

# Homelessness MATTERS



NEWS & NOTES

April 3, 2024

Sharing resources and knowledge helps us all do better — if you run across any gems you think would be a good read for your peers, please let us know at [info@NJCEH.org](mailto:info@NJCEH.org).

**Be sure to check out the bottom of this email for an important new funding opportunity available for NJ homeless service providers!**

## COALITION NEWS

### Coalition Signs on to Amicus Brief to SCOTUS to Oppose the Criminalization of Homelessness

We were honored this week to sign on to an Amicus Brief submitted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities to the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the rights of unhoused people in *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson*.

[Read the Amicus Brief](#)

### Connie Mercer Appointed to New Jersey's New Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Coalition Executive Director, Connie Mercer, was appointed this week to NJ's newly formed Interagency Council on Homelessness in the Governor's Office. She's looking forward to taking strides toward eliminating homelessness with her partners on the Council. Congratulations to Connie!

### Welcome To Our New Training Institute Director

The Coalition is pleased to welcome our new Training Institute Director, Alex Pillion, marking the commencement of another valuable and supportive branch of the Coalition's work to ensure homelessness in New Jersey is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

The Training Institute's first project was to secure cost-effective, high quality cybersecurity training for our member shelters to have access to through the platform, KnowBe4. Not only do they offer fun and engaging content, but we were also able to negotiate a deal with KnowBe4 to provide access to their ongoing training for 500 of our shelters' staff members **for a very low yearly cost of \$8.50 per person**. *Because we have seen the damage firsthand that a lack of this type of valuable training can have on an organization, we are excited to share this*

## HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



### [DCA Awards More Than \\$7.1 Million in Homelessness Prevention Grants to Community Nonprofit Organizations Across New Jersey.](#)

*Department of Community Affairs*

DCA granted over \$7.1 million to nonprofits across New Jersey for homelessness prevention, focusing on keeping people housed and addressing housing crises. These funds are part of two programs aimed at practical solutions for housing stability.



### [How the President's FY 2025 Budget Would Work to Prevent Homelessness](#)

*United States Interagency Council on Homelessness*

The President's FY 2025 budget proposes over \$10 billion to combat homelessness, an 11% increase from 2023, prioritizing prevention to stem the tide of people losing homes. Reflecting lessons from the pandemic and the American Rescue Plan's impact, this budget aims to sustain the equitable progress made in housing stability and support services.

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### [America Needs a New Approach on Affordable Housing — History Offers a Guide](#)

*TIME*

The article highlights the ongoing housing crisis in the U.S., emphasizing the urgent need for a comprehensive federal public housing program. It calls for a shift towards viewing housing as a fundamental right rather than a commodity, advocating for a transformative approach that learns from past failures and prioritizes social welfare over profit.



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### [Homelessness Compounds Hospital Stay Challenges: Study Reveals Prolonged Discharge Struggles](#)

*AJMC*

A recent study reveals that homelessness

significantly increases the challenges faced by individuals during a hospital stay. Researchers found that homeless patients had longer hospital stays, were more likely to be readmitted, and experienced higher mortality rates compared to non-homeless patients. The study highlights the need for targeted interventions and support to address the unique needs of homeless individuals in healthcare settings.



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### [20 States with the Largest Homeless Population Per Capita](#)

*Insider Monkey*

Discover how rising housing costs and a lack of affordable housing have led to a surge in homelessness, prompting both nationwide initiatives and corporate commitments to address this critical issue.



### [Is Housing Health Care? State Medicaid Programs Increasingly Say 'Yes'](#)

*USA TODAY*

States are using Medicaid funds to address the homelessness crisis, with California allocating \$12 billion to help homeless patients secure housing. This innovative approach recognizes the impact of stable housing on overall health outcomes and aims to improve the wellbeing of the poorest and sickest Americans.



### [Schools May be Underestimating How Many Kids are Homeless](#)

*PHYS.ORG*

A study reveals that schools in the United States are underestimating the number of homeless students. Research indicates that official counts provided by schools are often inaccurate due to reasons including the stigma associated with homelessness or limited knowledge of the students' living situations. Homeless students face numerous challenges, including lower academic performance and higher rates of chronic absenteeism. The study emphasizes the need for accurate data to provide appropriate support and resources to vulnerable students.





## [How New Jersey's New Affordable Housing Law Aims to Ease the Housing Crisis](#)

*Route Fifty*

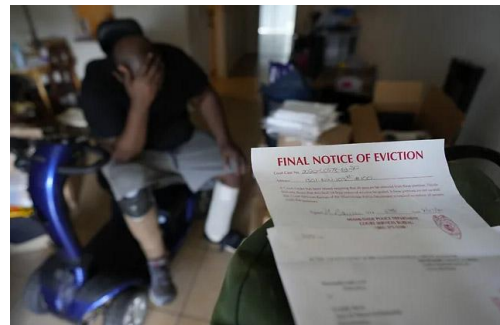
A new law in New Jersey mandates affordable housing targets for municipalities based on regional need, with legal consequences for non-compliance. The law aims to address the housing crisis, promote fair housing, and reduce segregation, but faces criticism for potential burdens on municipalities and overdevelopment.



## [Here's How People Experiencing Homelessness Can Earn \\$75 and Free Lunch to Pick Up Trash in Camden County](#)

*Fox 29 Philadelphia*

The Work Now program in Camden County, NJ provides opportunities for people experiencing homelessness to work and earn \$75 and a free lunch by picking up trash. Since its launch in August 2023, the program has helped over 85 individuals, with 15 now having a stable income and five landing full-time jobs.



## [Princeton's Eviction Lab Report Reveals Evictions are More Than 50% Higher Than Pre-Pandemic Average](#)

*WABE PBS*

The housing crisis continues to worsen as eviction rates soar, leaving many vulnerable individuals without stable homes. Data shows evictions climbing over 50% above pre-pandemic levels, worsening the situation.

**RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS**

## Grants Available For Your Staff!

Do you have staff who work to help prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious disease for your program? If so, your organization may qualify for grant funds to support their work.

For more information and to apply, click the link below.

**Applications must be in by Friday April 19th!**

[Grant Application](#)

## FREE HEPA Filters Available for Homeless Service Providers

The Coalition has partnered with Medify Air and the NJ Department of Health to bring HEPA portable air purifiers into your facility at no cost to your organization. All shipping and handling fees are included. Click below to place your order today!

[FREE HEPA Filter Order Form](#)

## FREE PPE and Covid Test Kits Available for Homeless Service Providers

The Coalition has FREE Covid-19 rapid test kits and PPE ready for distribution. We also offer free infection control consultations for homeless service providers at no cost. Complete the form below to place your order and/or express interest in a consultation for your organization today!

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We love to share news about Homelessness Service Agencies' accomplishments, events and noteworthy activities with Coalition members — If you or your organization has something to share, please send it to us at [info@NJCEH.org](mailto:info@NJCEH.org)

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