

Homelessness MATTERS



NEWS & NOTES

October 16th, 2024

"To address homelessness effectively there needs to be a continuum of services from outreach to shelter to transitional housing to a growing supply of affordable housing. No one piece will solve the issue of homelessness, but a safe, sustainable shelter system in every county is a solid foundation from which we can start to bring our neighbors home. "

- Robert Jakubowski, Division Director, County of Camden

Friends and Colleagues,

In recent years, as many of you know so well, shelters in New Jersey have suffered from a funding crisis that has forced their leaders to make difficult decisions. Whether they're reducing the number of meals served or the hours that guests can stay in their facility or cutting back on vital case management staff, shrinking budgets have meant they're often falling short on the services they so desperately want and need to deliver within our communities. These agencies serve as a critical stop on the continuum that Rob Jakubowski mentions in the quote above, and yet their work has gone underappreciated and undercompensated for many years.

The Coalition is leading the charge to restore the shelters' place in this continuum of services. Today in Trenton, we met with State, County and Municipal officials and shelter leaders to further our work to address this urgent need using a collaborative government approach.

Soon, we'll be distributing some action items YOU can take in your community to help advocate for better shelter funding. We're all in this together to create further reaching, better quality services for our most vulnerable neighbors in crisis.

In solidarity,

Connie Mercer
CEO NJ Coalition to End Homelessness

COALITION NEWS

Coalition Launches New Americorps Program in Shelters Across the State!



The Coalition kicked off its new AmeriCorps program last week at a 3-day orientation retreat in Princeton. This exciting program offers Housing Readiness Coordinators to shelters and outreach providers across New Jersey. These Coordinators will empower clients to navigate the complexities of securing permanent housing by helping them to obtain necessary identification, find stable sources of income, secure security deposits, and learn strategies for maintaining tenancy.

We are looking forward to seeing all the ways our AmeriCorps members will make an impact over the next year! Stay tuned for more updates, and see below for information on how to apply. Limited positions are still available.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Are you ready to make a **real difference**
in the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness?

APPLY TO BE A



Housing Readiness Coordinator

Empower shelter clients to achieve **Housing Readiness** by working with them to **navigate the complexities of securing housing**

(Locations vary at shelters across NJ)

BENEFITS

- Living Allowance of \$21,500
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$7,395 upon completion of service
- Health coverage and childcare benefits
- Professional development and networking opportunities

INTERESTED? HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please send resume and cover letter or direct your questions to **NJCEH AmeriCorps Program Manager, Victoria Tartivita** at vtartivita@njceh.org

RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS



Introducing the Susan G. Baker and Elizabeth Boyle Innovation Fund

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is pleased to announce the [Susan G. Baker and Elizabeth Boyle Innovation Fund](#). This fund honors two of the Alliance's co-founders and will support individuals with lived experience of homelessness in pursuing innovative professional and creative endeavors. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$25,000 in funding for initiatives like starting a business, research efforts, or creative projects. Applications are due by December 30, 2024, with virtual presentations and interviews scheduled for January 2025.

Register for an Informal Webinar on October 24th to Learn



Collaboration Between the Mental Health Association in NJ and The Coalition Continues This Fall

We are pleased to offer FREE training sessions on a range of behavioral health related topics. Sessions are 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

Our next and final session of the year is November 19th

Topic: How medication can play an important role in supporting individuals living with mental health challenges **(1-hour session)**

For more details and a link to join, email us at: info@njceh.org

Shelter Providers' Consortium Upcoming Monthly Meetings: TOMORROW October 17th and November 21st

Shelter Directors: Please join our monthly meetings for Shelter Providers, the third Thursday of each month from 12pm - 1:15pm. Meetings provide crucial relevant information and bring experts from a range of fields to deliver resources and opportunities for shelters. Meetings are also an energizing chance to network and share best practices and challenges among peers.

Register in advance:

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



Notice of Funding Opportunity: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. KING DAY 2025 Commemoration Mini Grant

The New Jersey Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is offering mini-grants to support commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his work & legacy, on or

around the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 20, 2025.

The Commission will award mini-grants to community organizations and programs to highlight and commemorate Dr. King on or around the 2025 MLK Holiday. Funding based on the reach of the program; grants up to \$1000 for local programs; \$2500 for regional programs; and up to \$5000 for statewide programs. [Click here](#) for details.

****APPLICATION DEADLINE: 9:00 AM on October 21, 2024****

Questions? Please email MLKCommission@sos.nj.gov



Trauma-Informed Outreach and Engagement

This training course is accredited for 3 CEUs from NASW and provides foundational information about trauma-informed outreach and engagement strategies, approaches, and service delivery models. This will focus on ways to support individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have serious mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders.

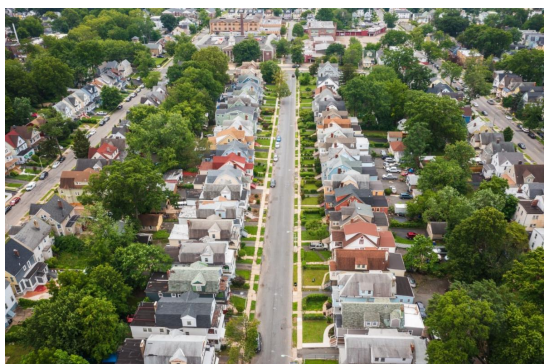
[Click here](#) for more information.

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](#)

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



[25% Of Renters Can't Afford](#)



[Adenah Bayoh Is On A Mission To Reshape New Jersey Housing](#)

Housing. What's Next As Affordable Housing Rules Take Effect?

The Jersey City Bee

At the 2024 New Jersey Governor's Conference on Housing, policymakers emphasized expanding multi-family housing and sustainable development but gave limited attention to addressing segregation. Meanwhile, affordable housing in the state is set to undergo major changes in 2025 as municipalities must meet new obligations under the Mount Laurel Doctrine, although legal challenges could delay these efforts. Housing experts warn that New Jersey faces a shortage of over 200,000 affordable units, affecting at least 25% of renters.



Baraka Shares Plan To Tackle Housing Crisis If Elected NJ Governor

Patch

New Jersey is facing a shortage of nearly 200,000 housing units, a gap that Newark Mayor Ras Baraka aims to address with his housing reimagined policy if elected governor in 2025. Baraka's plan includes creating an affordable housing task force, allocating half of the state's tax credits for affordable housing, establishing a First Loss Capital Fund to support high-impact projects, and capping rent increases at cost-of-living adjustments for two years. Baraka emphasizes that solving the housing crisis requires a regional, collaborative approach to address the root causes.

vtdigger

Adenah Bayoh, a Liberian immigrant and entrepreneur, is set to become the first Black woman to spearhead a major affordable housing project in New Jersey. Her 40-unit development in Newark's South Side focuses on creating opportunities, with amenities like free Wi-Fi, computers for residents, and transitional housing for families experiencing homelessness. Bayoh's journey from war-torn Liberia to leading community-focused real estate initiatives highlights her commitment to transformative housing solutions that address generational challenges in underserved communities.



Op-Ed: McGreevey's Affordable Housing Plan Doesn't Add Up

Jersey City Times

McGreevey's claims about building 1,000 affordable housing units with diverted PILOT funds and other sources lack credibility when examined closely. While optimism is nice, the Pompidou PILOT can't be undone easily, and even if it were, those funds wouldn't directly finance affordable housing. His misleading numbers on funding sources like LIHTC, ASPIRE, and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund demonstrate a lack of understanding or transparency. Jersey City needs real policy solutions, not promises that can't be delivered.

[Building In Newark Earns 'Smart Growth Award' From NJ Future](#)

Patch

The mixed-use development at 20 Littleton Avenue in Newark, featuring 78 affordable housing units and ground-floor healthcare services, has received a prestigious "Smart Growth Award" from New Jersey Future. The project, recognized for its commitment to sustainability and inclusivity, is a collaboration between local partners, including the City of Newark and University Hospital.



[Toms River Plans 17-Bed Homeless Shelter](#)

Jersey Shore Online

The Christ Church of Toms River has been hosting a homelessness outreach program since July 2023, offering services like housing referrals and showers. Plans are now underway to expand the church's support by creating a 17-bed homeless shelter, managed by the Affordable Housing Alliance (AHA). The proposed shelter, which requires a zoning variance, would offer temporary housing and services for people in need, but has raised concerns from local residents about its impact on the neighborhood.



[12 More Towns Sue State Over New Affordable Housing Law](#)

nj.com

A coalition of 21 municipalities in New Jersey, led by Montvale Mayor Mike Ghassali, has filed an amended lawsuit against the state, claiming that a new law aimed at increasing affordable housing is an overreach. The law standardizes municipal obligations for affordable housing and provides protections against lawsuits opposing such developments. The plaintiffs argue that the law exceeds constitutional requirements under the Mount Laurel Doctrine and question the exemption of certain municipalities, while state officials defend the law as essential for addressing housing needs in New Jersey.



[New \\$6 Million Center Providing Social Services For Homeless Population Planned In Camden](#)

TapintoNewark

Camden County plans to establish a \$6 million Multi-Agency Center (MAC) in the Bergen Square area to provide comprehensive social services for the homeless population, rather than functioning as a traditional homeless shelter. The center will offer various services, including assistance with identification, cashing social security checks, and amenities like washers, dryers, and showers, aiming to help individuals transition into permanent housing. With an estimated 148 unsheltered individuals in Camden County, the MAC seeks to reduce this number significantly by addressing the obstacles that keep people from finding stable housing.

[NJ Town First To Agree To 1500 Plus New Affordable Housing Units Over Next Decade](#)

Gothamist

South Brunswick Township has reached a significant settlement with the Fair Share Housing Center, allowing for the development of over 1,500 new affordable housing units over the next decade. This agreement comes after a lengthy legal battle regarding the township's compliance with state-mandated affordable housing obligations, shifting from previous resistance to embracing a variety of projects, including larger apartment complexes. With plans to meet its housing goals ahead of new state requirements, South Brunswick aims to address the affordable housing crisis while collaborating with housing advocates.



[Another NJ Town Targets](#)



[Homeless With Sleeping Ban](#)

NJ Spotlight News

Millville has recently passed an ordinance prohibiting individuals from sleeping in public spaces, such as streets and sidewalks, as part of an effort to address rising homelessness in the area. The new law imposes a \$500 fine for a first offense, with subsequent violations potentially resulting in fines up to \$2,000 or jail time. This move has drawn criticism from advocates who argue that such measures further stigmatize and penalize those experiencing homelessness rather than providing effective solutions.

[Can NJ Get Creative To Build More Affordable Housing?](#)

NJ Spotlight News

New Jersey faces a long-standing housing crisis, requiring an estimated 214,000 additional low-rent homes to meet demand. Despite nearly 50 years of state Supreme Court rulings aimed at increasing affordable housing through the Mount Laurel Doctrine, only 72,000 units have been added since its inception. Recent strategies from California's proactive housing policies, including the YIMBY movement and innovative zoning reforms, offer potential solutions for New Jersey to overcome local resistance and significantly boost affordable housing availability. With new laws set to enhance state oversight and compliance, the time is ripe for New Jersey to adopt successful models from other states and tackle its housing challenges head-on.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

[Florida Enacts Tough Law To Get Homeless Off The Streets, Leaving Cities And Counties Scrambling](#)

Yahoo! News

Florida has enacted one of the nation's strictest anti-homelessness laws, making it illegal to sleep in public spaces such as sidewalks, parks, and beaches. With an estimated 31,000 homeless individuals in the state, local officials are now racing against the clock to develop adequate shelter solutions or risk lawsuits for failing to comply. While some cities are exploring temporary encampments and converting abandoned buildings into shelters, advocates express concern that this law may further isolate vulnerable populations, complicating their access to essential services and support.



[SF Frontline Workers Who Help People On Streets, In Shelters Call For Fair Pay](#)

KQED

Frontline workers in San Francisco, like Brenna Alexander, a clinical social worker at UCSF, are advocating for fair pay due to significant salary disparities compared to their colleagues at medical centers, despite having similar qualifications. Many campus social workers face daily safety risks while providing essential services to vulnerable populations, yet they earn about one-third less than their peers, contributing to high turnover and burnout. The union representing these workers is pushing for equitable compensation and better career advancement opportunities to ensure adequate staffing and support for individuals experiencing homelessness and mental health crises in the city.



[Hundreds Of Thousands Of Housing Units Could Lose Affordability](#)

Planetizen

As the 30-year term of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) expires, hundreds of thousands of affordable housing units could see rent hikes or evictions, affecting low-income families who rely on this housing. By 2030, 350,000 units may lose affordability, rising to 1 million by 2040. While some states like California have extended affordability requirements, most have not, leaving many units at risk.

[One Possible Housing Crisis Solution? A New Kind Of Public Housing For All Income Levels](#)

NJPR

A new approach to addressing the housing crisis is emerging with mixed-income public housing, where local governments fund and own housing projects for residents across all income levels. This model, which ensures long-term affordability by reinvesting market-rate rents into lower-income units, is gaining attention for its potential to create inclusive, high-quality housing without relying heavily on federal funding. Examples like Montgomery County, Maryland's Hillandale Gateway project are leading the way, offering a sustainable solution to the growing housing shortage.



[Yes, There's A Solution To Unsheltered Homelessness In California. It's](#)

[Called Interim Housing.](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

California faces a significant unsheltered homelessness problem, exacerbated by ineffective policies rather than a lack of resources. By investing in interim housing, which provides safe, private spaces combined with supportive services, the state can address immediate needs while permanent housing solutions are developed. The success of cities like San Jose in implementing interim housing demonstrates that with creative approaches and a commitment to urgent action, California can significantly reduce its unsheltered population and transform lives.

[Shelters Across Johannesburg Offer Support And Hope](#)

Midrand Reporter

In Johannesburg, a network of homeless shelters is providing essential support to those facing homelessness, offering more than just a place to sleep. As the city grapples with rising unemployment and poverty, these shelters serve as vital lifelines, focusing on long-term rehabilitation through skills development, counseling, and access to employment opportunities. Despite the increasing demand and challenges of limited resources, community involvement remains crucial, with local organizations and volunteers working tirelessly to help individuals regain their independence and rebuild their lives. As Johannesburg continues to evolve, ensuring that every resident has access to basic human rights, including shelter, is a pressing challenge that requires collective effort and support.



[A Federal Housing Program Reduced Veteran Homelessness By More Than Half. What's Next?](#)

PBS News

The HUD-VASH program, a federal housing initiative combining rental assistance with supportive services, has reduced veteran homelessness by over 50% in the last 15 years. While overall homelessness in the U.S. increased by 12% in 2023,



[The Symptoms Of A Broken System: Why Our Response To Homelessness Is Missing The Mark](#)

The Contributor

Nashville's homelessness crisis reveals a broken system focused on managing visible symptoms rather than addressing root causes like affordable housing and inadequate support services. To create lasting change, leaders and funders must prioritize evidence-

veterans have seen significant progress, thanks to this targeted effort. The next challenge is expanding successful strategies like HUD-VASH to address the broader homelessness crisis.

based strategies that rapidly move people into permanent housing. A unified, person-centered approach with clear goals and accountability is essential to end homelessness, rather than merely making it less visible.



[Nursing Home's Creative Remodel Of Unused Space Will Help Homeless, Daycare Users](#)

McKnights Long-Term Care News

Hillview Healthcare Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin, is undergoing a \$19.6 million renovation to transform its underutilized space into a multi-use facility that will support various community needs. The project will create a more comfortable living area for nursing home residents, establish a multi-generational day care center, and provide ten short-stay units for individuals experiencing homelessness, in collaboration with the city's Pathways Home program. This innovative approach not only addresses local gaps in services but also aims to alleviate staffing shortages in the nursing home by offering childcare solutions for its employees.



[California Homeless Crisis: Several Bay Area Cities, Counties Receiving State Money To Combat Homelessness](#)

abc7news.com

California Governor Gavin Newsom announced over \$130 million in funding to help combat homelessness, with several Bay Area cities and counties, including San Francisco and Contra Costa County, receiving a share of the grants. Contra Costa County plans to use its \$5.7 million allocation to clear an encampment near San Pablo, providing permanent housing and supportive services for those affected. While the funding is a crucial step toward addressing homelessness, advocates stress the importance of ensuring the money reaches those most in need and highlights the ongoing challenges of addressing the root causes of homelessness.



[Thousands March In Spain To Demand Affordable Housing](#)

Reuters

On October 13, thousands of Spaniards took to the streets of Madrid to demand affordable housing, rallying under the slogan "Housing is a right, not a business." As living costs soar and residents feel pushed out of their cities, protesters called for government regulation of rental prices and improved living conditions. Similar demonstrations occurred in Barcelona and tourist-heavy regions, where seasonal workers face housing shortages, often resorting to living in caravans or cars due to skyrocketing rental costs.



[COMMENTARY: Removing Barriers To Abundant, Affordable Housing](#)

RJESPAÑOL

The U.S. is grappling with a housing affordability crisis largely due to local governments imposing restrictive land use and zoning regulations that limit housing supply. Nearly half of American renters are cost-burdened, with many spending over 30% of their income on housing, yet construction rates have plummeted since the 2008 housing crash. To address this issue, local governments must reform these outdated regulations to encourage the development of diverse housing options, and the federal government can play a crucial role by incentivizing communities to adopt more inclusive zoning practices.

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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