

Homelessness MATTERS



January 22nd, 2026

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- **New Jersey Homelessness in the News:** *Gov. Sherrill acts to lower housing costs*
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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



[Final HUD Spending Bill for FY26 Released, Providing Increased Funding to Key HUD Rental and Homelessness Assistance Programs](#)

Congressional Appropriators released the final FY 2026 housing spending bill on January 20, raising HUD funding to \$77.3 billion—about \$7.3 billion more than last year—with major investments aimed at preventing and addressing homelessness, including over \$4.4 billion for Homeless Assistance Grants. The bill also provides \$34.9 billion to renew housing vouchers and \$601 million for new Tenant Protection Vouchers to help families stay housed or transition out of emergency programs, though funding for eviction prevention drops to \$7.5 million.

With the final text now released, the House is expected to vote on the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) bill this week, followed by Senate action next week ahead of the January 30 deadline. Without a final agreement, Congress will need to pass another short-term extension or risk a government shutdown that could disrupt vital housing and homelessness programs.

We urge advocates across New Jersey to call and email your members of Congress and urge them to pass a final FY26 HUD spending bill with

COALITION NEWS

[Lifesaving Homelessness Bills Signed into Law in NJ!](#)

In his final acts of office, Governor Murphy signed multiple crucial homelessness and housing bills into law! We are grateful to Governor Murphy for his legacy of housing justice in his 8 years as Governor and have been honored to work with him.

Thank you all for your invaluable advocacy! This victory would not be possible without you raising your voices.

The bills he signed into law include:

- Establishing a Code Red pilot program and protocol during extreme heat and air quality emergencies ([A2258/S2346](#); Lopez, McCoy/Turner, McKnight)
- Authorizing municipal housing plans and municipal homelessness trust funds ([A3360/S4832](#); Scutari, Singleton/Carter, Quijano)
- Limiting excessive tenant application fees ([A4899/S3659](#); Carter, Lopez/Stack, Mukherji)
- Prohibiting housing discrimination based on source of lawful income used for rental or mortgage payments ([A4841/S3759](#); Reynolds-Jackson, Carter, Wimberly/McKnight, Turner)



Thank you, Lieutenant Governor Caldwell, for joining our Shelter Providers Consortium meeting!

We are grateful to Lieutenant Governor Caldwell for joining last week's Shelter Providers Consortium meeting to listen to homeless service providers and people with lived experiences of homelessness speak to the magnitude of the homelessness crisis we're facing and the need for the state to take bold action.

Thank you, Lieutenant Governor, for being so gracious and genuine with your time and presence and for making it clear that this was the first of many listening tours to come.



[Here's Why Rent Is "So Damned High" In New Jersey, Rutgers Experts Say](#)

Patch

A Rutgers University–Newark study finds that rents surged 30% from 2021 to 2023 due to stagnant wages, widening income inequality, consolidation among landlords, and a severe shortage of affordable housing. Researchers argue that while building more homes is necessary, it must be paired with preserving existing affordable units, curbing corporate landlord practices, and supporting low-income renters, as rents have grown far faster than incomes over the past 40 years.



[Mikie Sherrill Wants to Convert New Jersey's Underused Office Parks and Strip Malls to Affordable Homes](#)

WHYY

As she takes office, Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill is prioritizing housing affordability by promoting the conversion of underused office parks, strip malls, and industrial sites into mixed-use and affordable housing. Supporters say streamlining zoning and permitting and expanding affordable housing supply are critical to easing New Jersey's housing shortage and preventing more families from falling



[Governor Mikie Sherrill Issues Six Executive Orders on Day One](#)

INSIDER NJ

On her first day in office, Governor Mikie Sherrill signed executive orders aimed at lowering utility costs and cutting red tape, steps she framed as critical to improving housing affordability and preventing families from falling into homelessness. By freezing utility rate hikes, streamlining permitting, and making government more efficient, the administration seeks to reduce the cost pressures that drive up rents and housing instability across New Jersey.



[NJ Outreach Van Paves Road to Recovery in Trenton](#)

abc 6 ACTION NEWS

The Rescue Mission of Trenton is expanding its approach to homelessness by using a mobile unit to bring shelter access, healthcare connections, food, and transportation directly to people living on the streets. By meeting individuals where they are and focusing on harm reduction and recovery, the program helps stabilize vulnerable residents and supports pathways out of homelessness.

into housing insecurity and homelessness.



For Many Unhoused People, New Jersey Church's Warming Center Is Both Shelter and Community

ENS

Trinity Episcopal Church in Asbury Park operates Monmouth County's largest "Code Blue" overnight warming center, providing unhoused adults with safe shelter, meals, social connection, and access to services during freezing temperatures. As homelessness in New Jersey rises—driven largely by a shortage of affordable housing and rising living costs—the church's expanded outreach highlights how emergency shelter and supportive services are critical to protecting lives and addressing housing instability.



Mental Health Diversion Program Introduced in Cape

May

Patch

Cape May County has launched a new Mental Health Diversion Program that allows eligible defendants to receive supervised mental health treatment and case management instead of entering the traditional criminal justice system. By addressing mental health needs that often contribute to housing instability and homelessness, the program aims to reduce repeated justice involvement while connecting participants to services that support long-term stability.



In Trenton, Homelessness and Harsh Weather Demand Action

Insider NJ

Homelessness in Trenton is a daily reality, and increasingly dangerous weather—from severe cold and heat to flooding storms—poses life-threatening risks for unhoused residents who lack safe shelter and access to emergency information. The passage of Senate Bill 4832 creates an opportunity for the city to better coordinate services, fund housing and support programs, and take immediate action to protect vulnerable residents, especially during extreme weather events.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



[U.S. Department of Labor Announces \\$23M Funding Opportunity to Provide Support, Preventative Services for Veterans](#)

U.S. Dept of Labor

The U.S. Department of Labor is offering \$23 million in grants through the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) to help homeless or at-risk veterans gain employment and job training. Grants of up to \$500,000 per year will fund skills training, apprenticeship programs, and job placement services, with the goal of reducing veteran homelessness. Eligible applicants include state and local agencies, non-profits, and educational institutions, with applications due by March 6, 2026.



[A Tech Bro Think Tank Is Trying to Roll Back Evidence-Based Homelessness Policy](#)

truthout

A recent report reveals how HUD nearly triggered a homelessness crisis by abruptly adopting recommendations from the Silicon Valley-based Cicero Institute, which promotes dismantling Housing First and enforcing encampment bans. Local agencies, given just months to overhaul decade-old programs and faced with funding cuts, were thrown into chaos, threatening the housing stability of up to 170,000 people. Even though HUD paused the rollout after a lawsuit, the



[Our Housing System Assumes Homelessness](#)

SHELTERFORCE

The U.S. housing crisis isn't an accident—homelessness is baked into the system. Profit motives, bureaucratic red tape, and a centuries-old obsession with separating the “worthy” from the “unworthy” keep millions without homes. We *know* how to fix it: build enough housing, fund subsidies so people can afford it, and align laws and budgets with human need—and suddenly, homelessness could become a choice, not a structural inevitability.



[NYC Is Testing Guaranteed Income for Homeless Youths. Here's How It's Going.](#)

The City

A new video report highlights New York City's “Cash with Care” program, which provides 60 homeless youths aged 18–24 with \$1,200 monthly stipends and a \$5,000 lump sum to help them transition out of shelters. Participants say the cash is giving them real opportunities—like saving for rent deposits, pursuing trade licenses, and gaining financial independence—while supportive services help them plan and manage their money. Early results suggest the program could be a promising model for using guaranteed income to help young adults escape homelessness.

uncertainty has already strained homelessness systems, leaving thousands vulnerable as winter and ongoing policy instability loom.



[Homeless Among Seniors Is Rising- and Shelters Aren't Equipped](#)

10 silicon canals

A recent video report highlights the growing crisis of senior homelessness in the U.S., where older adults now make up one of the fastest-growing segments of the unhoused population. Many seniors face financial vulnerability, rising rents, and shelters ill-equipped for age-related health and mobility needs, leaving them trapped between traditional shelters and nursing homes. Specialized programs and shelters are emerging to meet these needs, but experts warn that without systemic investment in accessible housing, rental support, and prevention, senior homelessness will continue to rise.



[Bills Would Crack Down on City Efforts to Banish Homeless People, Shelter, and Housing](#)

PubliCola

Washington State lawmakers are pushing bills to ensure cities allow all types of housing for unhoused people,



[Robert Kiyosaki Issues Grim Warning: Baby Boomers Could Be 'Wiped Out' and Homeless 'All Over.' How to Protect Yourself](#)

yahoo! Finance

Robert Kiyosaki, “Rich Dad, Poor Dad” author, warns that America’s baby boomers—often seen as financially secure—could face a wave of homelessness, blaming the Federal Reserve for inflating housing costs and eroding retirees’ purchasing power. According to Kiyosaki, money printing and rising inflation disproportionately benefit asset owners while leaving ordinary Americans, including retirees relying on Social Security, at risk of losing their homes. He urges protecting wealth through gold, cryptocurrencies, and income-generating real estate, framing the looming boomer housing crisis as a direct result of a system stacked against those without assets.



[New Plan for Vermont Homelessness Would Largely End the Use of Motel Rooms](#)

Vermont Public

Vermont lawmakers have introduced a bipartisan plan to overhaul the state’s homelessness response by sharply reducing the use of motel rooms as emergency shelter and shifting funding

including shelters, transitional, emergency, and permanent housing, without imposing special restrictions. The legislation also prevents bans on essential survival activities, like sleeping in public, unless adequate shelter is available. These measures aim to close loopholes that let cities block housing and ensure consistent access to shelters and supportive housing across communities.

toward permanent housing, transitional shelters, and services. Supporters say the approach would improve housing stability and move people out of homelessness, while advocates warn that limiting motel use and emphasizing relocation could leave vulnerable residents without adequate housing options.

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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