

# Homelessness MATTERS



November 20th, 2025

## FROM OUR PARTNERS



Supportive Housing  
Association of New Jersey

### Inclusive Community Advocacy Council Seeks Members to Join!

**Applications Due Friday 11/21**

- Are you interested in the empowerment of individuals with disabilities to obtain leadership roles?
- Would you like to work toward increasing awareness and inclusion on non-profit boards?
- Do you enjoy working on training development, outreach, and advocacy?



If you or someone you know responded yes to these questions, then you may be interested in applying for a position on the Inclusive Community Advocacy Council.

[Click here for more information on the role.](#) [Click here to apply!](#)

Contact Denise Majka for questions: [denise.majka@shanj.org](mailto:denise.majka@shanj.org).

## NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS

### Multiple N.J. towns fight back against state affordable housing legislation

*NJ.com*

Several New Jersey towns are opposing a new bill that would require local planning boards to approve certain religious and nonprofit housing projects, arguing it undermines municipal control and sidesteps local zoning rules. The legislation would allow developments to exceed height and density limits and mandate that only 20% of units be affordable, which local officials say could hinder their ability to meet state housing requirements. Critics contend the bill forces high-density projects onto communities without adequate input or infrastructure planning, while the measure still awaits passage in both legislative chambers and the governor's approval.





**CSPNJ Code Blue Warming Centers  
now open, as part of efforts to  
combat chronic hunger and  
homelessness in the community**

*INSIDER NJ*

CSPNJ has opened three fully operational Code Blue warming centers across New Jersey, offering overnight shelter to unhoused individuals throughout the winter as hunger and homelessness intensify due to funding disruptions and widespread housing shortages. The organization is expanding food assistance through its Community Wellness Centers while advocating for housing-first, low-barrier support models and peer-led approaches that resist the criminalization of homelessness and mental illness. With demand rising and funding uncertain, CSPNJ emphasizes the need for community support to sustain its housing, wellness, and outreach services statewide.



**Housing advocates launch billboard  
urging Gov. Murphy, legislators to  
finish restoring NJ's Affordable  
Housing Trust Fund**

*INSIDER NJ*

The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey launched a billboard campaign urging state leaders to fully restore the Affordable Housing Trust Fund after \$125 million was diverted from it in the 2026 budget. Although the state has since returned \$45 million, advocates say the remaining \$80 million is urgently needed to address rising rents, a shortage of affordable homes, and municipal housing obligations. The Network is also pushing for a dedicated, long-term revenue source—such as allocating a portion of the expanded mansion tax—to ensure the fund's future stability and support the creation of affordable housing statewide.

**Many New Jersey veterans  
facing hunger and housing  
instability**

TAPinto Newark

Veterans in New Jersey are facing heightened housing and food insecurity, worsened by a federal shutdown that disrupted SNAP benefits and left many struggling to meet basic needs. The state's Bringing Veterans Home initiative is working to achieve "functional zero" veteran homelessness, but rising housing instability, limited shelter space, and a lack of available vouchers are straining the system. Advocates warn that the real number of homeless veterans is higher than official counts and emphasize the need for trust-building and expanded resources to prevent homelessness from becoming chronic.





**Trump administration policy change makes deep cuts to homeless permanent housing program**

POLITICO

The administration is redirecting more than half of a major homelessness program's 2026 funding away from permanent housing and toward transitional housing that requires work or service participation. Advocates warn the shift could displace up to 170,000 people, create funding gaps that leave programs unfunded for months, and undermine evidence-based approaches that have historically stabilized homeless individuals. Supporters frame the change as promoting accountability and self-sufficiency, but critics say it contradicts federal law, destabilizes local systems, and prioritizes ideology over proven housing strategies.



**Utah's new homeless campus raises fears of forced isolation. Advocates say it looks like a jail.**

*invisiblePEOPLE*

Utah is proposing a large homeless facility far from jobs, transit, and community support, and parts of the plan would prevent people from leaving, which has sparked major concerns. Advocates say the approach will not work because isolating people and treating them like criminals does not address the real causes of homelessness. They argue that housing, supportive services, and stronger systems are what actually help people rebuild their lives.



**The Trump administration plans major shift away from long-term housing for homelessness**

NPR

The administration is shifting homelessness policy by cutting long-term housing programs and directing more funding toward transitional housing tied to work and addiction treatment requirements. Critics warn the overhaul could push tens of thousands back into homelessness, disrupt existing programs, and favor communities that criminalize encampments. Supporters argue the change counters the dominance of Housing First, but advocates say it abandons trauma-informed care and fails to address high housing costs—the primary driver of homelessness.



### When the employed are pushed into homelessness

CBS NEWS

The reporting highlights how many full-time, low-wage workers are pushed into homelessness due to rising housing costs, damaged credit, and predatory rental practices. Families often end up in extended-stay hotels that cost far more than regular apartments, trapping them in unsafe, unstable living conditions while they juggle multiple jobs, medical issues, and childcare. The narrative shows that homelessness for working people is not a personal failure but the result of systemic, profit-driven forces that exploit those in crisis.



### 'Reckless and Irresponsible': Trump plans deep housing cuts that could leave 200,000 homeless

Common Dreams

Utah, once seen as a leader in housing-focused solutions, is now shifting toward a punitive model that places homeless people in an isolated "accountability center" that functions more like a jail than a treatment facility. Advocates warn this approach will drain resources from proven strategies like permanent housing with supportive services, the only method consistently shown to reduce homelessness. The Trump administration is backing similar nationwide policy changes, which could push states to adopt these harmful models or risk losing critical housing funds.

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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](mailto:info@NJCEH.org)

**DONATE TO SUPPORT THE COALITION'S WORK TO END HOMELESSNESS**



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