

Homelessness MATTERS



NEWS & NOTES

August 2nd, 2024

Dear Coalition Partners and Friends,

We love to hear from you. If you have any updates or news that you'd like us to share, please reach out to Alicia at: aalvarez@njceh.org.

-The Staff of the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness

COALITION NEWS



Working to Ensure Homeless Service Providers' Voices Are Heard in the Implementation of the State's 1115 Waiver

The Coalition has convened a terrific Steering Committee of homeless service providers from across our membership to impact the impending changes in NJ's Medicaid program. These changes include reimbursing providers for case management and housing navigation services. The Steering Committee recently met with Medicaid staff to provide targeted feedback on some of the operational implications of the changes, including licensing of case managers, information technology systems, relationships with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, and reimbursement rates. The feedback was positively received. The Steering Committee will continue to meet through the fall and help communicate important updates to the Coalition's larger membership. Please stay tuned for more information.

Use Your Voice to Empower Change: Garden State Leaders Program Now Accepting Applications

The Garden State Leaders program offers free leadership and advocacy training for NJ residents with lived experience of homelessness and poverty. Participants learn to effectively share their stories and advance their advocacy goals, with each session covering topics like the NJ legislative process, local government engagement, and media collaboration. This program creates opportunities and fosters a strong community among participants, empowering them to make a lasting impact. The program will be hosted by the County



College of Morris and will include 4 in-person sessions + 4 virtual. More information can be found on our [website](#).

Apply to the 2024 Garden State Leaders Program!



Help the Coalition Help You! Complete the Annual Shelter Survey Today!

The Coalition's Annual Survey of Shelter Providers is the key tool which allows us to advocate for and create targeted programs suited to the needs of our state's shelters.

If you are a NJ homeless shelter and have not yet completed the survey, please do so today. We promise it's worth your time!

Deadline Extended: Shelters who respond by August 9th will be entered in a raffle to win 1 of 3 prizes for their staff!

Annual Survey of NJ Shelter Providers

[Apply to be an Americorps Member!](#)

WE ARE HIRING

Are you ready to make a real difference in the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness? Join us as a Housing Readiness Coordinator with AmeriCorps and embark on a rewarding journey to empower clients across New Jersey shelters

**JOIN US AS A HOUSING
READINESS COORDINATOR
WITH AMERICORPS**



RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS



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/joining/register/tZwsduCrpz0qH9GuMbGavGfedewMi6GY_xW4

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](#)

Shelter Providers' Consortium Upcoming Monthly Meetings: August 20th and September 19th

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.

Register in advance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApfuGhqD0rE9QkgtWPwEiRFi3vK2efjA8B>

PARTNER NEWS



Job Opportunities

The **Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless (ECHH)**, is recruiting a dynamic, entrepreneurial nonprofit professional to serve as its next **Executive Director**. Please express your interest with cover letter and resume or recommend a candidate for this position by contacting Dr. Terrence F. Cahill, President, DCM Institute for Nonprofit Board and Executive Leadership at terrence@dcm-associates.com or Mr. Jay Suggs, Managing Director at jay.suggs@dcm-associates.com.

The Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) is searching for their next CEO. TASK has fought hunger and poverty by providing over 7 million meals since its founding in 1982. With a \$7.5m budget, TASK has been leading the fight against hunger from its main location in Trenton's North Ward and through meals distributed by its 39 partners. **[Click here for details on how to apply.](#)**

HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



Supreme Court Homeless Ruling Could Impact NJ Advocates Fear

NJ Spotlight News

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld an Oregon city's ban on outdoor sleeping, allowing cities nationwide to implement similar laws. Several towns in New Jersey, such as Hammonton, Middle Township, and Egg Harbor Township, already have ordinances banning sleeping in public spaces, imposing fines and potential jail time for violators. This decision could encourage more New Jersey towns to adopt similar measures despite criticisms that it exacerbates the struggles of homeless individuals.



ICYMI: Human Services And Community Affairs Commissioners Announce Developers Can Apply For \$95M To Build Healthy Homes

Department Of Human Services

The New Jersey Healthy Homes Initiative offers \$95 million for developers to build up to 200 affordable housing units for NJ Family Care members. This initiative aims to provide stable housing for Medicaid recipients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, addressing a key social determinant of health. Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act and the state's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, this program supports both the construction and maintenance of these homes, promoting health and housing equity.



\$7.5M Awarded For Homeless Housing Programs

Jersey Shore Online



Legal Protection For Homeless People On Hold In NJ

NJ Spotlight

State lawmakers left for summer break without voting on the Homeless Bill of Rights, raising concerns among housing advocates following a recent Supreme

This is the third installment in our series on Ocean County's use of \$12.5 million in ARPA funds to address homelessness. Part One provided an overview of the awards, and Part Two detailed the \$5 million awarded to Bright Harbor Healthcare for a Young Adult Bridge Housing program. The remaining \$7.5 million has been allocated to HABcore, Inc., Family Promise of the Jersey Shore, and Bright Harbor Healthcare for the "Acquisition for Innovations to Address Homelessness" program, which focuses on providing emergency shelter and permanent housing solutions for the homeless in Ocean County, New Jersey..

Court decision that allows cities to ban homeless people from sleeping in public spaces. Advocates argue that criminalizing homelessness is harmful and urge for increased investment in affordable housing and protections for the homeless. The pending legislation aims to ensure basic rights and prevent discrimination against people experiencing homelessness.

Man Who Forced NJ Towns To Provide Affordable Housing Is Still Fighting 49 Years Later

NJ.com

Peter O'Connor, 82, has dedicated his life to promoting affordable housing, beginning with his role as lead attorney in a landmark New Jersey case in 1975, which established municipalities' obligation to provide low-to-moderate-income housing. This case, known as the Mount Laurel Doctrine, led to the creation of the Fair Share Housing Center, founded by O'Connor in 1986 to ensure compliance with affordable housing regulations. He continues his advocacy through Fair Share Housing Development, which has built numerous housing units, addressing the state's significant shortfall in affordable homes.



NJ Rents Are Out Of Control. Here's How Trenton Can Stop The Price Gouging- OPINION

NJ.com

New Jersey has seen rent prices skyrocket, with many residents facing steep increases that have nearly doubled since January 2020. Allegations of collusion among landlords, facilitated by software from companies like RealPage and Yardi, have led to federal investigations into rent-setting practices. State and local governments are now pushing to ban these collusive algorithms, aiming to curb rent gouging and protect tenants across New Jersey from exploitative housing practices.



[A Place To Recover From Illness: How Medical Respite Programs Help Unhoused People Heal](#)

Shelter Force

To people with serious illnesses and injuries who are also experiencing homelessness, rest, heal, and recovery often seem impossible. Medical respite care programs bridge the gap between housing and health care, providing private space for those too ill to recover on the streets but not requiring hospital-level treatment. Since 2012, these programs have more than tripled in the U.S., now existing in 40 states, offering essential support for unhoused individuals.



[Newsom To Remove Homeless Encampments Across California After Supreme Court Decision](#)

National Review

California Governor Gavin Newsom has ordered state officials to remove homeless encampments following a Supreme Court ruling that allows local governments to ban public camping and impose fines on violators. Newsom's executive order directs cities to dismantle encampments on public property while providing social services and housing alternatives, marking a shift from the state's previous accommodative homelessness policies. This comes as California continues to face a growing homelessness crisis, with an estimated 180,000 people homeless last year.



[More of America's Homeless are Clocking into Jobs Each Day](#)

Washington Post

They are plumbers and casino supervisors, pizzeria managers and factory workers. They deliver groceries, sell eyeglasses and unload trucks at Amazon. And they're the new, unlikely face of



[States Most Impacted by the Climate Crisis Lack Sufficient Shelter and Housing for the Most Vulnerable](#)

National Alliance to End Homelessness

A new analysis by the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Homelessness Research Institute indicates that none of the states most impacted by the climate crisis have sufficient resources to keep everyone safe. As the climate crisis

homelessness: Working Americans with decent-paying jobs who simply can't afford a place to live. Homelessness, already at a record high last year, appears to be worsening among people with jobs, as housing becomes further out of reach for low-wage earners, according to shelter interviews and upticks in evictions and homelessness tallies around the country.

impacts more states, this analysis makes it clear that that federal, state, and local governments must make investments in the shelter, supportive services, and permanent housing solutions needed to bring vulnerable people indoors during weather emergencies.



Safe Places And Safe Sleeping: Cast Effective And Humane Recommendations For Local Leaders After Grant Pass

BROOKINGS

In her dissent on the recent City of Grants Pass v. Johnson Supreme Court ruling, Justice Sonia Sotomayor highlighted the troubling trend of criminalizing homelessness, noting that the decision could worsen the plight of those without housing by enabling arrests for sleeping in public spaces. This ruling risks exacerbating the criminalization of homelessness, which already affects numerous cities nationwide, and could lead to increased rates of both homelessness and crime. The Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey (HCDNNJ) emphasizes that, instead of punitive measures, adopting evidence-based strategies that focus on housing and support services offers a more humane and effective solution to both homelessness and public safety challenges.



Millions Remain Unspent In Federal Funds For Students-And Time Is Running Out

KCUR 89.3

Three years after federal aid was earmarked to ensure homeless students receive an education, millions remain unspent across the Midwest and the nation. With a looming September deadline, any unspent funds will return to the U.S. Treasury, despite the flexibility these funds offer for services like transportation, food, and emergency housing. Advocates and officials, like Missouri's state Rep. Deb Lavender, are pushing for schools to utilize these resources quickly to support homeless students, yet many districts remain unaware or uncertain about accessing the funds.

I Lived In a Homeless Encampment For A Week. I Saw First Hand How Housing First Doesn't Work

US Today

Last year, over 650,000 Americans experienced homelessness, marking a 12% increase since 2022, with chronic homelessness hitting an all-time high of 143,000 people. The prevailing "Housing First" policy prioritizes placing individuals into permanent housing quickly without addressing underlying issues such as mental illness or addiction. Critics argue for a broader approach that includes addiction recovery, mental health services, and job training to tackle the root causes of homelessness and break the cycle.



Affordable Housing Statistics: Our 2024 Report

USA Today

The ongoing shortage of affordable housing is making it difficult for Americans to buy homes, with 42% of movers in 2022 relocating due to housing-related issues and 7.7% specifically seeking more affordable options. In 2024, over three-quarters of households cannot afford a median-priced home of \$495,750, highlighting the critical need for increased affordable housing availability and supportive programs. States like Michigan offer more affordable markets, while areas in California remain among the least affordable. In New Jersey, only 30 out of every 100 homes are affordable for low-income individuals, further emphasizing the need for comprehensive solutions to address these disparities.



Homeless Service Providers Could Help More People Overcome Homelessness If They Measured Success Differently

The Conversation

Homelessness in the U.S. is worsening, with over 650,000 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2023, according to HUD. In Georgia, the number of unsheltered individuals has outpaced those with emergency shelter since 2017. Despite billions in federal funding, the problem persists partly because nonprofits often measure success by immediate outputs, like meals served, rather than long-term impact, such as whether people achieve lasting self-sufficiency. Shifting focus to impact measures could enhance the effectiveness of homelessness services and improve outcomes for those in need.



Biden Administration Announces Funds To Help Local Communities With Affordable Housing

KANW-FM

Amidst rising rent costs and growing concerns about affordable housing, the Biden administration is taking action by allocating over \$300 million to support states and local communities. This funding aims to improve low-income housing, provide legal assistance for those facing eviction, and offer down payment help for first-time homebuyers. Despite some opposition, these initiatives, including rent caps and federal land transfers for housing development, are part of a broader effort to make housing more accessible and address the housing affordability crisis.



Instead Of Spending To Criminalize Homelessness, Invest In Care

San Antonio Paper

The recent Supreme Court ruling making it easier to fine or arrest unhoused individuals threatens to exacerbate the homelessness crisis. Rather than criminalizing homelessness, local governments should focus on investing in holistic care solutions. Programs like San Antonio's Towne Twin Village, which offer not only housing but also comprehensive support services, are essential for addressing the root causes of homelessness and helping individuals reintegrate into society effectively.

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



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