

Homelessness MATTERS



November 13th, 2025

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COALITION NEWS



Planning for the Unthinkable: NJCEH to Host Roundtable on Homelessness at the NJ League of Municipalities Conference

The Coalition will host a roundtable discussion next **Wednesday, November 19th** from **9:00--10:15 AM** at the NJ League of Municipalities' conference. If you are at the Conference, please come join us for this important conversation between municipal leaders about what they are doing to prepare for this unthinkable moment of upsurging homelessness and devastating federal cuts.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



Stop the Dramatic Cuts and Federal Weaponization of CoC Funding, Putting Over 170,000 People at Risk of Homelessness

In a change expected to put more than 170,000 Americans at risk of experiencing

homelessness, [Politico reported](#) that HUD is planning to make dramatic cuts to the FY25 Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Now that the shutdown is coming to an end, we expect to see the CoC NOFO released. Your advocacy has already made an impact: [all 3 NJ Republicans Congressmen](#) signed onto a letter urging HUD to renew the existing CoC grants. [Tell Congress to stop the cuts of life-saving homeless services funding and hold HUD accountable to their promised 2-year funding cycle!](#)

RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS



Webinar: Omnibus Eviction & Homelessness Prevention (OEHP) Program

Friday, November 21st, 12:30-2 PM: Join DCA for a technical assistance webinar explaining the OEHP program, consolidating the Comprehensive Eviction Defense & Diversion (CEDD) and Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) into a unified statewide grant model, designed to make evictions and homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in New Jersey. This webinar is **mandatory for all prospective applicants**. [Register here](#).



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

As a follow up in the series of Statewide Housing Info sessions, NJ Department of Children and Families' (DCF)'s Office of Housing is partnering with the NJ Department of Human Services (DHS) 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.

THE ROLE OF MEDICATION IN MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Tuesday, November 18, 2025

During this 1-hour workshop, we will:

- * Gain an understanding of commonly used classes of psychiatric medications
- * Recognize the potential benefits of medication in supporting mental health
- * Identify common side effects associated with psychiatric medications
- * Explore common concerns and hesitations individuals may have about taking medication

**Session
times:**

6-7AM
8-9AM
10-11AM
1-2PM
3-4PM
7-8PM



bit.ly/NJCEHnov18

- * 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

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.

THE BRIDGE PROJECT IN NEW JERSEY

DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE FOR PREGNANT MOMS!

Eligibility Requirements

- Reside in the following locations:
 - City of Newark, City of Trenton,
 - City of Paterson, or Southwest Counties of Gloucester, Salem, or Cumberland
- Be 18 years old or older
- Be 23 weeks pregnant or less
- Have an annual household income under \$44,000
- No SSN or ITIN required!

APPLY HERE: WWW.BRIDGEPROJECT.ORG/APPLY



The NJ Department of Community Affairs recently released the NJ Eviction Guide, a guide available in English and Spanish to help tenants understand where they are in the eviction process and connect with free legal help in their county:

<https://evictionguide.dca.nj.gov/en>.

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



NJ Coalition to End Homelessness Adds Caution to Governor Mikie Sherrill's Congratulations

The Trentonian

Following Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill's decisive victory, Coalition CEO Connie Mercer congratulated the new administration while issuing an urgent call to prioritize the state's homelessness crisis. Mercer noted a 57 percent rise in homelessness over the past three years—more than 13,700 New Jerseyans are unhoused on any given night—and warned that proposed federal cuts could double unsheltered homelessness by 2026. "The stakes could not be higher—but neither could the opportunity," Mercer said. "With



Sherrill Agenda Faces Challenges on Homelessness, Mental Health and More

NJ Spotlight News

As Gov.-elect Mikie Sherrill prepares to take office, she faces mounting behavioral health challenges in New Jersey, including a worsening youth mental health crisis, a shortage of mental health care workers, and a growing homelessness problem. Her plans include a "New Jersey Online Safety Agenda" to protect children from social media harms, expanding access to mental health care and workforce support, and addressing housing affordability amid federal funding cuts and Medicaid changes. Sherrill's proposals aim to strengthen

decisive leadership, compassion, and collaboration, we can ensure that in New Jersey, everyone has a safe place to call home.”

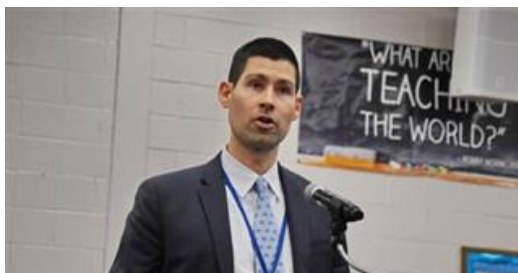
community supports, invest in the behavioral health workforce, and confront the state’s rising rates of homelessness and youth mental health concerns.



SNAP Funded in NJ Through November But Future Payments Remain Uncertain

yahoo.news!

After days of delay caused by the ongoing federal government shutdown, more than 800,000 New Jersey residents finally received their November SNAP benefits following a federal judge’s order for the Trump administration to release the funds. While the payments bring temporary relief, uncertainty remains for December as the shutdown continues, leaving families and food banks under strain. State and local agencies, along with nonprofits, are mobilizing to provide emergency food assistance, with Governor Phil Murphy accelerating \$42 million in grants to support food programs statewide.



'Earth Shattering' Amounts Being Spent on Displaced Students in Districts

Hanover Eagle

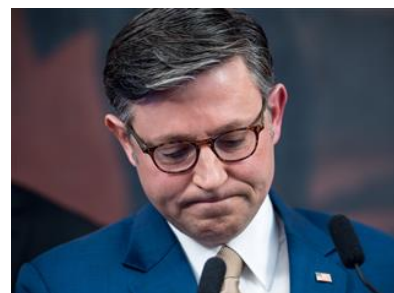
The Hanover Township Board of Education devoted its Oct. 28 meeting to discussing the growing financial impact of educating



Scutari Bill Establishing Municipal Homelessness Trust Fund and Housing Plans Advances

INSIDER NJ

New legislation sponsored by Senate President Nick Scutari (S-4832) would allow New Jersey municipalities to create homelessness trust funds and adopt local homeless housing plans to better address the state’s growing homelessness crisis. The bill aims to give towns sustainable funding and strategic tools—using revenue from existing fines and penalties—to invest in affordable housing, support services, and prevention programs. Scutari said the measure empowers local governments to respond effectively as homelessness in New Jersey has risen nearly 24% since 2023.



Congress Must Extend the ACA Subsidies or Expect a Crisis in NJ

nj.com

As the federal shutdown drags on, New Jersey families face a looming crisis as expanded Affordable Care Act subsidies are set to expire, threatening to double premiums and push millions off coverage. Losing these subsidies would burden

students experiencing homelessness. Superintendent Justin Toomey explained how rising homelessness in Morris County has led to an increase in students placed in the district under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which guarantees every child immediate access to education regardless of housing status. Toomey outlined the district's legal obligations, including enrollment, transportation, and tuition responsibilities, emphasizing that unplanned student placements have created significant and unexpected budget challenges as multiple districts now share responsibility for children temporarily living in local hotels and motels.

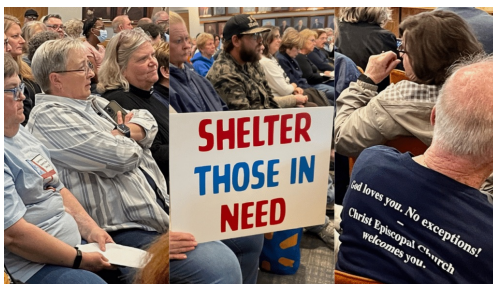
households already struggling with high costs, strain hospitals with unpaid care, and destabilize insurance markets. Extending them is framed as an urgent economic and moral necessity to protect affordable healthcare access and preserve stability for nearly half a million New Jerseyans.



Hudson County Warming Center Will Provide Relief from Cold Beginning on November 15

TAPinto Jersey City

Hudson County will reopen its Kearny Warming Center from November 15, 2024, through March 31, 2025, to provide shelter, food, and medical services to homeless residents during the winter months. The center will remain open continuously during freezing conditions and will partner with Alliance Community Healthcare for on-site medical support. Transportation and access points are available across Jersey City, North Bergen, and Hoboken to ensure residents in need can reach the facility safely.



New Jersey Church's Proposed Homeless Shelter Still in Limbo After Zoning Meeting

The Roys Report

Christ Episcopal Church in Toms River, New Jersey, is seeking approval to open a 17-bed homeless shelter, but the plan remains stalled after the zoning board postponed a vote amid opposition from neighbors and the mayor. The dispute intensified when the township proposed seizing the church's property by eminent domain to build a park, prompting widespread public backlash, petitions, and fundraising efforts. Supporters, including church leaders, remain determined to continue their outreach despite the uncertainty.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Trump Administration Expected to Drastically Cut Housing Grants

NY Times

The Trump administration is planning a major overhaul of federal homelessness policy that would cut long-term housing aid by two-thirds and redirect billions toward short-term

programs emphasizing work requirements, treatment mandates, and enforcement of camping bans. Critics warn the shift could force up to 170,000 formerly homeless people—many disabled and older—back onto the streets, while supporters argue it would better address root causes like addiction and mental illness. The plan also centralizes federal control over \$3.5 billion in homelessness grants, potentially reshaping how and where the money is distributed.



After the Shutdown: What Everyone Needs to Know About the Upcoming NOFO

National Alliance to End Homelessness

The Senate passed a short-term funding bill to end the record-long government shutdown and keep the government open through January, but it failed to include a key provision ensuring 12-month renewals for HUD’s Continuum of Care (CoC) programs. While the House is expected to approve the bill soon, major funding delays and significant policy changes are anticipated, including caps on permanent housing funding, stricter scoring criteria, and penalties for organizations not aligned with new federal priorities. The Alliance warns these changes could lead to funding gaps, increased homelessness, and a redirection of HUD resources, and urges CoCs to prepare coordinated advocacy and contingency plans.



Unaffordable Housing Leaves People Homeless, Not Funding Cuts

THE HILL

The Trump administration’s plan to cut funding for permanent housing has sparked debate among homelessness advocates. While critics warn it will worsen homelessness, others argue that the real issue isn’t funding—it’s the lack of affordable housing. Research shows that states building more homes, like Texas and Florida, have seen homelessness drop,



Civil Commitment and the Criminalization of Homelessness

Bill of Health

President Trump’s July Executive Order, “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets,” connects homelessness to “vagrancy” and urges states to expand civil commitment programs, including screening unhoused individuals for the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) program. This policy allows the federal government broad

while high-cost states such as California and New York continue to struggle despite billions spent. The takeaway: solving homelessness starts with making housing more abundant and affordable.

discretion to indefinitely confine people labeled as “sexually dangerous,” even without a prior sex offense conviction. Advocates warn it could deepen racial disparities, criminalize homelessness, and expand federal power under the guise of public safety.



Mary Kenion on Homelessness: Policy, Principles, and Solutions

FULCRUM

In this interview with Mary Kenion, Chief Equity Officer at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, she emphasized that ending homelessness requires compassion, inclusion, and investment in affordable housing and healthcare rather than punitive or exclusionary policies. She criticized recent federal actions promoting involuntary institutionalization and rejecting the Housing First model, arguing they ignore research and risk harming vulnerable populations. Kenion called for renewed empathy and community, urging policymakers and citizens alike to view helping the unhoused as both a moral duty and a practical investment in society’s well-being.



The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Restoration Act

Justice In Aging

Rising housing, healthcare, and living costs are pushing millions of older Americans



The 'Beyond Homeless' Blueprint

INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE

The book *Beyond Homeless: Good Intentions, Bad Outcomes, Transformative Solutions* by Mary L. G. Theroux, Lawrence J. McQuillan, Ph.D., and others argues that decades of government spending and policies like Housing First have failed to resolve homelessness, instead worsening conditions in many communities. The authors claim that well-intentioned programs have produced ineffective results and call for evidence-based, transformative solutions that restore dignity, safety, and hope while bridging political divides.



Tiny Homes, Big Impact for Struggling Veterans

Boston Herald

The Veterans Community Project (VCP), led by Marine veteran Bryan Meyer, builds

into poverty, with about 7 million seniors now living below the poverty line. To address this, Reps. Raul Grijalva, Elissa Slotkin, and Jan Schakowsky introduced the Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act, which would modernize the outdated SSI program for seniors and people with disabilities. The bill raises benefit levels to the federal poverty line, increases savings and income limits, removes penalties for marriage and shared housing, and updates decades-old eligibility rules to ensure recipients can meet their basic needs with dignity.

tiny-home villages that provide transitional housing and support services for homeless veterans across the U.S. Each village offers case management, mental health support, and job training to help veterans regain stability and move into permanent housing —achieving an 85% success rate. Supported by community partners and praised by leaders like Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, VCP's model is restoring dignity and hope to thousands of veterans, demonstrating what compassion and practical solutions can achieve

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

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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