is critical. As homelessness reaches record highs across the country, personal stories highlight how often decisions are made without consulting those directly affected. Real change, the author argues, requires listening to and valuing the voices of people who have experienced homelessness firsthand.

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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NJ Coalition to End Homelessness | 10 Mercer Street | Princeton, NJ 08540 US

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