

Homelessness MATTERS



June 24th, 2026

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- **Coalition News:** Rutgers Study: New Jersey Lags in Homelessness Funding; Coalition CEO Calls for Urgent Homelessness Funding Action
- **Resources for Providers:** Register for Upcoming Training: Understanding Medication in Mental Health Management; Boost Capacity and Strengthen Services with AmeriCorps
- **NJ Homelessness in the News:** 26,000 New Jersey Residents Lose Critical Food Assistance; New Rutgers poll reveals stark NJ housing inequality; NJ faith-based housing plan aims to ease shortage
- **News From Around the Country:** Largest housing legislation in decades aims to improve affordability; Affordable housing providers say resident support services are essential to stability; Denver reduces homelessness 64% with housing-first shelter model

And much more...

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

"If funding for the homeless response system remains flat, emergency shelter demand and street homelessness could nearly double by the end of this year."

***"These are not abstractions.
These are real human lives
paying for the devastating
consequences of our inaction."***

Connie Mercer, CEO of NJCEH

Tell Lawmakers to Invest in Critical Homelessness Funding: New Jersey Can't Afford to Wait!

No child should sleep in a car. No senior should recover from illness on a park bench. No veteran should be left without a safe place to call home.

Yet homelessness in New Jersey has reached record levels, and communities across the state are struggling to meet the growing need.

Join us in urging Governor Sherrill and the State Legislature to support Senate Resolution #432 and Assembly Resolution #7, providing an additional \$40 million for homelessness prevention, emergency shelters, outreach, and housing assistance.

\$40 million won't solve homelessness overnight, but it will keep shelter doors open, prevent evictions, help people leave the streets, and give thousands of New Jerseyans a chance to rebuild their lives.

The NJ budget is being finalized, and decisions made in the coming days will have a direct impact on our state's response to homelessness. Lawmakers need to hear from as many people as possible before the budget is finalized. Please take less than two minutes to send a message and share this action with others: <https://bit.ly/4vUWWIG>

Protect Equal Access to Housing

Once again, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has proposed changes that would roll back longstanding Equal Access Rule protections for LGBTQ+ individuals seeking shelter and housing services funded by HUD. If adopted, the proposal could affect funding for agencies that do not comply with the directive, even if the directive conflicts with state or local laws. Find more information [here](#).

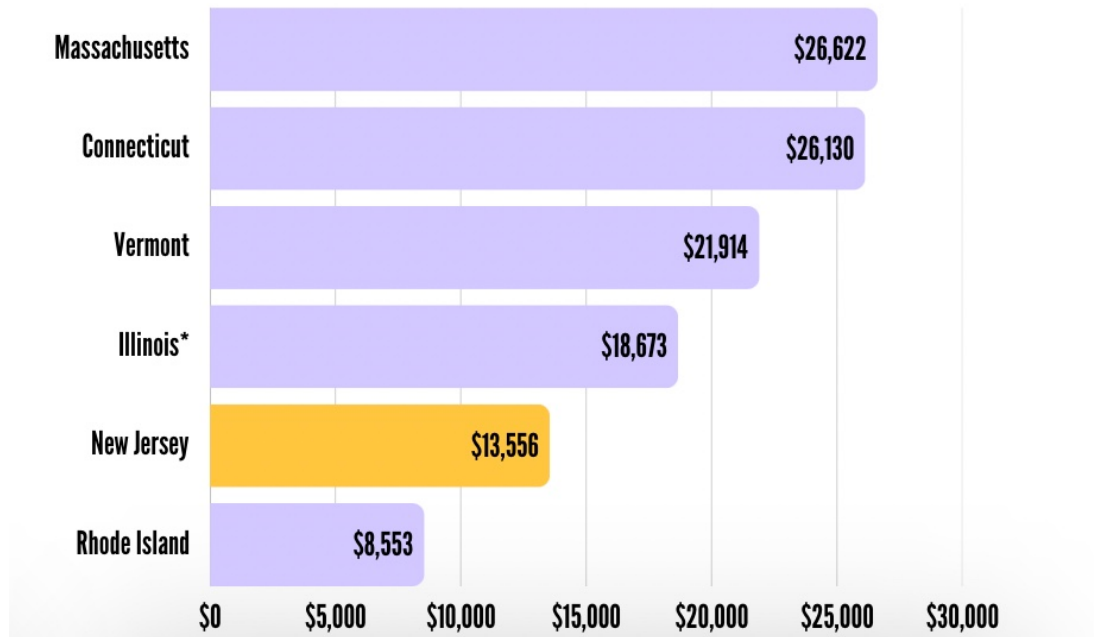
Submit public comments urging HUD to preserve equitable access to housing for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Deadline: June 29, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET

Submit your comments [HERE](#).

COALITION NEWS

State Spending on Homeless Services per Unhoused Person (2025 PIT)



* Illinois state spending total does not include an additional \$75,992,210 in city funds that Chicago spends, which is equal to an additional \$10,198 per Chicago unhoused person

The Funding Gap: New Jersey Trails Peer States in Funding to Address Homelessness, Rutgers Bloustein Study Finds

INSIDER NJ

A new report from the Rutgers Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, prepared for the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness, found that New Jersey spends significantly less on homelessness services than most peer states, despite a 70% increase in homelessness over the past four years. The report warns that without increased state investment—and amid potential federal funding cuts—New Jersey could face dramatic rises in both emergency shelter demand and unsheltered homelessness.

Op-Ed: Homeless Response System on the Brink, and a Chance to Stabilize It

New Jersey's homeless response system is at a breaking point, but there is still time to change course.

In a new op-ed, Coalition CEO, Connie Mercer, outlines what's at stake if lawmakers fail to invest in homelessness services and what New Jersey can do right now to stabilize a system serving more than 172,000 of our neighbors. She calls on lawmakers to pass Senate Resolution #432/Assembly Resolution #7 to strengthen life-saving funding for our homeless response system — or face a deeper and more costly crisis later.

Read the full op-ed here: <https://jerseyindicator.org/2026/06/23/a-homeless-response-system-on-the-brink-and-a-chance-to-stabilize-it/>

RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS



Interested in Expanding Staffing Capacity at Your Site?

Add an AmeriCorps member to your team. AmeriCorps members can provide direct client support, including supportive case management, helping your organization increase capacity, enhance services, and better meet the needs of the individuals you serve.

Join our upcoming information session to learn more about how hosting an AmeriCorps Volunteer can benefit your site: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Ready to get started? **Apply [here](#) to become a host site.**

Reach out to Nathalia Allenza: nallenza@njceh.org for more information.



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



GIVE YOUR STAFF ANOTHER TOOL TO CRAFT BETTER CLIENT COMMUNICATION

NJCEH is offering a free, virtual, 45-minute class designed to:

- Increase the positive outcomes of interviews for clients
- Help staff keep control of their time
- Keep initial intake to 15 minutes
- Highlight and define the 5 key markers of a good interview

This class, known as “BATHE” — *the Background, Affect, Trouble, Handling, Empathy Technique* — will be tailored to meet the needs of your specific program and can be held at your convenience.

Email JCantermen@NJCEH.org now to schedule a BATHE Technique training for your staff.

The NJ Coalition to
End Homelessness is
working for your
program to make
every day a better day.



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



26,000 New Jerseyans Lost SNAP Food Benefits Since Trump Work Rules Kicked In

Gothamist

More than 26,000 New Jersey residents have lost SNAP food assistance benefits since new federal work requirements took effect in February, according to state officials. The policy changes expanded work requirements to additional groups, including some older adults, veterans, and people experiencing homelessness, and have hit Essex and Hudson counties particularly hard. Anti-hunger advocates warn that food pantries are already seeing increased need and cannot make up for the loss of SNAP benefits, noting that for every meal provided by food banks, SNAP delivers approximately nine.



Rutgers Poll Exposes Deep Racial Divide in NJ Housing Affordability

nj.com

A new Rutgers Eagleton poll highlights significant racial disparities in homeownership across New Jersey, finding that 86% of white residents own homes compared to just 46% of Black and Latino residents. The survey also found that 82% of New Jerseyans say housing costs make it harder to afford other necessities, while 43% spend more than the recommended 30% of their income on housing. As home prices have nearly doubled since before the pandemic, advocates warn that affordability challenges are deepening longstanding wealth gaps and limiting access to the financial benefits of homeownership for many families.



Op-ed: The Housing Crisis Needs Every Tool Available. Faith-Based Land is One We're Not Using

Binge.com

New Jersey's severe shortage of affordable housing continues to drive homelessness and housing instability across the state. A growing movement is

exploring how underutilized properties owned by faith-based organizations could be converted into affordable housing, creating new opportunities for people struggling to find stable homes. Supporters argue that initiatives such as the proposed "Yes In God's Backyard" legislation could help unlock these resources and expand the supply of affordable housing.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Congress Passes the Largest Housing Affordability Bill in Decades

NPR

Congress has passed the largest housing legislation in decades, with the goal of increasing housing supply and improving affordability nationwide. While the bill is primarily focused on homeownership, supporters argue that expanding housing production and reducing barriers to development could help ease broader housing shortages that contribute to housing instability and homelessness. The legislation now awaits the President's signature.



Unsupported Housing: When Stability Isn't Enough

SHELTERFORCE

A growing number of affordable housing providers report that residents need support beyond affordable rent, including help accessing healthcare, public benefits, food assistance, transportation, and eviction prevention resources. While supportive housing is specifically designed to provide intensive services for people with complex needs, providers say even traditional affordable housing developments are increasingly serving residents who need assistance navigating fragmented social service systems. Advocates argue that funding



As American Cities Grapple With Homelessness, One Offers a Fix

The Economist

Denver has reduced unsheltered homelessness by 64% since 2023 and recently reported a 12% decline in overall homelessness, drawing national attention to its approach. The city expanded shelter capacity through converted hotels and tiny-home communities, paired housing with intensive support services, and coordinated outreach efforts to bring entire encampments indoors before enforcing camping restrictions. While challenges remain—including limited permanent housing options and

for resident services is becoming an essential component of housing stability and homelessness prevention, not simply an optional add-on to affordable housing.

concerns about long-term outcomes—the model is being closely watched by other cities seeking alternatives to both encampments and enforcement-only strategies.



Secretary Kennedy Announces Over \$700 Million in New Funding to Address Mental Illness, Addiction, Homelessness

SAMHSA

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a new \$96 million initiative aimed at addressing homelessness among people with serious mental illness, substance use disorders, and co-occurring conditions. Through the STREETS program, eight communities will receive funding to develop coordinated street outreach, treatment, recovery, and support services designed to help move people from unsheltered homelessness into care and stable housing. The announcement is part of a broader \$700 million federal behavioral health investment that also includes funding for crisis response, addiction treatment, and community-based behavioral health services that can help prevent and reduce homelessness.



A Coordinated Response to Support Aging Homeless Veterans

VA News

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has launched the Homeless Aging and Disabled Veterans Initiative in response to a growing number of older Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness, driven by rising housing costs, complex medical needs, and limited support systems. The program integrates housing assistance through HUD-VASH with geriatric care and supportive services to help Veterans move from homelessness into stable housing while receiving coordinated healthcare, case management, and in-home supports. As the population of Veterans over 85 is projected to rise sharply in the coming decade, the initiative expands specialized housing models and onsite services aimed at helping aging Veterans remain safely and stably housed.



Trump DOJ Outlines Dubious Path to Force People Into



An Experiment Gave Homeless People a Lump Sum

Psychiatric Institutions

Mother Jones

A new Department of Justice memo suggests the Trump administration may reinterpret the landmark *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision, arguing that limits on institutionalization for people with mental illness contribute to homelessness—a claim widely disputed by legal experts. Critics warn that weakening *Olmstead* protections could shift policy toward increased institutionalization rather than community-based housing and support, reversing decades of disability rights law designed to prevent unnecessary confinement. Advocates argue that the decision has instead helped reduce homelessness by requiring states to expand supportive housing and services in the community.

of Cash, No Strings. Most Went to Rent and Food

UPWORTHY

A Vancouver-based pilot study adds to a growing international conversation about the role of direct cash assistance in addressing homelessness. In the New Leaf Project, people who had recently become homeless were given an unconditional cash transfer of about \$7,500 CAD, and researchers found they spent fewer days homeless, moved into stable housing more quickly, and ended the year with more savings than a comparison group—without increased spending on drugs or alcohol. The findings suggest that for some people, a lack of immediate financial resources—not behavior—is the primary barrier to exiting homelessness, and that flexible cash support can be a cost-effective tool alongside traditional housing programs.



Data Backs Up Supportive 'Housing First' Model in Spite of Federal Attacks

The Urbanist

New data from King County, Washington, adds to a growing national body of evidence showing that permanent supportive housing can significantly improve outcomes for people experiencing chronic homelessness. The county reports that participants saw jail bookings drop by nearly 27% in the first year and more than 37% by the third year, while more than 90% remained stably housed after placement in programs that combine affordable housing with on-site



Trump Admin Wants 'Self-Sufficiency,' but Funding Cuts Could Make New Yorkers Homeless Again

Gothamist

The Trump administration is proposing major changes to the federal Continuum of Care homelessness program, a shift housing providers say could cut funding for about 2,800 formerly homeless households in New York City and reduce local support by roughly \$66 million. The policy would move resources away from long-term “housing first” supportive housing toward shorter-term transitional housing and treatment-focused programs, with federal officials arguing the goal is to

behavioral health and supportive services. Advocates say these results reinforce national research that supportive housing reduces homelessness and criminal justice involvement, even as federal policy debates continue over funding and the future of “Housing First” models.

address “root causes” and promote self-sufficiency. Providers warn the changes could force more people back into shelters or homelessness, especially amid already limited affordable housing and high rates of chronic homelessness.

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