

# Homelessness MATTERS



April 9th, 2026

## IN THIS EDITION:

- **Opportunities for Action: Introducing the S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ Campaign to protect the homeless response system - see below for details on how to contact your legislator!**
- **Resources for Providers:** Critical: Join the 4/13 Webinar on protecting voting access for unhoused communities; 4/14 Suicide prevention training for homeless services providers; Free "BATHE" training available to improve communications with clients
- **NJ Homelessness in the News:** NJ bill expands affordable housing development to nonprofits, communities; Woodbridge advances supportive housing to address homelessness long-term
- **News From Around the Country:** Court overturns HUD changes, safeguarding homelessness funding nationwide; FY2027 budget threatens homeless programs, shifting costs to states; The hidden crisis of dying while unhoused

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

A graphic for the S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ campaign. It features a dark blue background with a yellow horizontal band. On the left is a shield-shaped logo with "S.H.I.E.L.D." at the top and "NJ" at the bottom, containing three stylized human figures. To the right of the shield, the text "S.H.I.E.L.D. NJ" is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below the yellow band, the text "A plan to fund sheltering people now and to prevent homelessness before it starts." is written in white. In the bottom right corner is the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness logo, which includes a stylized house outline and the text "NEW JERSEY COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS" and "we can. we must. we will.".

### 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](mailto:rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org)

## RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



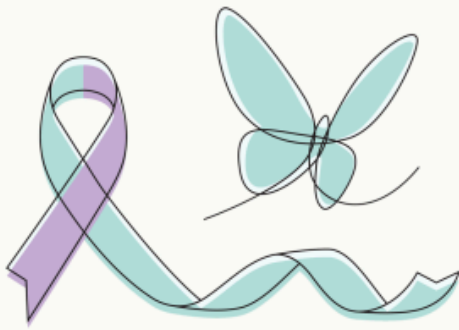
**Protecting Voting Rights:**  
**Strengthening Democracy Through Local Housing Advocacy**  
**Webinar: Monday, April 13th 3:00pm - 4:00pm**

Join the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness and the National Low Income Housing Coalition for a webinar on the critical role that housing advocates and homeless service providers play in supporting democratic participation and protecting access to the ballot, especially for unhoused and low-income voters.

Coalition Policy Associate, Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz will be speaking about the Coalition's *Homeless Does Not Mean Voteless: Power to the Polls* program.

**[Register to join this important event Monday, 4/13 at 3 PM!](#)**

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# 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Senator: We Need 200,000 Homes. The Solution May Be in Your Neighborhood](#)

[nj.com](http://nj.com)

NJ State Senator Troy Singleton is proposing legislation to help address New Jersey's shortage of more than 200,000 affordable homes by allowing faith-based and nonprofit organizations



### [Woodbridge Plans to Open Homeless Housing in Hopelawn Section](#)

[Patch.com](http://Patch.com)

Woodbridge plans to address homelessness by partnering with the Raritan Bay Area YMCA to create a 28-unit building in Hopelawn offering 40 beds of permanent housing for

to build housing on underused property. The plan would require affordability set-asides while maintaining local oversight, aiming to remove zoning barriers and expand housing opportunities through partnerships with community institutions.



### [NJ DHS Opens First ER Alternative for Those in Crisis](#)

*PIX 11*

New Jersey has opened its first Crisis Receiving Stabilization Center (CRSC), offering an alternative to overcrowded emergency rooms for people experiencing mental health, substance abuse, or suicidal crises. The center provides 24-hour therapeutic support and connects patients to follow-up care, aiming to reduce chaos and improve outcomes for those in crisis. This initiative is particularly important for policymakers, healthcare providers, and community leaders seeking practical strategies to improve behavioral health response and ensure vulnerable individuals receive timely, humane care.

individuals experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic violence. Officials emphasized the project is designed as long-term supportive housing—not a temporary shelter—marking a local investment in more stable, housing-based solutions to homelessness.



### [Wayne College Students, County to Use AI to Battle Homelessness](#)

*Patch.com*

Passaic County and William Paterson University have launched an AI Innovation Business Challenge Hackathon inviting students to create ethical, AI-driven solutions addressing homelessness, food access, and public assistance needs, including barriers to housing, SNAP requirements, and food rescue coordination. Tied to the county's Impact Passaic initiative, the program will culminate in an April 23 showcase where student teams present proposals—with the potential for further development—aimed at turning innovative ideas into real community solutions.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



### [What The President's Budget Proposes for Homelessness in FY27](#)

*National Alliance to End Homelessness*



### [Court Strikes Down HUD's COC Grant Changes](#)

*Affordable Housing Finance*

A federal court has struck down HUD's new Continuum of Care (CoC) grant

The National Alliance to End Homelessness warns that the President's FY2027 budget proposal threatens critical programs, including the Continuum of Care, cutting overall funding for homeless assistance while shifting responsibility to state and local governments. This is particularly concerning as more than 17,500 people become homeless each week due to severe affordable housing shortages. The Alliance emphasizes that maintaining and expanding proven programs, informed by research and local needs, is essential to prevent harm and provide effective solutions for policymakers, advocates, and communities working to end homelessness.

rules, ruling that the agency unlawfully imposed political criteria that could have blocked funding for programs serving people experiencing homelessness. The decision restores fair access to federal housing funds and underscores the need for predictable, nonpartisan support for permanent supportive housing. Advocates say the ruling is a win for communities and service providers who rely on HUD programs to help vulnerable populations secure stable housing.



## [The Hidden Crisis of Dying While Unhoused](#)

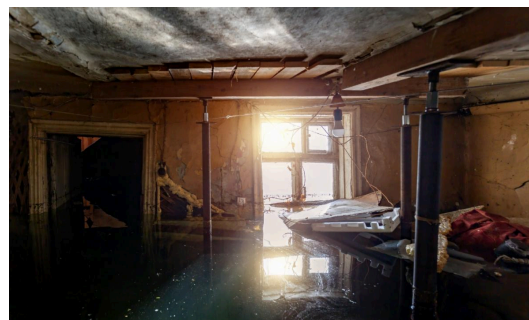
*invisible PEOPLE*

People experiencing homelessness who are seriously ill are often excluded from hospice and end-of-life care because most programs require stable housing and a caregiver. As a result, many are discharged from hospitals back to the streets, where they must manage advanced illness without consistent support. While a few programs combine housing and medical care to provide dignity at the end of life, these solutions remain limited and difficult to scale.



## [Acting Locally: States, Counties, and Cities on The Front Lines](#)

*Shelterforce*



## [Evictions and Climate Disasters Drove U.S. Homelessness Spikes from 2019-2024](#)

With federal support for housing often limited or obstructed, states and local governments are taking innovative steps to protect tenants and expand affordable housing. Shelterforce highlights examples such as Chattanooga, Tennessee, overhauling a property tax abatement program to build affordable units in affluent areas, state-level fair housing and consumer protections, and strategies to reduce evictions and land speculation. These efforts show that even without strong federal action, local initiatives can stabilize communities, stretch housing dollars further, and inspire broader reform in the fight for housing justice.

*Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

A new study from Johns Hopkins and UCLA shows that spikes in U.S. homelessness from 2019 to 2024 were driven largely by evictions and climate-related disasters, rather than economic factors like rents or unemployment. Eviction moratoria helped blunt these surges, while floods, fires, and storms worsened them, highlighting the urgent need for stronger tenant protections and climate-resilient housing. This research underscores that preventing homelessness isn't just about long-term affordability—it requires immediate, targeted policies to protect people when disasters strike.



### [Maria's Story](#)

*National Coalition for the Homeless*

This story of one woman's journey shows just how fragile stability can be for millions of Americans: even with a job and determination, rising rents, underpaid work, and laws that criminalize survival leave many on the brink of homelessness. Across the U.S., advocates warn that housing is a human right, and without bold solutions, too many will remain trapped in a cycle of fear, instability, and displacement.



### [Maine's Pool of Money from Taxes on Home Sales Is](#)



## Growing. How Is It Being

### Used?

KARE 11

Maine lawmakers are considering using revenue from the state's real estate transfer tax, including the "mansion tax" on high-value homes, to fund homeless shelters in addition to existing affordable housing programs. The proposal would divert a small portion of the Housing Production Fund to support shelters, sparking debate over trade-offs between creating affordable housing and directly funding homelessness services. Lawmakers continue to weigh how best to allocate the growing tax revenue amid rising housing costs and limited resources.

## 'The Homelessness Fix' Presents a Bold Plan to End Street Homelessness Without New Taxes

*Des Moines Register*

Claudio Bono's *The Homelessness Fix* tackles the urgent problem of more than 650,000 Americans experiencing street homelessness, while millions of hotel rooms and unused rewards points remain idle. The book offers a structured, actionable plan that policymakers, business leaders, nonprofit professionals, and concerned community members can understand, evaluate, and advocate for, redirecting underutilized private resources into coordinated shelter, job training, and support services. It demonstrates how existing resources, combined with strategic policy incentives, could provide immediate relief and long-term solutions to homelessness.

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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](mailto:info@NJCEH.org)

**DONATE TO SUPPORT THE COALITION'S WORK TO END HOMELESSNESS**



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

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