

Homelessness MATTERS



November 26th, 2025



Many, many years ago, in a simpler time, the ideal Thanksgiving was like the Norman Rockwell painting; apron-swaddled mom, looking surprisingly rested, presenting the huge, perfectly browned turkey with numerous sides to the admiring family around the table. Modern life is more varied and complex. However, what remains is the celebration of family, in all its definitions. Family are those who see you and know you. They worry about your well-being and will share what they have with you when you are in need. They are your “ride or die”, they’ve got your back.

By reading this, you are showing that you are part of the community that cares about and stands with people experiencing homelessness in New Jersey. Your support for the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness — support that makes our work possible — demonstrates that you are truly part of this “family.”

We, and they, thank you.

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Full House for the Coalition's Homelessness Roundtable at the NJ League of Municipalities Conference

Last week at the NJ League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, the Coalition convened a roundtable spotlighting meaningful local efforts to address homelessness. This was a much needed spark of hope. In this moment of upsurging homelessness and devastating federal funding cuts, municipal and county leaders came together to work toward making a difference, choosing to act and prioritize homelessness and saying "what can I do?" rather than shifting responsibility.

We are especially grateful to Newton Mayor Helen Le Frois, Executive Director of the NJ Association of Counties, John Donnadio, and Haddonfield Commissioner Itir Cole, and to the NJ League of Municipalities for hosting this critical discussion.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Urgent Statewide Briefing on the CoC NOFO and the Threat to the NJ Housing System: Next Thursday, December 4th, 2:00-3:00PM

Join the NJ Office of Homelessness Prevention, NJ Attorney General's Office, and HMIS for a crucial statewide briefing on the significant changes to the FY25 CoC NOFO — cuts that are projected to push **3,300 additional New Jerseyans into homelessness in the first year alone.**

This session is from 2-3 PM next Thursday, December 4. Please share the Teams link widely with your networks: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODQyOWY0ZGQtNjUxMS00Y2I3LWJiNzYtY2ExOTkyNGNhMDRh%40tthead.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%225076c3d1-3802-4b9f-b36a-e0a41bd642a7%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22c3eee07c-c638-44dc-b47c-a2f7576c4c2c%22%7d

Tell Piscataway Mayor: Housing Not Handcuffs! Show Up Tuesday 12/2 at 7pm

The Piscataway Town Council is voting next Tuesday, December 2nd at 7 PM to introduce a series of proposals criminalizing homelessness.

One proposal bans sleeping and camping in public and enables the Police Department to order people sleeping outside to leave — subjecting unhoused people to potential trespass charges and fines up to \$2,000 and/or 90 days jail time if they can not pay. Another proposal limits hotel and motel stays to 31 days and requires hotels to turn over guest lists to police upon request. **Punishing people for being homeless is cruel, costly, and ineffective.**

Join us on Tuesday at the Piscataway Municipal Building to stand against these harmful measures [\(RSVP here\)](#)! [Please also sign onto a public letter](#) urging the Council and Mayor

to withdraw these criminalizing proposals.

Register to Testify at Tuesday's NJ Department of Human Services' Budget Listening Session

Next Tuesday, December 2nd at 1 PM is the NJ Department of Human Services (DHS) budget listening session — an opportunity to speak for 3 minutes or submit written testimony advocating for any DHS funding that needs to be included in the FY27 state budget. **The deadline to sign up to testify is noon on Monday, December 1st.**

Training Next Wednesday on Navigating the Lane Duck Session: Advocacy Strategies for the Final Push

Please join us and the League of Women Voters of New Jersey next Wednesday, December 3rd at 6 PM for a training and discussion on how to make the most of the lane duck session and how to prepare to respond effectively during these final weeks of the legislative calendar. [Register here.](#)

RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS



Statewide Housing Info Session on NJ's 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver for Housing Support Services

As a follow-up in the series of Statewide Housing Info sessions, the NJ Department of Children and Families (DCF)'s Office of Housing is partnering with the NJ Department of Human Services to facilitate the next Housing Info session for Provider Partners, community stakeholders, and DCF teams.

When: Tuesday, December 9th from 2:00pm-2:45pm.
The meeting can be accessed by clicking the link [here](#).

The session is an opportunity for community partners to access information and increase awareness about **NJ's 1115 Demonstration Waiver for Housing Support Services**. The DHS/DMAHS team will explore how community partners can stay connected to waiver and related funding opportunities.

This is also an opportunity to ask questions and clarify information; we ask that you share questions in advance via email with DCF.Officeofhousing@dcf.nj.gov.

QUALITY & AFFORDABLE HELP

WHEN YOUR STAFF – OR YOU – NEED IT

An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for agencies of any size, providing Shelter and/or Services to those experiencing homelessness in New Jersey.



Sign-Up by **DEC. 5**
EAP Begins on **JAN. 1, 2026**

Contact Connie to sign-up and learn more: CMercer@njceh.org
Check out ResponseWorks, Inc. at www.responseworks.com

Reasons for your Agency to Engage an EAP

- Increased employee productivity
- Reduced absenteeism
- Enhanced employee retention
- Improved workplace morale and culture
- It is the right thing to do!
- Annual Usage Report

Quality EAP

- Up to Four (4) Therapy Sessions for free; then employee is linked to their own work benefits for further sessions (if needed)
- Dependent Care, Consultation and Referral Services
- Financial and Legal Consultation
- EAP services available to all family members of your employees
- Monthly access for all employees to an online interactive resource: MindHealth Matters

Affordable Care

- Base fee per Agency: \$500/year (for 20 or fewer employees)
20+ Employees: Base fee plus \$24 per employee each year
- NJCEH is making this EAP available to All Agencies that serve those experiencing homelessness.
- EAP services are available to Full-time and Part-time employees.

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS

Homelessness Is Rising. NJ Towns Might Get Help with Housing

NJ Spotlight News

Comments from Coalition staff member Alicia Alvarez are highlighted in this important piece on legislation being considered by New Jersey lawmakers that would allow municipalities to create homelessness trust funds and housing plans. This would expand powers that many counties already use to fund permanent affordable housing and prevention services. The proposal comes as the state faces rising homelessness, soaring housing costs, and federal shifts toward transitional housing and reduced long-term housing support. Under the bill, towns could direct fees from fines into local trust funds dedicated to affordable housing,



rental assistance, and temporary shelter. Advocates say this local tool is essential amid scarce resources, while also noting that each community will need to decide whether to adopt the program and commit to sustained implementation.

Critics Warn Piscataway's Proposed Ordinances Criminalize Homelessness

TAPinto Piscataway

Advocacy groups, residents, and service organizations across New Jersey are urging the Piscataway Township Council to withdraw proposed ordinances that they say would criminalize homelessness by allowing police to remove unhoused people from public areas and charge them with trespassing. In a joint letter, dozens of statewide groups argue the measures are punitive, ineffective, and out of step with evidence-based solutions, especially as Piscataway offers no municipal homeless services and similar ordinances elsewhere have drawn strong opposition. The coalition calls on township leaders to abandon the proposals — which include bans on sleeping on public land and new hotel registry rules — and instead invest in Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, and other compassionate approaches ahead of council votes scheduled for late November and early December.



Designs for the Camden County Center to Target Homelessness, Substance Abuse Unveiled to City Planning Board

TAPinto Camden

Camden County is developing an \$8 million Multi-Agency Center (MAC) to support residents facing homelessness and substance abuse, complementing a \$22 million shelter under construction with 60 efficiency apartments. The 8,000-square-foot center will provide shared office space for nonprofits and government agencies to meet with clients, while also offering basic services like showers and food. Clients will be expected to actively participate in resolving their challenges, such as housing, employment, or obtaining identification, with the center set to open by late next summer.



Human Services Report Highlights Impact of State Support to Help Families Afford Diapers and Hygiene Produce

NJ HUMAN SERVICES

New Jersey's Work First Menstrual Hygiene and Diaper Benefit Pilot Program, which ended in October, highlighted how financial stress from basic necessities can intersect with housing insecurity. Surveys of participants show that even modest assistance for diapers and hygiene products helped families stretch their budgets, reducing some of the pressures that can contribute to housing instability. Officials note that rising costs of living make it harder for families to maintain stable housing while covering essential needs, underscoring the importance of supportive programs that address both basic needs and housing

stability. Expanding such benefits could help prevent families from falling into homelessness due to financial strain.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Those Helping the Homeless Are Hurting Too According to Study

University of Buffalo

A national study found that homeless services workers have unusually high rates of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), which are linked to burnout and secondary traumatic stress. With homelessness rising and worker shortages worsening since the pandemic, these personal histories may heighten the risk of employees leaving the field. Researchers argue that organizations must provide systemic supports—such as training, peer programs, and built-in mental-health resources—to sustain a healthy, effective workforce.



Trump Sets New Direction on Homelessness Policy

City Journal

The Trump administration's revised HUD scoring criteria shift federal homelessness funding away from Housing First and toward transitional, work- and sobriety-oriented programs, marking a major policy departure. Supporters argue that transitional housing can serve a broader range of people and restore balance to a system long dominated by permanent supportive housing, even as critics say the changes are extreme and risk undermining proven approaches. The new rules will make much more funding competitive and significantly reduce the share going to permanent housing, prompting ongoing debates about evidence, program effectiveness, and how best to address diverse needs within homelessness and mental-health systems.



New National Poll Shows Strong Doubts Over Trump Administration's Sudden Actions to Upend Federal Homelessness Programs

NAEH



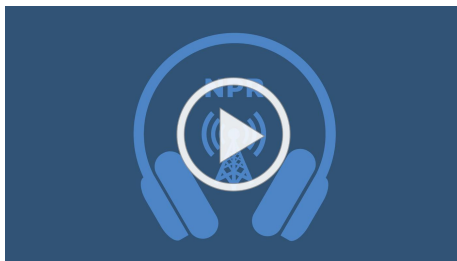
Homeless Camp Sweeps Can Harm Health. Some Cities Are Trying a New Way

The Marshall Project

Encampment sweeps—now widely used as street homelessness has grown—often

A new national poll shows widespread public concern over the Trump Administration's abrupt decision to defund HUD's permanent housing programs for people experiencing homelessness and shift resources to less effective, more costly transitional housing. Most respondents fear the rushed timing—coming just before current assistance expires and likely delaying funds for months—will worsen homelessness and leave over 170,000 people without stable housing. The survey also reveals a lack of trust that displaced individuals will be reconnected to housing, reinforcing advocates' calls to expand, not cut, federal housing investments.

deepen trauma, disrupt medical care, and lead to lost medications and higher risks of infection, overdose, and premature death for people living outside. Research and emerging best-practice models show that slower, housing-focused approaches that match residents with appropriate, private shelter and services can clear encampments while reducing harm, though they require time, coordination, and available long-term housing. Yet with mounting political pressure, limited affordable units, and looming federal funding cuts, many communities still rely on rapid sweeps, leaving unhoused people caught between unsafe encampments and insufficient alternatives even as more supportive strategies demonstrate better outcomes.



Homeless Shelters Are Adapting to Meet the Growing Number of Seniors Among Them

NPR

A new generation of shelters is emerging to meet the needs of seniors, the fastest-growing homeless population, who often struggle in traditional facilities not designed for people with limited mobility or complex medical conditions. One such model in Utah offers accessible rooms, private bathrooms, on-site medical staff, and regular clinical care, helping residents manage medications and stabilize their health. Similar senior-focused shelters are opening around the country, and early results show high rates of transitions into permanent housing. For many older adults, these medically supportive environments provide the safety and stability needed to pursue recovery and long-term independence.



Lawmakers Introduce Legislation to Block Collusive Rental Pricing Software

CPI

U.S. lawmakers have introduced the End Rent Fixing Act to curb the use of algorithm-driven tools that allow landlords to coordinate rent increases, a practice that has worsened housing affordability and contributed to rising homelessness. The bill targets software platforms that share pricing data among landlords, treating such coordination as illegal collusion and a direct threat to renters' ability to secure stable housing. Supporters say the legislation is crucial as nearly 800,000 Americans are homeless and many families spend over half their income on rent, with algorithmic pricing exacerbating the nation's housing crisis.

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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