

Homelessness MATTERS



NEWS & NOTES

June 5th, 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.

COALITION NEWS

We Are Hiring!

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

[READ FULL JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

Training available from the NJ Office of New Americans

Come hear from the NJ Department of Human Services Director of the Office of New Americans on important resources available to your clients.

Wednesday June 12th 10am or 3pm.

Click below to register for whichever works best for your schedule.

10am: [REGISTER HERE](#)

3pm: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Free Naloxone Training

Presented by the NJ Harm Reduction Coalition

Please keep in mind this training is only accepting a maximum of 30 participants

Thursday, June 27th at 12pm.

Register in advance for this meeting:

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Mental Health 101 (Part 1)

The Mental Health Association of New Jersey will be offering training sessions on the **third Tuesday of every month** at:

6am

8am

10am

2pm

3pm

7pm

Kickoff is June 18th!

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

QPR Suicide Prevention Training

Presented by the VA

June 25th 2pm - 4pm

or

June 26th 8:30am - 10:30am

Registration details to follow.

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!

[PPE/Test Kits](#)

PARTNER NEWS

Legislative Day!

The Housing and Community Development Network's annual Legislative Day is NEXT WEEK! We will be making our way to the State House in Trenton to meet with our elected officials on Thursday, June 13th. This event is free to attend, but you must [REGISTER!](#)

New Supportive Housing In Burlington County

The Salt and Light Company, Inc. cordially invites you to the Open House for its first two Delran Supportive Housing units that have been funded by the NJ DCA National Housing Trust Fund.

These two units are the first two of the five we have under contract that will be used to provide affordable housing for families made homeless due to domestic violence.

The NHTF funding comes with 30 years of rental assistance for people at or under 30% of the Area Median Income. [CLICK FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



Newark Shelter Residents Take Concerns To City Council, Claim Retaliation

TAP into Newark

Residents of the Hotel Riviera homeless shelter in Newark are alleging retaliation for voicing concerns about conditions like violence, bedbugs, and insufficient food. City officials are demanding answers, while the shelter operator denies the claims and cites safety issues for the removal of some residents.



Dover Councilman Makes First Court Appearance After Allegedly Assaulting Homeless Man

Daily Record

Dover Councilman Sergio Rodriguez made his first court appearance three months after being arrested for allegedly assaulting a homeless man. The case has been postponed to June 27 to allow the prosecutor time to review evidence, including videos of the incident, which has generated significant controversy and calls for Rodriguez's resignation. The Garden State Leaders will be working on addressing this issue with the town of Dover to bring awareness to this matter.



7 Infuriating Reasons Nobody Can Afford Homes In New Jersey

Cat Country 107.3

Navigating New Jersey's real estate market can feel like an uphill battle. Sky-high living costs, steep property taxes, scarce affordable housing, dense population, commuter preferences, heavy student loan debt, and rising interest rates all converge to make buying a home in the Garden State a daunting challenge. No wonder New Jersey ranks as one of the worst states for homeownership.



NEW REPORT: Outdated and Ineffective: Why New Jersey Needs To Update Its Top Anti-Poverty Program

Insider NJ

A new report from New Jersey Policy Perspective reveals that the state's leading anti-poverty program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), has not been adjusted for inflation since 1998, severely limiting its ability to help families escape deep poverty. With benefits losing 30% of their value over the years, many

families now struggle to cover basic necessities, underscoring the urgent need for policy updates to ensure TANF meets today's cost of living.

[Amid Rising Rates Of Food And Housing Insecurity, United Way Of Passaic County Awards Nearly \\$300,000 In Grant Funding For Emergency Food And Shelter](#)

TAP into Passaic Valley

United Way of Passaic County has invested \$288,138 in FEMA-funded support for Emergency Food and Shelter Providers to combat rising food and housing costs. This crucial funding helps address the needs of over 72,000 residents living in poverty and the 32% of households unable to afford basic necessities amid escalating inflation.



[A New Strategy To House Homeless People](#)

VOX



As the Supreme Court considers granting cities greater power to criminalize homelessness, advocates like Mandy Chapman Semple champion alternative approaches. Semple's "street-to-home" model, emphasizing permanent housing solutions over punitive measures, has shown promising results in cities like Houston, challenging the notion that enforcement is the sole solution to addressing homelessness.



[The First National Calculation Of Mortality Of The US Homeless Population](#)

VOX EU

A recent study delves into the connection between homelessness and health outcomes in the US, revealing that homeless individuals face a mortality risk roughly 3.5 times higher than their housed counterparts, a disparity that persists beyond their time spent without shelter. This research underscores the urgent need to address the significant health disparities experienced by the most vulnerable segments of society, shedding light on the complex interplay between socioeconomic factors and health outcomes.



[Growing Number Of Seniors Face Homelessness](#)

NBC News

The expiration of Covid-era eviction moratoriums has left many elderly individuals facing the threat of losing their homes, with the cumbersome process of appealing eviction orders posing additional challenges for those with limited resources. Despite laws initially meant to protect vulnerable residents during the pandemic, renters and landlords now find themselves in difficult positions, leading to heightened anxiety and uncertainty among low-income seniors.



[Learn More About NLIHC's New State And Local Innovation Project](#)

NLIHC

NLIHC's State and Local Innovation (SLI) project, launched in April, supports state and local partners in implementing tenant protections and sustaining emergency rental assistance programs, while also influencing federal policies to aid marginalized renters. Building on the success of its ERASE project, which ensured ERA funds reached vulnerable renters, the SLI project now focuses on addressing rising rents and stagnant wages by providing resources for tenant



[SNAP Benefits Fail to Cover Food Costs Almost Everywhere in the US: Analysis](#)

Yahoo! Finance

A recent analysis highlights the inadequacy of SNAP benefits in covering food costs for families nationwide, with a significant gap remaining between benefit amounts and meal expenses. Despite efforts to adjust benefits, including a cost-of-living adjustment, the persisting

protections, tracking rental assistance programs, and combating homelessness.

shortfall underscores the urgent need for policy reform to ensure families' nutritional needs are met.

[US Affordable Rent Housing Policy Either Doesn't Make Any Sense Or Is Working As Intended](#)

Counter Punch

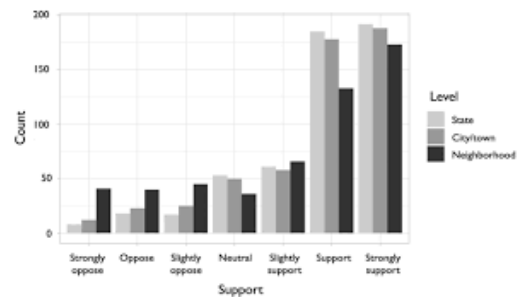
Affordable housing policies consistently fail renters, with a growing percentage spending a significant portion of their income on housing costs. Despite reliance on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), which doesn't effectively provide low-income housing and allows for conversion to market rate, policymakers continue to overlook the escalating loss of affordable rentals.



[How Racism Impacts Support For Affordable Housing](#)

PHYS.org

Despite broad support for affordable housing at the national level, opposition often arises at the local level, hindering efforts to address the housing crisis. Stanford researchers reveal that negative emotional associations and underlying biases, such as racism, significantly contribute to neighborhood-level opposition to affordable housing developments. Understanding and addressing these biases are crucial steps in garnering public support and effectively tackling the shortage of affordable homes across the United States.



[In Depth: Medically-Supported Housing Aims To Improve Care](#)

NBC 5

Rep. Becca Balint is pushing for the federal government to integrate health care and housing, aiming to address substance use disorders within affordable housing settings. Her proposed Community Housing Act seeks to bridge the gap between health care and housing services to ensure individuals receive timely support while maintaining stable housing.



[What Can Be Done About Homelessness? Laying A Foundation For Better Mental Health](#)

Psychology Today

In the midst of a homelessness crisis, Joey, a homeless veteran, poignantly describes the heart-wrenching experience of feeling invisible on the streets, underscoring the urgent need for compassionate and effective solutions. Despite decades of policy efforts, including Housing First initiatives, systemic challenges



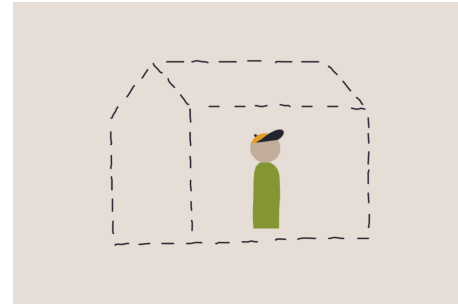
persist, fueled by the deinstitutionalization of mental health care and austerity measures. It's time for policymakers to confront the stark reality faced by individuals like Joey and prioritize comprehensive solutions that address the root causes of homelessness.



[Senators Introduce Bill To Provide \\$70 Billion In Housing Funds](#)

Housingwire

A bipartisan coalition, led by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, is poised to introduce a new bill seeking \$70 billion in funding for public housing, aiming to tackle the pressing housing crisis in the United States. The proposed legislation underscores the crucial connection between housing quality and public health, emphasizing the urgent need for repairs to address issues like insect infestations and lead exposure exacerbated by chronic underfunding and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.



[New Report Highlights Effective Ways To Reduce Youth Homelessness](#)

Community Solutions

ORS Impact's recent assessment of youth homelessness strategies reveals alarming statistics: over 700,000 adolescents and 3.5 million young adults have experienced homelessness, with even higher rates among LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC youth. The report, supported by Community Solutions and Built for Zero, offers insights, recommendations, and detailed interventions aimed at preventing and reducing youth homelessness nationwide.

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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