

Homelessness MATTERS



October 16th, 2025

IN THIS EDITION:

- Opportunities for Action: Advocate to Keep Funding for CoCs!
- Resources for Service Providers: Upcoming Trainings and More
- New Jersey Homelessness in the News
- News From Around the Country

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). These include capping CoC funding for permanent supportive housing programs at 30%, compared with 87% of CoC funds for supportive housing now, and penalizing communities not aligned with the administration's partisan agenda. [Urge Congress to not politicize life-saving homeless services funding and hold HUD accountable to their promised 2-year funding cycle!](#)

Participate in an Advocacy Call: Continuum of Care Cuts, Federal Shutdown, and More:

Monarch Housing Associates is hosting an advocacy call on Tuesday, October 21 at 1 pm to discuss the policy changes and potential impact of the administration's intentions to significantly cut support of permanent supportive housing through the CoC program, the impacts of the federal shutdown, and brainstorm advocacy strategies. **Register here:**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0Acguf3IRJWBMoXOtCt_Xw

Stand Against Federal Cuts to Essential HUD Funding:

Tell your congressional representatives to reject any cuts to HUD funding — with homelessness on the rise, we must invest in critical housing and homelessness assistance programs. Our advocacy has already made a difference: [the House and Senate HUD budget versions reject some of the most severe cuts to HUD from the](#)

President's proposed budget, but they still include damaging funding cuts, so we must keep the pressure on. [See the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Appropriations Advocacy Activation toolkit.](#)

Urge New Jersey Leaders to Restore the Affordable Housing Trust Fund:

The NJ budget diverted \$125 million from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF), a critical resource for building affordable housing for low income and very low-income residents. With a shortfall of nearly 290,000 affordable homes in NJ, restoring this fund needs to be a top priority. Your voice has already made an impact: [\\$45 million](#) was restored to the Trust Fund as a result of our advocacy, but more action is needed. [Contact Governor Murphy and your state legislators](#) to urge them to restore the AHTF, using revenue from the new mansion tax.

RESOURCES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS



UPCOMING TRAININGS:

- **Reaching Marginalized Voters (TODAY Thursday, October 16, 6 PM):** Join us and the League of Women Voters of NJ for a training about reaching groups of voters that are often overlooked or face barriers to voter participation, specifically the unhoused community, returning citizens, and new citizens. Our Policy Associate Raissa will be speaking about our *Homeless Does Not Mean Voteless: Power to the Polls* program: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/2nClM9nVSdixyQKvcksqTw#/registration>
- **Identifying Autism, Diagnosis, and Resources for Support (Thursday, October 28, 1:30 PM):** Join us and Eden Autism for a training for shelters and homeless service providers about meeting the needs of autistic residents. Dr. Rachel Tait and Michael Decker from Eden Autism Services, Inc. are guest speakers. Register Here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4XEt73ObTiaaduuXdFKnFA>
- **Be BOLD (Wednesday, November 12):** Join us and the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) for this training, which offers individuals a chance to discuss behavioral health, exploring our capabilities and limitations in addressing and supporting those who face these challenges. We will explore our experience, bias, and ability to assess our role. We will examine what we may encounter and discuss best practices in response, including de-escalation. Finally, we will recognize the importance of debriefing and self-care post-response. More details to come!
- **Free Training for Service Providers with the Mental Health Association in NJ:**



Tuesday, October 21, 2025

During this 1-hour workshop, we will:

- * Identify potential triggers and causes of stress responses in guests or residents
- * Recognize and understand a range of challenging behaviors
- * Explore the role of active listening in effectively engaging individuals during moments of distress
- * Learn and apply practical de-escalation strategies to support individuals safely and respectfully

Session times:

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



bit.ly/NJCEHoct21

- * 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

Guidance from the National Alliance to End Homelessness:

HOMELESSNESS DOESN'T SHUT DOWN WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DOES

Top tips for federally-funded organizations to ensure the least amount of potential impact on people experiencing homelessness.

- ✓ Confirm access to e-snaps and eLOCCS for all who need it.
- ✓ Review any grant-associated deadlines (not associated with the CoC competition).
- ✓ Be patient with federal offices if they are slow to respond.
- ✓ Check in with program participants and come up with a plan for how to support them in accessing public benefits.

Eviction Help Is Here



Answer a few questions to get personalized, private guidance in minutes.

DCA
Department of Community Affairs

NJ Eviction Guide Released

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://www.nj.gov/dca/dhcr/offices/evictionguide.shtml>. Please share this resource widely and contact evictionprevention@dca.nj.gov or (609) 376-0810 with any questions.

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



Three Key Issues with Three Weeks to Go in NJ Governor's Race

NJ Spotlight News

With less than a month before Election Day, New Jersey's governor's race between Democrat Mikie Sherrill and Republican Jack Ciattarelli has turned tense as both candidates outline sharply different housing agendas. Sherrill supports the state's new affordable housing law, pledging to streamline permitting, encourage transit-oriented development, and build more diverse housing near jobs and public transit. Ciattarelli opposes mandated construction in every town, instead advocating for a regional approach that prioritizes housing growth in urban



NJ Office Building to be Converted into 196 Affordable Housing Units in \$93M Project

nj.com

A \$93 million redevelopment project will transform the historic 10-story Firemen's Insurance Company Building at 10 Park Place in Newark into a mixed-use property with 196 affordable housing units and ground-floor retail space. The project, supported by \$12 million in Historic Property Reinvestment Program tax credits and \$81 million in Aspire tax credits, will also include major upgrades to the building's exterior, HVAC, electrical, and plumbing systems. Funding was announced in September by the New Jersey Economic

centers and transit hubs while protecting open space and reducing suburban overdevelopment.

Development Authority.

New Poll Finds NJ Voters Support Reforms to Increase Housing Supply and Allow Wider Mix of Housing Types

NJ Future

Housing affordability remains a top concern for New Jersey residents, and a new Great Homes and Neighborhoods For All poll shows strong voter support for further legislative action. Large majorities favor allowing the redevelopment of vacant commercial buildings into homes (84%), accessory dwelling units on existing residential lots (61%), and parking flexibility near transit stations (61%). As Al-Tariq Witcher of Fair Share Housing Center noted, New Jerseyans overwhelmingly back “common-sense reforms” that help create more affordable homes for working families. Check out the full poll results [here](#).

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



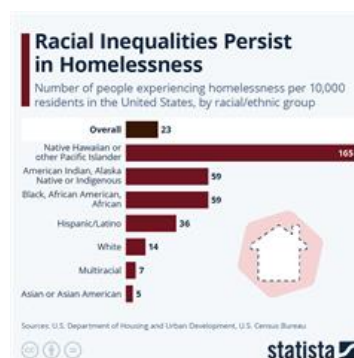
Reducing Homelessness in The US: A Solutions-Focused, Research-Based Explainer

The Journalist's Resource

U.S. homelessness response is a localized patchwork run through 385 HUD “continuum of care,” with federal priorities and funding shaping what cities and nonprofits do; the January 2024 count found 771,480 people experiencing homelessness, with Black Americans disproportionately affected, and recent federal proposals would cut key supports. Research shows Housing First consistently improves housing stability and offers net economic benefits, while encampment sweeps harm health and disrupts care. Experts stress pairing short-term options with long-term fixes like zoning and land-use reforms to expand affordable housing, plus targeted strategies such as tiny-home communities and flexible funding for survivors, veterans, and older adults.



Could Tiny Homes Be Dallas' Solution to Homelessness?



Dallas city officials are exploring tiny-home models as a new strategy to address chronic homelessness. During a recent council briefing, organizations Pallet Shelter and Our Calling presented two approaches: one offering short-term prefabricated housing with on-site services, and another building a permanent, privately funded 500-home village with wraparound supports. While both models show promise, challenges remain for Dallas, including funding, bureaucracy, and finding suitable sites within city limits.



National Alliance to END HOMELESSNESS

With SB 634, California Protects Against Criminalizing Frontline Workers and Good Samaritans Aiding Homeless People

NAEH

California's new law, SB 634, makes it illegal for cities to criminalize people or organizations that help those experiencing homelessness. Signed by Governor Gavin Newsom and authored by Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, the law protects outreach workers, nonprofits, medical professionals, and faith-based groups providing essential services like food, water, and legal aid. Advocates say it's a landmark step toward compassionate, evidence-based homelessness policy that prioritizes housing and support rather than punishment.



Racial Inequalities Persist in Homelessness

statista

Homelessness in the United States has reached record highs, driven by the worsening affordability crisis, the end of COVID-19 relief programs, and systemic issues like stagnant wages and limited rental assistance. The crisis disproportionately affects marginalized groups, with Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and Black communities experiencing homelessness at much higher rates than white or Asian Americans. Experts emphasize that addressing these disparities requires stronger investment in affordable housing, rental aid, and equitable support systems to strengthen local economies and promote inclusive communities.



Mayor Adams Launches Two Signature Programs to Make Life More Affordable for New Mother's and Families, Avoid Shelter and Poverty

NYC Health + Hospitals

New York City launched the Creating Real Impact at Birth (CRIB) program to prevent babies from being born into homelessness by connecting pregnant New Yorkers entering the shelter system with housing subsidies and support services. Funded with an 8.5 million dollar investment, the pilot will help more than 300 participants move into stable housing before giving birth, reducing health risks and shelter dependence. The city also introduced NYC Baby Boxes, which include essential supplies and resources for new parents to

PA Lawmakers Announce Bill to Decriminalize Homelessness

Local 21

Two Pennsylvania lawmakers, Representative Ismail Smith-Wade-El and Senator Nikil Saval, are introducing legislation to decriminalize homelessness in the state. The proposed Shelter First Act would prevent municipalities from enforcing laws against people sleeping or conducting life-sustaining activities in public unless adequate indoor shelter options are available. Supporters say the bill aims to shift the focus from punishment to providing housing and services, reducing costs and protecting the dignity and rights of people experiencing homelessness.

help ease financial stress and support over 7,000 families each year.



How to Recruit and Lead Staff Who Truly Know Your Community

THE CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY

This story highlights the growing importance of hiring people with lived experience in nonprofits that address poverty, homelessness, and domestic violence. Leaders like Dexter Hall and Patti D'Agostino show that those who have faced hardship bring valuable insight, empathy, and trust to their work, helping organizations better serve their communities. Experts from the National Alliance to End Homelessness emphasize the need for fair pay, strong onboarding, inclusive practices, and genuine involvement in decision-making, along with creating true paths to leadership roles, mentorship, and opportunities for growth.



Fair Housing Takes Brunt as Trump Begins Mass Firings at HUD

Bloomberg

The Trump administration has begun laying off federal workers during the government shutdown, including hundreds at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The largest cuts target the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, where nearly 100 specialists received layoff notices, and the number of attorneys has dropped by almost 70 percent since January. Whistleblowers warn these cuts severely weaken HUD's ability to investigate housing discrimination and enforce fair housing laws.

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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