

Homelessness MATTERS



June 26th, 2025

RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

It Just Makes Sense!

**TELL YOUR LEGISLATOR
TO INCLUDE**

\$10 MILLION

**TO KEEP HOMELESS
SHELTERS' DOORS
OPEN**

SCAN HERE TO BE THE CHANGE

Act Now! Tell Your Legislators "It Just Makes Sense" to Include \$10 Million to Keep Homeless Shelters' Doors Open

We need your help! We are rapidly approaching Monday, June 30, the date by which the Legislature and Governor must decide on a final budget.

- [Please take action ASAP 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.
- Please also share widely the [It Just Makes Sense video campaign](#) to ensure as many people contact their legislators this week as possible, featuring videos from NJ leaders who know that it just makes sense to address the rising rates of homelessness in our state.

This is desperately needed as homelessness across New Jersey has risen 45% in the past two years and massive proposed federal cuts to HUD threaten to put another [45,552 New Jersey households at imminent risk of homelessness](#), if enacted. We cannot afford for more shelters and homeless emergency services to close their doors during this crisis.



'People Over Pickleball' - Church Fights Toms River Seizing Property

New Jersey 101.5

In Toms River, officials are trying to seize the property of Christ Episcopal Church—known for feeding, sheltering, and supporting hundreds in need—using eminent domain to build a park and pickleball court. The church has served as a critical hub for food distribution, shelter for homeless families, addiction recovery groups, and community events for over 25 years. If the church is lost, it would displace vital services, grieving families, and a faith community—and residents are rallying to stop it.

Controversy Surrounds Removal of Homeless People's Items from Tom's River Library

News12 New Jersey

In Toms River, police were seen removing and discarding belongings from a parking garage near the Ocean County Library, sparking outrage from homeless advocates who say people lost essential items like IDs and medication. Mayor Dan Rodrick claims the items were illegally dumped and denies targeting the homeless, but critics say this is part of a broader effort to displace them. Tensions continue to rise as advocates accuse the town of criminalizing homelessness instead of providing needed resources.



Newark Shelters, Hospitals Struggle to Deal with 100-Degree Temperatures

TAPinto Newark

Earlier this week, Newark was under a Code Red heat emergency as temperatures soared past 100 degrees, causing a rise in respiratory issues—especially among children and people with chronic illnesses—due to poor air quality. Local hospitals are seeing more patients, while shelters for the homeless are already at full capacity, leaving

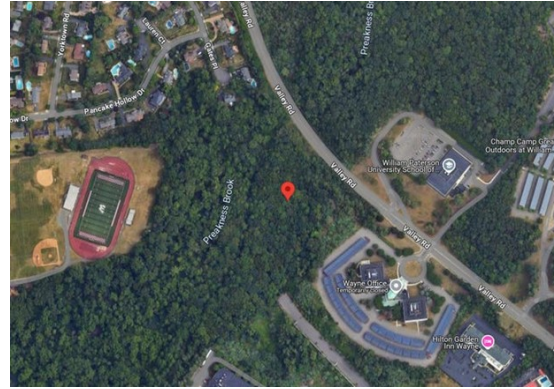


many without safe refuge from the extreme heat. Advocates warn the system is strained, and without more resources, the situation could worsen.

'Home Run for Us': NJ Town Okes Contract for 100% Affordable Housing Project

NJ.com

Wayne Township has partnered with Montclair-based RPM Development Group to build a 100-unit affordable housing complex—featuring 10 units for residents with disabilities—on township-owned land at 1805 Valley Road. Approved unanimously by the Township Council, the project is seen as a unique opportunity due to limited available municipal land, with officials praising RPM's strong proposal.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

'Sell Off?' - Public Land Eyed to Fix U.S. Housing Crisis

Context

A federal task force is surveying public lands across the U.S. to identify parcels that could be used for affordable housing, raising concerns over potential mass land sell-offs. While supporters argue it could ease shortages in fast-growing states like Nevada, critics warn that without strong safeguards, the initiative may lead to market-rate development or loss of valuable public resources. The debate highlights tensions between addressing the housing crisis and protecting public lands for future generations.



The President's FY2026 Budget Proposal: Potential Impacts on Efforts to Prevent and End Homelessness

National Alliance to End Homelessness

The Trump administration's FY2026 budget proposal would drastically cut or eliminate critical programs that prevent and address homelessness, including gutting HUD's Homeless Assistance Grants and replacing key rental assistance programs with a



Number of Homeless Americans Over 55 Set to Triple in Five Years

Yahoo! News

About 20% of people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. are age 55 or older—a number expected to triple by

reduced, state-run model. These changes would put hundreds of thousands at risk of losing housing, dismantle the infrastructure of local homelessness response systems, and deepen racial and economic disparities. While the President proposes, it's up to Congress to reject these harmful cuts and protect the resources communities rely on to fight homelessness.

2030 as the Baby Boomer generation ages. Many older adults become homeless after losing a loved one, facing medical issues, or being priced out of housing, with late Boomers particularly vulnerable due to economic challenges in their youth. Aging while homeless leads to severe health impacts, with higher hospitalization rates, earlier physical decline, and significantly shorter life expectancy.

Students Sue Labor Department to Block Job Corps Shuttering

Courthouse News Source

Students are suing the Department of Labor to stop the Trump administration from shutting down the Job Corps program, which provides housing, education, and job training to 25,000 low-income youth—over 4,500 of whom were previously homeless. They argue the closure violates federal law, puts thousands at risk of losing stable housing, and ignores Congress's intent by defunding a program it just allocated \$1.7 billion to support. Without action, students like Anaraia Cabrera could be forced from dorms into homelessness before completing their training.



SNAP Work Requirement Carve-Outs for Vets, Homeless Caught in Crosshairs of Trump Bill

THE HILL

Congress is considering a proposal that would end SNAP work requirement exemptions for veterans, unhoused individuals, and former foster youth—groups previously protected under a bipartisan deal through 2030. The change, pushed by Senate Republicans as part of a broader effort to cut federal spending and extend Trump-era tax breaks, could put food access at risk for thousands of vulnerable people.



How Hotels, Once a Last Resort, Became New York's Default Answer to Homelessness

NEW YORK FOCUS

Across New York State, the use of hotels as emergency shelters has surged—tripling in cost and now accounting for nearly half of placements outside NYC—while often failing to provide basic support services like food, child care, and housing assistance. Families like Jasmine Stradford's are shuffled through unsafe, unstable hotel stays for months, sometimes years, losing belongings, school access, and dignity in the process.

Critics argue this move is both harmful and costly to states, while supporters claim it simplifies administration and promotes work.

Advocates warn that this patchwork system isolates people from the services meant to help them regain stability and can be more expensive than simply preventing homelessness in the first place.

Many Woman Are One Bad Week Away from Homelessness

Women's AGENDA

Women over 45 are now among the fastest-growing groups at risk of homelessness, often hidden from statistics as they couch surf or live in unsafe, unstable housing. A mix of rising rents, the gender pay gap, caregiving responsibilities, and financial fallout from divorce leave many just one crisis away from losing their homes. But with access to financial education, co-ownership models, and government-backed loan programs, there are practical steps women can take to protect their housing futures and build long-term stability.



In America, Low-Wage Jobs Are 'Homelessness Waiting to Happen'

Rolling Stone

There Is No Place for Us lays bare the brutal struggle of America's working poor—families who work full-time yet still can't afford a place to live. Brian Goldstone follows mothers, fathers, and children pushed to the edge, forced to live in motel rooms, storage closets, or sleep in silence to avoid being discovered. Their lives are a constant fight against eviction, hunger, and hopelessness, trapped in a system that promises opportunity but delivers only survival. In the end, there's no dramatic rescue—just more waiting, more loss, and the devastating truth that homelessness has become a permanent condition for millions



Man's Innovative Solution is Tackling Homelessness, Helping 8 People at a Time

People

After seeing a man sleeping outside in 2016, Jason Christensen felt compelled to act—and ended up helping 18 people move from homelessness into permanent housing. Using a mix of personal savings and grant funding, he built the SleepTrailer: a mobile unit with lockable sleeping pods that offer safety, privacy, and a moment to breathe. More than just shelter, Christensen connected guests with local resources and support networks, giving them a chance to pause the chaos, regain control, and take the next steps toward stability and a home of their own.

who are simply trying to hang on.

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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HOMELESSNESS**



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