

# Homelessness MATTERS



NEWS & NOTES

May 22, 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).

## RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

### 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.*

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### Additional Upcoming Trainings –

**June: Mental Health 101 Part 1 (June 18th)**

**July: Mental Health 101 Part 2 (Date TBD)**

**August: Suicide Prevention (Date TBD)**

***Details on how to register coming soon!***

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### 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

Congratulations to both Dan McGuire, Executive Director of Homeless Solutions, Inc. in Morristown and Jaclyn Cherubini, Executive Director of the Hoboken Shelter for **20 years of service** in their organizations! The people of your communities are very lucky to have you both!

# HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS

## HUD is Expanding Solutions to Tackle Homelessness with Housing Vouchers

### New flexibilities help communities to expedite the process to get housing assistance to those experiencing homelessness

#### More Guidance From HUD To Follow

*Press Release*

HUD's latest initiative allows housing agencies to expedite housing assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness by accepting self-certification of income for program eligibility for the Housing Choice Voucher program. This move streamlines the process of moving individuals and families into stable housing, particularly in communities with high rates of homelessness. By making federal rental assistance more accessible, HUD is working to reduce homelessness and provide timely access to safe and affordable housing. More guidance from HUD to follow.



### Why Some Homeless People Say No Option But To Camp In The Woods

*NJ Spotlight News*

Despite raising over \$107,000 through a \$5 document processing fee, Ocean County's Homelessness Trust Fund Task Force has yet to establish bylaws or decide on fund allocation. Meanwhile, many homeless residents, like Melissa McLean, live in encampments due to the severe shortage of affordable housing and lengthy waiting lists.



### 'Searching For Gigi' Peer Recovery Specialists On The Streets Of Trenton

*NJ Spotlight News*

Discover the compassionate work of dedicated peer recovery specialists in Trenton as they search the city streets, offering support and resources to individuals facing homelessness and addiction. Despite challenges like the shortage of affordable housing, these specialists remain committed to providing care and hope to those in need.

Coalition Executive Director, Connie Mercer is quoted: "...the reality in New Jersey is that there is not enough affordable housing — even for people who are working as teachers or fireman never mind the 'horrible lack' of affordable housing for people who are of very low income...That's where providing safe, quality shelters is an important piece of

the mix.”



## [One Street At A Time-The Work To End Homelessness](#)

*NJ Spotlight News*

Ending homelessness by giving people homes might seem simplistic, but it's a comprehensive strategy being actively pursued in New Jersey. Every day, nonprofit leaders, volunteers, social workers, hospital staff, and public officials collaborate to provide shelter, build housing units, and offer extensive support services, including medical care, financial planning, and addiction recovery. The "housing first" approach, which prioritizes providing permanent housing without preconditions, has been particularly effective, demonstrating success in New Jersey and other cities across the country. This multifaceted effort addresses immediate needs and fosters long-term stability and self-sufficiency for those experiencing homelessness.



## [One Man's Journey Out Of Homelessness](#)

*NJ Spotlight News*

The "housing first" program implemented by the Camden Coalition highlights the importance of providing individuals facing homelessness with permanent housing and support services to improve their quality of life. Witness how this approach helped a former heroin addict turn his life around, finding stability, overcoming addiction, and rebuilding relationships with loved ones, showcasing the transformative power of housing as a foundation for a brighter future.

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## [“Supportive Housing’ Is No Cure-All For Mentally Ill Homeless](#)

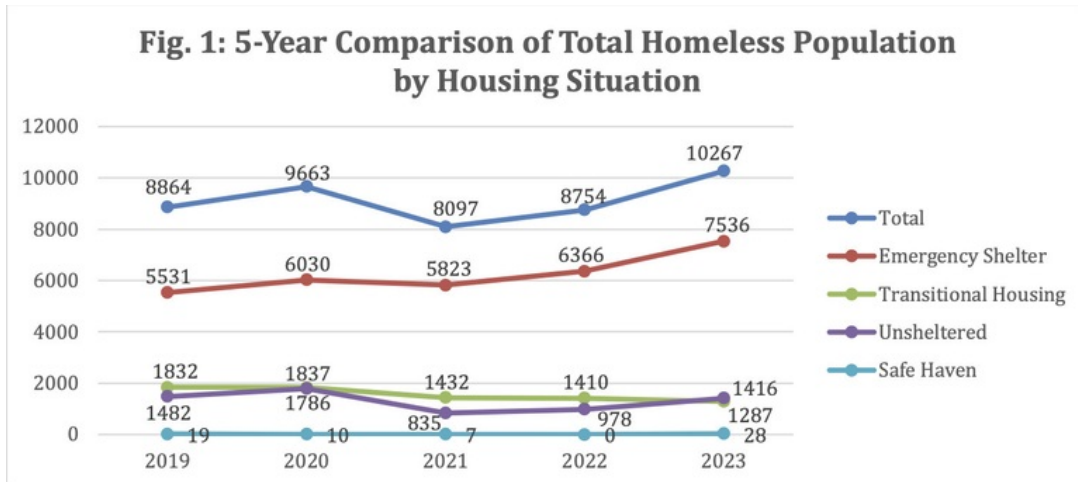
*New York Post*

NYC disclosed this week that its main supportive-housing program is far behind its goals, achieving fewer than 4,000 of the 15,000 promised units. Despite substantial political and financial backing for supportive housing, evidence suggests it can't be developed quickly enough to significantly reduce homelessness. This opinion piece encourages progressives to reconsider their opposition to other solutions like psychiatric hospitalization and law enforcement, acknowledging that supportive housing alone won't solve the problem.



## Summit Mayor Forms Task Force To Tackle Homelessness

Tap Into Summit



Between 2022 and 2023, homelessness in the U.S. increased by 12%, reflecting systemic issues like a lack of affordable housing and the end of eviction moratoriums. In response to New Jersey's 17% rise in homelessness, Summit Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, MD, established a Task Force on Homelessness, aiming to address safety concerns and provide compassionate care. Despite initial skepticism, the task force is committed to fostering collaborative efforts to tackle homelessness, emphasizing the importance of unified community action and genuine solutions.



### Criminalizing Homelessness Won't Make It Go Away

*Film Club*

In the six-minute Opinion video "Criminalizing Homelessness Won't Make It Go Away," filmmaker Mark Horvath, who experienced homelessness firsthand, delves into the lives of homeless individuals across America and the misguided political responses to their struggles. Through personal stories and insightful commentary, the video challenges viewers to reconsider their perceptions of homelessness and advocates for compassionate, community-driven solutions over



### Homeless People Need More Than A House. They Need Something Money Can't Buy- Shift In Treating Homeless People Doesn't Just Focus On A House It Aims To Address Root Cause Of Crisis

*Fox News*

Despite Los Angeles's significant investment of over \$1 billion (about \$3 per person in the US) to tackle homelessness, the city's homeless population has continued to grow, mirroring a national trend. While innovative strategies beyond mere

punitive measures.

housing are being explored, such as holistic support services, stories like Sarah's underscore the pressing need for comprehensive, community-driven approaches to address the root causes of homelessness and provide lasting solutions for those affected.



### [NYC Health+ Hospitals Helps Homeless Patients With Medical Respite](#)

*News 12 THE BRONX*

The NYC Health + Hospitals' medical respite program offers homeless patients up to 90 days (about 3 months) of stay with expanded medical services unavailable in shelters. Keith, a resident benefiting from this program, shared how it has provided him with essential medical care, support, and a sense of home, giving him hope for the future. The program, the largest of its kind in the state with 51 beds, seeks more government funding to assist additional New Yorkers.



### [Op-Ed: Housing Is A Human Right, But Actions Are Needed To Back Up Those Words](#)

*New York Post*

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund is essential for creating affordable homes in New Jersey, but it needs strengthening to fulfill its promise. As fiscal year 2025 budget discussions continue, the Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey urges legislators to support measures like expanding the realty transfer fee and implementing a luxury landlord tax. These steps are crucial to address the state's affordable home deficit, rising rents, and racial barriers to housing.

### [A N.J. Vacant Motel Is Becoming A Shelter To House Veterans In Need](#)

*NJ Spotlight News*

Through donations and personal funds, Gladys Krasicki purchased a vacant motel in Atlantic County to create Veterans Village of Absecon, a shelter for homeless veterans. With her nonprofit, Veterans 101, and community support, nine veterans are currently housed, with plans to accommodate 26 by September. The organization is raising \$350,000 for additional renovations, aiming to provide comprehensive



services and a permanent community for veterans in need.

**[America's Biggest Medicaid Insurer Just Pledged To Help Build Nearly \\$1 Billion Of Affordable Housing: We Know 80% Of What Drives Health Is Non-Medical](#)**

*Fortune Well*



Centene, the largest Medicaid insurer in the U.S. is investing nearly \$1 billion in affordable housing development across eight states. Partnering with McCormack Baron Salazar, the initiative aims to address the impact of housing on health outcomes, recognizing the importance of social determinants in improving community well-being, particularly for Medicaid enrollees and underserved populations.

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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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