

Homelessness MATTERS



March 12th, 2025

Friends and Colleagues,

Since our last publication, homelessness has been a prominent topic in the news across the nation. Significant attention is finally being given to the plight of the homeless services workforce as well as to the scope of the problem of "working homelessness" with recent articles in the NY Times and Vox, among other publications. We hope you will take a moment to scroll all the way down and not miss these important stories, which emphasize the desperate need in NJ and across the country for increased resources for our hardworking, passionate and extremely underpaid homeless workers as well as the low income working households they serve.

Sincerely,
The NJ Coalition to End Homelessness Team

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION



Make Your Voice Heard: Register to Advocate for Homeless Emergency Services Funding at Upcoming Legislative Budget Hearings

Join the Coalition in testifying in front of the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees to advocate for adequate funding for homeless emergency services in the state budget. Sign up here: <https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/budget-hearings-registration>.

We can support you in writing testimony if you sign up. **Speaking slots fill up fast, so please register ASAP! You will get 3 minutes to speak.** For talking points and more information on the Coalition's ask, please reach out to Raisa, our Policy Associate, at rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org.

You can only testify at one Assembly Budget hearing and one Senate Budget and Appropriations hearing. As of Monday, sign-ups had only been posted for the Assembly Budget Committee, but the Senate hearings will be posted soon.

Urge Congress to Fund Affordable Housing and Homelessness Resources

We strongly encourage you to take a minute or two to reach out to your members of Congress through the form linked below to encourage them to pass a final FY25 spending bill with the highest level of funding possible for affordable housing and homelessness resources. Your participation can make a real difference!

[National Low Income Housing Coalition | Federal Budget](#)



We Need Your Advocacy: Keep NJ Shelters Afloat to Provide Life-Saving Services!

We set up meetings in March with key state legislators to advocate for life-saving investments in addressing homelessness, specifically \$10 million in the upcoming state budget toward our underfunded shelter system.

Please contact Raisa, our Policy Associate, at rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org or (609) 865-2534 to join these legislative meetings.

Legislators need to hear from you directly about the need your residents and your organization face! We will provide training beforehand in how to lobby and meet with legislators.

This funding could not be more critical, given rising homelessness and the threat of losing federal funding. New Jersey is also facing a particularly tight budget season this year, so our power comes from being unified in advocating together to meet this need.

COALITION NEWS



Coalition Welcomes New AmeriCorps Members Working in Homeless Service Agencies Across New Jersey

The Coalition welcomed four new AmeriCorps members at the end of February who are working in homeless service agencies across the state. From left to right: Sadaya at Cumberland Family Shelter, Haleigh at Joseph's House of Camden, Tiara at Bridges Outreach - Newark, and Maggie at Anchor House. We are grateful for their decision to serve in homeless services this year and look forward to seeing the impact they'll be making on helping to get individuals and families placed into permanent housing!

RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS



Free Bootcamp for Leaders of Homeless Service Agencies

The Coalition is thrilled to offer an extraordinary opportunity normally only available to CEOs of major corporations. Together, with NJBIA, we will be offering a **FREE Executive Bootcamp on Friday, March 28** for CEOs and Executive Directors of NJ homeless service agencies. This is an opportunity to hear from business professionals and speak with colleagues to gain insights on financial and HR policies tailored to the needs of your organization. For more information [click here](#). Please RSVP using [this form](#) by **Monday, March 21st**.



Grants for Homeless Emergency Service Providers Coming Soon!

Be on the lookout! The Coalition has been allocated funds for emergency operations, which will be distributed through one-time grants, to be provided as staff bonuses to improve staff retention and help ensure the continued operation of New Jersey's homeless services. Information on how to apply will be coming soon!



Potential Impact to NJ Medicaid of Congressional Budget Proposals

The NJ Department of Human Resources has modeled the impact of budget proposals put forward by Congressional leadership. These potential changes to Medicaid would have significant effect on provider pay, eligibility and benefits.

Medicaid in NJ (NJ Family Care) currently covers 1.8 million NJ residents including low and moderate income children and parents, other low-income adults, elderly and disabled requiring long-term care, and many others. The annual budget is \$24 million, with approximately \$14 million of this cost coming from the federal government. [This document](#) provides more information and proposed scenarios on the impact on NJ based on numerous budget models.

On a positive note, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that NJ's 1115 waiver is still scheduled for implementation in July of this year. This waiver will help New Jersey improve health coverage and access, and advance health equity. It also addresses health-related social needs (HRSN) like housing instability and food insecurity.

ICE Raid Guidance for Homeless Service Providers

The National Homeless Law Center and Crowell & Moring LLP have put together ICE Raid Guidance for Homeless Service Providers: "What to do Before, During, and After a Raid": <https://homelesslaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ICE-Guidance.pdf>.

While you may have been inundated with materials on this topic, we recommend you spend a moment reviewing this guidance as it includes some unique proposals about steps to take following an ICE raid specifically designed for homeless service providers.

Installing signage in your facility indicating private areas forces ICE agents to obtain a valid warrant, signed by a judge in order to enter those non-public areas of the facility (further explanation on page two of the guidance document linked above). For a sample sign, please contact our Policy Associate, Raisa at: rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org or call [\(609\) 865-2534](tel:6098652534)

Save the Date

Voices of Courage & Change

March 25, 2025 - 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

New Brunswick Performing Arts Center

New Brunswick, New Jersey

HONORING

Regina Calcaterra, *NY Times* Best Selling Author, *Etched in Sand*

New Jersey State Senator Linda R. Greenstein

Middlesex County Sheriff Mildred S. Scott



women aware
MOVING BEYOND ABUSE

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NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS

[Over 100 Housing Advocates Sign Letter Telling NJ Leaders to Protect Housing Investments in State Budget](#)

Insider NJ

Housing advocates are calling on Governor Murphy and NJ legislators to protect the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) from potential budget diversions, emphasizing its critical role in expanding affordable housing. With a severe housing shortage and looming federal cuts, they stress the need for dedicated state investment to meet obligations and prevent homelessness. Advocates propose new revenue sources, such as a fee on luxury home sales and higher eviction filing fees, to ensure long-term housing affordability and stability for NJ residents.



[United Community Corporation Receives \\$150K to Expand Shelter Services](#)

TapInto Newark

United Community Corporation (UCC) in Newark has received \$150,000 from Prudential Financial to expand its shelter services, addressing the growing homelessness crisis in Essex County. The funding will enhance UCC's "Hope for the Homeless" initiative, which provides emergency shelter, case management, and long-term support, including employment and housing assistance. UCC has also expanded its emergency shelter services to include a new Medical Respite pilot program in partnership with the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness, offering temporary housing for homeless individuals referred directly from local hospitals. This initiative ensures participants receive both shelter and medical



support while transitioning to stability.



Atlantic City Casinos Feel the Effects of New Jersey's Homelessness Crisis

PlayNJ

Atlantic City's growing homelessness crisis has increasingly impacted its casinos, with Tropicana Atlantic City publicly stating that its property is "completely overrun" as security removes around 20 unhoused individuals daily. The issue has been exacerbated by the dismantling of boardwalk encampments last September, which displaced many individuals who have since sought shelter elsewhere, including inside casino properties. With the number of unsheltered individuals in Atlantic County rising from 326 in 2021 to 427 in 2024, the city continues to struggle with finding sustainable solutions to address homelessness.

Rutgers' Mobile Clinic Provides Healthcare on Wheels in Newark

Patch

Newark's Homeless Outreach Medical Unit, a mobile clinic run by Rutgers Health in partnership with the city, is bringing critical health care directly to people experiencing homelessness. The unit provides psychiatric assessments, acute care, and prescription services while also connecting patients to additional resources. Launched under Mayor Ras Baraka's *The Path Home* initiative, the program aims to bridge the health care gap for the unhoused, with plans to expand by adding two more mobile units to further support Newark's most vulnerable residents.





Is New Jersey Ready for Safe-Consumption Centers for Drug Users?

NJ Spotlight

OnPoint NYC's safe-consumption site offers a supervised space where people who use drugs can do so safely, preventing overdoses while connecting them to medical and social services. As New Jersey expands harm reduction efforts, advocates see this model as a potential solution to reduce drug-related deaths and improve public health. While legal and political challenges remain, growing support from health officials and community leaders suggests that safe-consumption sites could play a role in New Jersey's response to the opioid crisis.

Amato Bill Supporting Homeless Veterans' Centers Advances

New Jersey Senate Republicans

The Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee approved a bipartisan bill to fund homeless veterans' centers through the sale of special "Support Our Veterans" license plates. Sponsored by Senators Carmen Amato, Jr. and Raj Mukherji, the legislation (S-1915) would direct proceeds to Veterans Haven North and South, which provide temporary housing and rehabilitation services for homeless veterans. This initiative offers a practical way to support those who have served by ensuring they receive the resources needed to rebuild their lives.



NJ Towns Trying to Get Out of Building 14,000 Affordable Homes Statewide, Builders Say

Asbury Park Press

The New Jersey Builders Association is pushing back against efforts by 159 towns to challenge the state's affordable housing calculations, warning that their complaints could eliminate 14,000 planned homes. Under the Mount Laurel doctrine, towns are constitutionally required to provide their fair share of affordable housing, but some municipalities, particularly in Monmouth and Ocean counties, are resisting due to concerns over overdevelopment. If disputes are not resolved through mediation, the state's Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program will make final determinations by

[Will Toms River Allow Church to Open Homeless Shelter? Officials Will Soon Have to Decide.](#)

Asbury Park Press

Christ Episcopal Church is proposing a 17-bed overnight shelter at its outreach center in Toms River, but it requires a use variance since homeless shelters are not permitted in any zoning district. The project, funded by Ocean County, aims to provide food, showers, and counseling to help individuals secure jobs, identification, and permanent housing. With Ocean County lacking a permanent homeless shelter and rising housing costs worsening the crisis, advocates say this shelter would address a critical community need.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

[America Is Pushing Its Workers into Homelessness](#)

The New York Times

Millions of hardworking people are homeless, not because they don't work, but because wages are too low and rents are too high. The "working homeless" aren't an anomaly—they're nurses, teachers, retail workers, and caregivers struggling to afford a place to live. This crisis won't be solved with band-aids. We need real change—stronger tenant protections, fair wages, and real investments in affordable housing—because a safe place to live shouldn't be a privilege, it should be a right.



[Trump is on Track to Ditch a Time-Tested Approach to Combating Homelessness](#)

Vox

The Trump administration has reversed its previous support for the *housing-first* approach to homelessness, shifting toward policies that emphasize mandatory treatment and faith-based solutions. This change comes despite decades of evidence showing that providing stable housing first improves long-term outcomes and reduces homelessness, as seen in veteran housing programs. Critics warn that gutting federal housing funds and shifting away from *housing-first* could worsen the crisis, leaving more people unsheltered while failing to address the root causes of homelessness.





Trump Administration Plans Mass Firing at Office that Funds Homelessness Programs

Oregon Public Broadcasting

The Office of Community Planning and Development at HUD, which funds housing, homelessness services, and disaster recovery, is facing an 84% staffing cut, the deepest in the agency. Advocates warn that slashing the office responsible for distributing \$3.6 billion in federal funding will delay critical resources, worsening record-high homelessness nationwide. With the Trump administration shifting away from *Housing First* policies and considering structural changes to HUD, there is growing concern that fewer people will receive housing assistance, forcing more individuals and families into homelessness.



Cuts to Section 8 Housing Assistance Loom Amid HUD Uncertainty

Bloomberg

The Section 8 housing voucher program, which helps 2.3 million low-income households, is facing major uncertainty as Congress debates funding and HUD undergoes significant staff cuts. With rising rents and record-high homelessness, advocates warn that up to 283,000 families could lose assistance if funding shortfalls continue. As local housing authorities pause new vouchers and scramble for reserves, the threat of budget cuts, administrative delays, and a possible government shutdown is putting thousands of renters—and their landlords



Billions in Federal Money for Homelessness Providers Delayed

Bloomberg

Thousands of U.S. shelter operators and homelessness providers are anxiously awaiting \$3.6 billion in federal grants, fearing delays or cuts as HUD undergoes staffing reductions and budget reviews. Without these funds, essential programs—including shelters, rental assistance for disabled individuals, and veteran housing—face potential shutdowns, leaving vulnerable populations at risk of eviction and homelessness. While some providers are managing with reserves, prolonged uncertainty threatens critical services, highlighting the urgent need for clarity and commitment to sustained federal support.

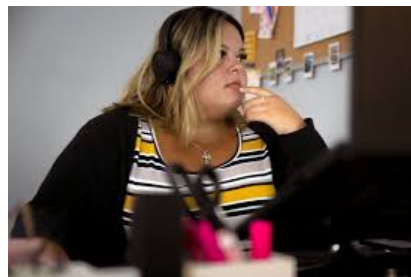
—at risk.

[House Votes to Adopt Blueprint for Massive Bill to Slash Medicaid and SNAP Funding, Extend Tax Cuts Primarily Benefiting High-Income Households and Corporations](#)

National Low Income Housing Coalition



The House has approved a budget framework that aims to drastically cut funding for Medicaid and SNAP while extending tax cuts that primarily benefit wealthy individuals and corporations. If enacted, these cuts could reduce access to healthcare and food assistance for millions of low-income families. Advocates warn that the plan prioritizes tax breaks for the rich over essential support for vulnerable communities.



[Burnout is a Problem for Caseworkers Serving Unhoused People](#)

NPR

As a housing caseworker in central Connecticut, Nicole Barracliff spends her days fielding calls from people facing homelessness, often delivering the difficult news that no immediate shelter beds are available. With the end of pandemic-era benefits and rising housing costs, demand for assistance has surged, leaving providers overwhelmed and under-resourced. Like many in her field, Barracliff struggles with burnout, as low wages, high turnover, and limited housing options make it increasingly difficult to help those in need.

[Open Forum: Facing America's Affordable Housing Crisis](#)

Daily News Record

The affordable housing crisis in the U.S. has left millions of families struggling to pay rent while meeting basic needs, often facing eviction due to a lack of options. Decades of disinvestment in public housing, inadequate subsidies, and a private market focused on profit have deepened the crisis, making affordable housing increasingly scarce. Addressing this issue requires *systemic change*, including increased federal and state investment in housing construction, expanded Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and stronger policies that prioritize housing as a *human right*, not a privilege.





[Park Ranger has Unusual Strategy on the Homeless](#)

The San Francisco Standard

For over two decades, Kaine made Golden Gate Park his home, resisting offers of shelter until park ranger Amanda Barrows took a patient, trust-building approach. By guiding him through the complex process of obtaining ID and housing, she helped him transition indoors while maintaining his connection to the park. Now living in permanent supportive housing, Kaine's story highlights the power of persistence and individualized support in helping people move from homelessness to stability.



[Being Homeless is Humiliating](#)

Seven Days (VT)

A small business owner writes about being forced to live in her car, struggling to survive while facing constant challenges like finding safe parking, harassment, and even dangerous encounters. Despite her efforts to stay afloat, she has experienced police mistreatment, health risks, and a lack of support from the system, making it nearly impossible to get back on her feet. The story highlights the urgent need for real solutions—like affordable housing —while calling for more compassion and understanding toward those experiencing homelessness.

[California Gov. Newsom Launches 'Accountability' Website to Track County Progress on Tackling Homelessness](#)

KCRA 3



California Governor Gavin Newsom launched a new website, Accountability.ca.gov, to track counties' progress on housing, homelessness, and mental health support. The site was created in response to criticism that the state had not been effectively measuring the impact of its homelessness spending, providing data on housing compliance, shelter availability, and behavioral health services. While Newsom announced the release of \$800 million in previously approved homelessness grants, he has proposed eliminating future funding for the program unless clear results are demonstrated.

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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