

# Homelessness MATTERS



NEWS & NOTES

July 17, 2024



Dear Coalition Partners and Friends,

In spite of the angst we've all been feeling in light of the Supreme Court's decision to allow for the criminalization of homelessness, our work and the work of our partners to end homelessness continues. Please read through to learn more about what's been happening the last two weeks around the state and across the country related to homelessness. First, we'd like to draw your attention to a couple of items:

- Our **2024 Garden State Leaders** program will be starting in September! This is a fantastic opportunity to join a dynamic group of leaders with lived experience of homelessness and make a meaningful impact in your community and beyond. Applications are now open! See the links below for more details and to apply.
- Last week, the **National Alliance to End Homelessness** conference took place in Washington, DC, and we are proud to share that several Garden State Leaders were actively involved. From speaking on panels to advocating on Capitol Hill Day, Leaders showcased the skills and knowledge gained through the program. Additionally, several Coalition board members and many partners were present, representing New Jersey with their dedication and expertise.



*Coalition Staff, Board Members, Garden State Leaders and Partners at the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference last week*

As always, we love to hear from you. If you come across any gems that you'd like us to share, please reach out to Alicia at: [aalvarez@njceh.org](mailto:aalvarez@njceh.org).

-The Staff of the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness

## RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

### QPR Suicide Prevention (Question, Persuade Refer) Training for Homeless Service Providers

The Mental Health Association of New Jersey, in Collaboration with the Coalition, will be offering FREE training sessions on the **third Tuesday of every month** for homeless service providers offered at times convenient for all of your staff:

**Morning: 6am, 8am, 10am**  
**Afternoon/Evening: 2pm, 3pm, 7pm**

**Next session is August 20th!**

The Zoom link for all sessions is: <https://zoom.us/j/99340831160>

### Covid is Back in Full Force - Protect Your Clients and Staff by Taking Advantage of the Coalition's FREE Infection Control Consultations, PPE and Test Kits

Click the button below to place your order and/or express interest in a consultation for your organization today!

[Consultations/PPE/Test Kits](#)



## **Pets in Shelters Can Work! Garden State Animal Resource Team to Provide Training for Homeless Shelter Directors August 14th**

Join us for a meeting with Garden State Animal Resource Team to learn concrete steps on how to have pets stay with their owners in homeless shelters and not disrupt shelter operations. During this meeting you will learn: co-shelters options, how to navigate concerns, and resources that are available to you during the process.

August 14th, 1:00pm. Register in advance:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsduCrpz0qH9GuMbGavGfedewMi6GY\\_xW4](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsduCrpz0qH9GuMbGavGfedewMi6GY_xW4)

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## **Working To End Homelessness: Tools For Municipalities And Unsheltered Engagement Tuesday July 23rd 1:30pm - 3:00pm**

In response to activity around homeless encampments in various towns, along with the recent SCOTUS Grants Pass decision, DHCR's Office of Homelessness Prevention, in partnership with the Division of Local Government Services and the Department of Human Services, is planning a webinar for municipalities on addressing unsheltered homelessness.

The emphasis will be on ways to address unsheltered homelessness and encampments without engaging in traumatic clearances that increase tension and complicate coordinated housing efforts, with a focus on:

- **How to connect with Continuums of Care and resources locally, focusing on building relationships and thoughtful planning.**
- **Street outreach, Rapid rehousing, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) and other DCA and DHS resources and programs through which persons living in encampments can rapidly enter into housing.**
- **Evidenced-based and compassionate engagement strategies that are proven to assist people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, led by some of DCA and DHS outreach providers like Bridges and CSPNJ.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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## **Shelter Providers' Consortium Upcoming Monthly Meetings: Thursday July 18th and August 20th**

Please join our monthly meetings for Shelter Providers, the third Thursday of each month from 12pm - 1:15pm. Meetings provide updates and bring experts from a range of fields to provide resources and opportunities for Shelters as well as a chance to network and share best practices and challenges among peers.



## **We Are Hiring!**

Lead the Change: AmeriCorps Program Manager for Innovative Homeless Shelter Solutions in NJ

**[READ FULL JOB DESCRIPTION](#)**

## **HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS**



### **Homelessness In New Jersey Is Compounded By Extreme Heat. Advocates Are Pushing For More Cooling Centers**

*WHYY News*

This important piece highlights the Coalition's priority to get the state to pass Code Red legislation that would require shelter for at-risk individuals during extreme heat and bad air quality events. Coalition Executive Director Connie Mercer is quoted throughout, and notes: "some Jersey towns spend more money on homeless dogs and cats than homeless people." She also notes "There just has not been the kind of commitment to taking care of the homeless in this state that there has been in other states." This summer's scorching temperatures highlight the severe health risks faced by the homeless.



### **The Pay That A Family Of 4 Needs In NJ For Basic Survival In Each County**

*NJ 101.5.com*

MIT's Living Wage Calculator is a valuable tool. This tool estimates the income needed to cover basic minimum needs in specific areas, based on data from sources like the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and Housing and Urban Development. It highlights the pay that a family of four needs in NJ for basic survival in each county.



### **Many Nonprofits' Work In**



### **Affordable Housing Project Proposed For Downtown New Brunswick. Here's The Plan**

*My Central Jersey.com*

## [Affordable Housing Sector, But Leaders Say Need Is Even Greater](#)

*ROI-NJ.com*

Within the extensive network of nonprofits addressing affordable housing in New Jersey, Taiisa Kelly leads Monarch Housing Associates in Cranford, emphasizing the crucial need for more organizations to meet the state's significant housing shortfall. Audrey Winkler, CEO of JESPY House, underscores the urgent demand for affordable housing, particularly for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and highlights JESPY House's initiatives to expand housing through significant fundraising efforts.

Downtown New Brunswick could see the addition of ten new affordable housing units and a case management office, pending approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

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## [Judge Orders One Of New Jersey's Richest Towns To Put Affordable Housing Downtown](#)

*Gothamist*

A New Jersey judge has compelled Millburn Township to move forward with a 100% affordable housing development in its upscale downtown, overturning years of opposition from local officials. The ruling mandates the township to endorse the 75-unit project at 9 Main St. within 30 days, marking a significant step towards meeting its long-neglected affordable housing obligations. Despite alternative proposals, the court upheld the original agreement, emphasizing the pressing need to address housing disparities in the affluent community.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

### [HUD Makes \\$40 Million Available To Prevent Evictions And Homelessness](#)

*US Department Of Housing And Urban Development*

HUD has announced \$40 million in grants to support low-income tenants facing eviction with no-cost legal assistance. The Eviction Protection Grant Program aims to prevent homelessness by helping tenants navigate legal challenges and access housing stability resources.





### [When Little Kids Don't Have Stable Housing, It Can Affect Their Health](#)

*NJPR*

Children experiencing housing insecurity, especially in early childhood, are more likely to suffer from poorer health outcomes in adolescence, according to a recent study in Pediatrics. The longitudinal research found that even temporary periods of housing instability, such as homelessness or difficulty paying rent, correlated with higher levels of depression and anxiety among teens.



### [Groups Fighting In Homelessness In Minnesota Say Supreme Court Ruling Will Make Their Jobs Harder](#)

*Star Tribune*

The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling permits local governments to enforce fines and potential jail time against individuals living in public spaces where camping is prohibited, even when no shelter is available. Advocates argue this decision exacerbates challenges for homeless individuals, who already face significant barriers like mental health issues and lack of affordable housing. It underscores a broader issue of insufficient shelter and the need for compassionate solutions to homelessness rather than punitive measures.

### [Tiny Homes, Built Largely With Philanthropic Support, Offer More Patch Than Solution To Homelessness](#)

*Yahoo! Finance*

Amid a nationwide homelessness crisis affecting more than 650,000 individuals, the United States has seen a rapid expansion of tiny home villages, increasing from 34 in 2019 to 123 today. These villages offer quick and cost-effective housing solutions. However, critics argue that while beneficial in the short term, tiny homes do not address the root causes of affordable housing shortages across the country.



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**We love to share news about the accomplishments, events and other 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)**

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