

Homelessness MATTERS



July 8th, 2026

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- **Resources for Providers:** NJ Family Care Housing Supports Provider Expansion Grant Opportunity Released; Free furniture available for Homeless Service Providers; Register for Upcoming Training: Understanding Medication in Mental Health Management; Register for Upcoming Webinar on Trauma-Informed Care and Communication
- **NJ Homelessness in the News:** New Jersey Sues HUD Over Homeless Housing Funding Changes; FY2027 Budget Strengthens New Jersey's Homelessness Response; Rent-Setting Software Ban Heads to Governor's Desk; New Alice Report Finds Nearly Two in Five New Jersey Households Face Hardship
- **News From Around the Country:** Federal Judge Blocks Unlawful HUD Homelessness Funding Changes; Louisiana Enacts One of Nation's Harshest Anti-Homeless Laws; Black Americans Remain Disproportionately Affected by Homelessness

And much more...

COALITION NEWS

At Least 9 Unhoused New Jerseyans Died During this Weekend's Heat Wave

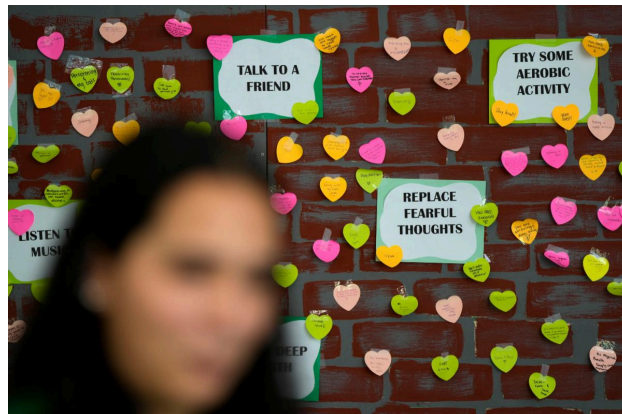
We are devastated to confirm that at least nine unhoused New Jersey residents died during the recent heat wave between June 30-July 4.

These deaths were not inevitable. They are a profound tragedy and a stark reminder of the deadly consequences of failing to ensure that every person has access to safe shelter during extreme weather.

It is unconscionable that in one of the wealthiest states in the nation, during a weekend when our country celebrated 250 years of freedom, at least nine people lost their lives because they had nowhere safe to escape the dangerous heat.

Every one of these lives mattered. Every one of these deaths demands accountability and renewed urgency to protect our most vulnerable neighbors.

We will share additional information as it becomes available.



What Made It, What's Missing from Sherrill's Mental-Health Spending

NJ Spotlight News

NJ Governor Mikie Sherrill's \$60.7 billion state budget includes new investments in mental health, addiction, and homelessness services, including \$25 million for rapid re-housing and \$4 million for the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness. The funding comes as New Jersey's homelessness crisis continues to grow, with the 2026 Point-In-Time Count identifying 13,748 people experiencing homelessness — the highest number since 2014. Advocates welcomed the investments while continuing to call for additional resources to strengthen the state's crisis response system.

*Correction: The blurb for the article below in last week's newsletter incorrectly stated that the Rutgers Bloustein research featured by NJ Spotlight News was commissioned by the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness. In fact, the research was conducted independently and was **not** commissioned by the Coalition.*



Report: Other States Besting What NJ Spends on Homelessness

NJ Spotlight News

An analysis from the Rutgers Bloustein School finds that New Jersey spends significantly less on homelessness services than peer states like Massachusetts and Connecticut, even as the state's homeless population has risen roughly 70% from 2021 to 2025 amid rising housing costs and limited affordable housing. The report highlights that lower per-capita investment in prevention, shelter, and housing supports may be contributing to growing need, as advocates warn existing resources are not keeping pace with demand. With state budget negotiations underway, the findings are being used to call for increased and sustained investment in homelessness services across New Jersey.

RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



RFP Released for NJ FamilyCare Housing Supports Program Provider Capacity Expansion 2026

The NJ FamilyCare Housing Supports Program Provider Capacity Expansion 2026 Request for Proposals (RFP) is now available. This funding opportunity will help nonprofit organizations build or expand their capacity to provide NJ FamilyCare Housing Supports services, increasing access to housing assistance for members experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Funding is available for both new providers and existing providers seeking to expand services, with **applications due July 31, 2026**.

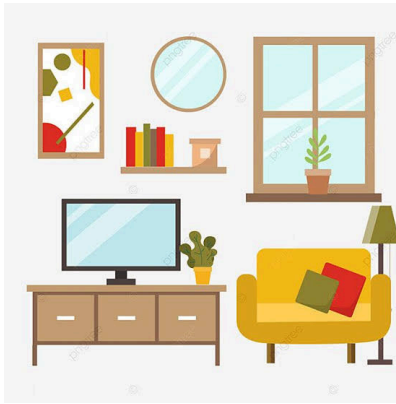
RFP Guidelines:

<https://www.nj.gov/dca/dhcr/forms/docs/njfamilycareguidelines.pdf>

Apply in DCA SAGE:

https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/RFPMailingRequest_List.asp

For more information about the required technical assistance sessions and the application process, please contact Rita Mirabelli, Project Director, Housing Supports Provider Readiness Program, at rita.mirabelli@dca.nj.gov or 609-766-9269.



Free Hotel Furnishings Available for Homeless Service Providers

NJCEH is working with a hotel in Central Jersey that is closing its doors effective August 3rd. They have many items available for distribution that we are looking to rehome to homeless service providers and their clients.

We ask interested organizations to fill out [this form](#) by the end of the day **Friday July 10th**, to confirm which items you are interested in.



Free Webinar on Trauma-Informed Care and Communication

Join us for a free webinar: Trauma-Informed Care and Communication, held in collaboration with SAMHSA's Opioid Response network. The goal of this training is to promote understanding of foundational concepts of trauma-informed care and to instill practical skills for implementing these concepts in day-to-day interactions with clients.

Click to register below:

Fri, 7/17, 1:30-3 PM:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/HPAZKPFQSmYDZ6v33EyQ_g

Wed, 7/29, 2-3:30 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/K3LltNzRo6MOAdhro6EzQ>

Wed, 7/29, 5:30-7 PM:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZCT_4XxnSYiuMppwDivfFg

Mon, 8/3, 9-10:30

AM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/VFw93hhdQP6ml14mMXIVCw>



Understanding Medication in Mental Health Management



Wednesday, July 15, 2026

During this 1-hour workshop, we will discuss:

- * Common medication types
- * Side effects that may impact behavior
- * The importance of adherence and barriers
- * Reducing stigma around medication

Session times:

6-7AM
8-9AM
10-11AM
2-3PM
4-5PM
6-7PM



bit.ly/15julyUMMHM

- * Please register for this workshop in advance by scanning the QR code or visiting the URL.
- * 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

THE NONPROFIT TIMES
The Leading Business Publication For Nonprofit Management

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.

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



[N.J. Sues Trump Administration Over Homeless Funding - Again, Attorney General Says](#)

NJ.com

New Jersey joined more than 20 states and the District of Columbia in suing HUD over its FY2026 Continuum of Care funding rules, arguing they unlawfully shift funding away from permanent housing and could force tens of thousands of formerly homeless people back onto the streets. The lawsuit follows a similar legal victory against HUD's FY2025 funding changes and warns that New Jersey alone could lose more than \$22.4 million in permanent housing funding, putting 1,341 residents at risk of losing their homes.



[Gov. Sherrill Signs \\$60.7B New Jersey Budget With Property Tax Relief, Pension Funding](#)

wrnj

Gov. Mikie Sherrill has signed New Jersey's FY2027 budget, which includes continued investments in homelessness response programs alongside broader affordability initiatives. The spending plan provides funding for homelessness services, including support for veterans experiencing homelessness, as the state continues working to address rising housing instability across New Jersey.



[Legislature Sends FAIR Act to Gov. Sherrill, Advancing Ban on Algorithmic Rent-Setting Software](#)

THE NEW JERSEY VINDICATOR

Legislation that would ban landlords from using algorithmic rent-setting software to coordinate rental prices has cleared the New Jersey Legislature and now awaits Gov. Mikie Sherrill's signature. Supporters say the FAIR Act could help curb unfair rent increases and improve housing affordability, while emphasizing that additional investments in affordable housing and homelessness prevention remain



NJ Working Families Can't Keep Up With Skyrocketing Inflation, Report Finds

Patch

A new ALICE report from the United Way of Northern New Jersey finds that nearly two in five New Jersey households struggle to afford basic necessities, despite many adults working full-time. The findings highlight the growing affordability crisis and the financial pressures that can place more families at risk of housing instability and homelessness.



New Jersey is Set to Charge Companies With Workers on Medicaid. Other States May Follow

ABC News

New Jersey has enacted a first-in-the-nation employer assessment on large companies with significant numbers of employees enrolled in Medicaid, a move intended to help offset rising Medicaid costs as federal policy changes take effect. The policy could have important implications for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as Medicaid remains a critical source of health coverage for many low-income New Jersey residents.

From Foster Care to Advocacy: Kean Sociology Graduate Helps Reshape New Jersey's Child Welfare System

EIN PRESSWIRE

A new profile from Kean University highlights the journey of alumnus Dashaan Jennings, who experienced homelessness after aging out of foster care and has become a leading advocate for youth and families across New Jersey. His story underscores the lasting impact of housing instability on young adults leaving foster care and the importance of lived experience in shaping more effective child welfare and homelessness policies.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Federal Judge Strikes Down HUD's Homelessness Policy Shift

Politico

A federal judge has ruled that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development unlawfully changed the federal Continuum of Care funding process for homelessness programs, finding that the agency failed to adequately consider the harm caused by disrupting permanent housing investments. The decision is a significant victory for homelessness service providers and advocates who argued that shifting away from Housing First principles could jeopardize critical resources for communities working to connect people experiencing homelessness with stable housing.



Commentary: Homelessness Just Declined in The U.S. Trump's Plans Will Take Us Backward.

ItemLive

Ann Oliva, CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness and former HUD official, argues that recent declines in homelessness demonstrate the importance of continuing investments in proven solutions rather than scaling back federal support. In a new commentary, Oliva warns that proposed cuts to homelessness programs and efforts to shift away from permanent housing approaches could undermine progress and leave more people without the resources needed to achieve housing stability.



Louisiana Governor Signs One of the Country's Cruellest Anti-Homeless Laws

Housing Not Handcuffs

In a major escalation of efforts to criminalize homelessness, Louisiana has enacted one of the nation's toughest anti-homeless laws, making it a crime to sleep outdoors and authorizing harsh penalties, including significant fines, jail time, and expanded use of forced treatment. Housing advocates warn the law could become a model for similar legislation in other states, arguing it shifts the response to homelessness away from housing and supportive services and toward punishment and incarceration.



Black Americans Continue to Overrepresent the Homelessness Crisis Today

blAck americaweb.com

A new analysis highlights the persistent racial disparities within the nation's homelessness crisis, noting that Black Americans make up about 13% of the U.S. population but more than 40% of people experiencing homelessness. The article examines how generations of discriminatory housing policies, income inequality, and barriers to wealth-building have contributed to this overrepresentation, and calls for targeted investments in affordable housing, homelessness prevention, rental assistance, and culturally responsive services to address the structural causes of housing instability.



Where the World Cup, Homelessness, and the ED Meet

MEDPAGE Today

A new commentary from emergency medicine physician Nidhi Bhaskar examines the connection between homelessness, health care, and public investment as cities prepare for the FIFA World Cup. Bhaskar argues that efforts to address homelessness must focus on long-term housing stability and access to care rather than simply moving people out of public view, noting that stable housing is essential to improving health outcomes and reducing preventable emergency room visits.



What Works To Address Homelessness

SOJOURNERS

In a new commentary, Jeff Olivet, former Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, argues that expanding conservatorship and involuntary hospitalization for veterans experiencing homelessness is not a substitute for proven solutions. Olivet emphasizes that investments in housing, supportive services, outreach and evidence-based approaches such as Housing First have helped reduce veteran homelessness and remain the most effective path forward.



What Will It Take to End Homelessness? Experts Weigh in on The Solutions

93.1FM WIBC

A new overview of homelessness solutions highlights the importance of combining prevention, affordable housing, health care access, and long-term support to help people achieve housing stability. The article emphasizes that while emergency shelter remains an essential crisis response, lasting progress requires investments in permanent housing approaches, including Housing First models and supportive services that address the underlying causes of homelessness.

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