

Homelessness MATTERS



NEWS & NOTES

October 2nd, 2024

Dear Friends,

Next Wednesday, October 10th, we recognize World Homeless Day. This year, we ask you to take a moment to remember those all over the world who have no respite from the heat, the cold, the rain, the wind or the fear. Those who have no safe place to rest or to watch their children dream. Join us in raising your voice to say that this isn't right, it cannot continue. We invite you to become an activist with us.

For information on how you can get involved in events taking place in New Jersey this World Homelessness Day, please read on below. For details on how to get involved with the work the Coalition is doing every day to end homelessness, please contact us at info@njceh.org.

In Solidarity,

Connie Mercer
CEO, NJ Coalition to End Homelessness

World Homelessness Day Events in New Jersey



Union County
Fresh Start
SHOWER • LAUNDRY • RESTROOMS
A service of the Union County Board of County Commissioners

In recognition of World Homelessness Day on October 10th, the County of Union, in partnership with local agencies, shelters, and community organizations, will host an event at the Elizabeth Public Library from 10am - 1pm designed to provide direct services and raise awareness about homelessness and housing instability. The goal is to reduce stigma, educate the public, and encourage more compassionate responses to homelessness. For more information, visit: <https://ucnj.org/press-releases/public-info/2024/09/19/union-county-to-recognize-world-homeless-day-on-october-10th/>

Newark Emergency Services for Families (NESF) invites you to join their 4th Annual NESF World Homeless Day event. The purpose of this day is to bring to focus the issues of homelessness and inadequate housing. NESF will provide food; clothing;

haircuts; toiletries; showers; and information on emergency shelter placement, rental assistance, legal services, job readiness, employment services, substance abuse counseling, medical services, and much more. Over 600 residents are expected to attend. Volunteers are still needed! For more details, visit:

<https://engage.pointsoflight.org/opportunities/1-e0175f54-e118-32cc-4a6a-e3bd165bc343>

RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS



We are less than 2 weeks away from New Jersey's voter registration deadline, Tuesday, October 15! Contact Raisa at rubinstankiewicz@njceh.org for details on how to facilitate voter registration and engagement for the unhoused in your community or organization.

We can help connect you with volunteers for your voter registration efforts and offer \$100 to cover the costs to host a voter registration party if you fill out this form: <https://forms.office.com/r/TPKTnVn0pL>



**Mental Health
Association in
New Jersey, Inc.**

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

Next session is October 15th

Check your inbox and future editions of this newsletter for more details on the October session.



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.



NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

New Jersey Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission: 2025 MLK Holiday Commemorative 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.

We are seeking applications of up to 3 pages, including a budget, that will propose events or programs that might include: Community Service or Clean-up; Presentation of archival material/film; Arts event; Civil Rights Discussion/Roundtable; Interview vets of the Civil Rights Movement; Sports Event; etc.

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

- **APPLICATION:** The three-page application should address the following
 - **NARRATIVE:** (2 page maximum)
 - Description of the program or event
 - Date of the program (*all events must be completed by 02/17/2025*)*
 - Community location or venue
 - Lead organization
 - Point of contact information
 - Expected audience
 - Anticipated number of participants
 - Anticipated outcome(s)
 - List of Partners--if applicable
 - **BUDGET:** (1 page). NOTE: *No direct gifts or gift cards can be purchased with this grant.*

To receive funding, grantees *must* be either registered in [NStart](#) or submit a completed [NI Non-procurement W9](#) as directed on the form. Please direct any questions about these processes to the contacts listed on the forms.

1

Questions? Please email MLKCommission@sos.nj.gov

Shelter Providers' Consortium Upcoming Monthly Meetings: 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>

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Coalition Jobs

Chief Operating Officer: The Coalition seeks an experienced Operations Officer who will be responsible for ensuring operational excellence across the organization. This person will help increase the organization's productivity, efficiency, and financial security. They will advise the CEO on key operational insights as well as provide coaching to employees. To show interest, please submit a cover letter and resume to Michael Hollander: mhollander@njceh.org

Director of the Training Institute: The NJ Coalition to End Homelessness is seeking an experienced and enthusiastic educator to lead our Training Institute. The Training Institute will help frontline staff throughout the state to become better equipped for the different challenges of their jobs. You will play a pivotal role in driving our mission forward by developing and implementing high impact training programs, fostering strategic partnerships, and ensuring the continuous improvement of our educational offerings. To show interest, please submit a cover letter and resume to Lauren Borowick: lborowick@njceh.org

Executive Assistant: The NJ Coalition to End Homelessness is looking for an Executive Assistant to the CEO. This person will play a critical role in the success of organization, taking full ownership of key responsibilities and ensuring the smooth execution of daily operations with exceptional efficiency and dedication. To show interest, please submit a cover letter and resume to Lauren Borowick: lborowick@njceh.org

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

Partner Jobs

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.**

NEW JERSEY HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



[Hearing On Proposed Homeless Shelter Continued In Toms River](#)

Patch

A proposal to add 17 beds for homeless adults at Christ Episcopal Church in Toms River is under review, with the zoning board hearing continued to October 24. The shelter, operated by the Affordable Housing Alliance, would provide overnight accommodation and meals for adults while helping them access services during the day. Residents have raised concerns about safety and staff training, which will be addressed in future testimony and public comments.



[A Focus On 'Housing First' Approach To Homelessness In NJ](#)

NJ Spotlight News

In 2011, Rebecca Deo began using heroin and lived on the streets of Kensington, Philadelphia, for years, struggling to access housing services. After multiple incarcerations, she stopped using heroin in 2017 and has been sober since. Deo, now a supervisor at Cooper University Hospital, shared her recovery journey at a seminar on the "housing first" approach to homelessness, which prioritizes providing stable housing without preconditions. The event highlighted the importance of addressing homelessness through preventative measures and comprehensive support services.



[The Rent Is Too Damn High, Advocates Tell NJ Lawmakers](#)

HCDNNJ

At a New Jersey Assembly Housing Committee hearing, advocates urged lawmakers to address rising rental costs by targeting corporate landlords and luxury developments. Matthew Hersh from the Housing and Community Development Network of NJ proposed expanding the realty transfer fee and imposing taxes on super-luxury home sales to fund affordable housing programs. Advocates emphasized the need for bold action to stabilize the



['It's Not The Same: Hidden Homeless Camp In The Toms River Woods Is Emptying Out](#)

Asbury Park Press

Fewer than 20 people remain in Toms River's Winding River Park homeless camp, down from more than double that number. With assistance from organizations like HABcore, some residents have found housing, but rumors suggest Mayor Daniel Rodrick plans to evict the remaining individuals.

housing market, prevent evictions, and ensure affordable housing for New Jersey residents.

Michael Callahan, Director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention at the NJ DCA, highlights the importance of outreach to connect homeless individuals with permanent housing. Advocates fear that closing the camp without addressing underlying issues like rising rents will only push more people onto the streets.

[\\$2852 Median Monthly Rent In New Jersey](#)

NJ Spotlight News

Lawmakers are examining various strategies to tackle New Jersey's rental housing crisis, with advocates reporting rent increases of up to 50% over the past four years. As of March, the state's median rent reached \$2,852, reflecting a 6% rise from the previous year, making it the 11th-highest increase in the nation.



[42% Of New Jersey Children Living In Financial Hardship](#)

New Jersey Spotlight News

In 2022, 42% of children in New Jersey fell below the ALICE threshold, lacking basic necessities.



[Toms River Mayor: Don't Bring Homeless People Here, Use Affordable Housing Money To Help](#)

App

Toms River Mayor Daniel Rodrick is exploring the use of the township's \$9 million affordable housing trust fund to shelter local homeless residents. The mayor has discussed the idea with state and housing officials, who have been receptive, and secured \$3-4 million for temporary housing. Rodrick argues Toms River cannot handle the county's entire homeless population and calls for other towns to share the responsibility.

[Lawmakers Say Capping Rental Application](#)

Fees Could Help Struggling Tenants

New Jersey Monitor

Lawmakers are considering a bill to limit rental application fees to no more than \$50 or the cost of a credit check, aiming to ease financial burdens for tenants. Some landlords charge up to \$150 per application, prompting concerns about fairness. While tenant advocates support the bill, landlords argue it could lead to higher rents to cover the costs of screening applicants and fraud prevention.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Poll: Americans Expect All Elected Officials To Act To Reduce Homelessness

Governing

A new poll shows that 45% of Americans have observed an increase in homelessness in their communities and expect government leaders to do more to address it. As homelessness reaches record highs, most respondents view affordable housing and support services as key solutions, with many rejecting the idea that personal choices are the main cause. This shift in public opinion reflects a growing demand for coordinated action from local, state, and federal officials.



USICH Announces First Federal Homelessness Preventions Framework

US Dept. Of Health & Human Services

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has released its first-ever federal homelessness prevention framework, *Ending Homelessness Before It Starts*, developed with input from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This actionable guide provides strategies for preventing homelessness and encourages collaboration across various sectors and systems. It was informed by people with lived experience of homelessness and aims to prevent the revolving door of housing instability by fostering community-wide solutions.

Minneapolis Residents Are Building Yurts To Shelter Their Homeless Neighbors

Next City

Camp Nenookaasi, an outreach project in

Minneapolis, is pushing back against repeated police-enforced evictions of its unhoused residents. Despite the destruction of belongings and trauma caused by these actions, organizers are finding innovative ways to support the community, such as building yurts to provide winter shelter. As they advocate for legislative changes to protect unhoused individuals' rights, they continue to provide practical and emotional support, creating a sense of hope and resilience amidst the ongoing crisis.



[Homeless People Often Choose The Street Over A Bed. We Toured Shelters To Find Out Why](#)

Mission Local

In August, San Francisco's homeless outreach teams began sweeping through encampments, offering residents bus tickets out of the city or shelter beds. Mayor London Breed stated that the aggressive tent clearing was intended to make life on the streets so uncomfortable that unhoused individuals would feel compelled to accept shelter. However, many encampment residents expressed concerns about unsanitary conditions, lack of privacy, and security risks in city shelters, preferring the autonomy and familiarity of life in their tents.



[What Started As Emergency Housing Could Offer A Model For Ending Homelessness In Delaware](#)

ShelterForce

The Hope Center, originally a Sheraton hotel, was transformed during the pandemic into a shelter offering comprehensive care for Delaware's most vulnerable populations. Evolving from an emergency housing model, the center now provides medical services, mental health support, and permanent housing solutions, helping over 4,300 people since its opening. With a focus on dignity and



[Eviction Filings Can Destabilize Tenants Lives- Even When They Win Their Case](#)

The Conversation

After enduring a ceiling collapse in her daughter's bedroom due to her landlord's negligence, Charla withheld her rent, leading to an eviction case that she ultimately won. Despite her victory in court, Charla faced ongoing challenges in securing new housing as the eviction filing remained on her record, resulting in costly application fees

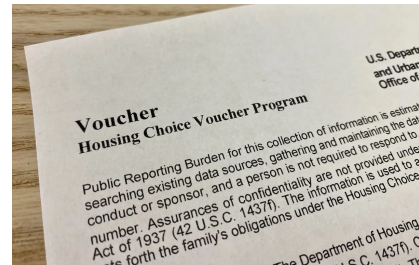
long-term solutions, co-founder Carrie Casey envisions a future where chronic homelessness is eradicated through sustained care and housing-first initiatives.

and repeated denials. This case illustrates a broader issue: even when tenants win their cases, eviction filings can lead to long-term instability, financial strain, and barriers to safe and affordable housing. Researchers highlight the urgent need for reforms that address the collateral consequences of eviction filings and support tenants in accessing stable housing.

[Report: HUD Evaluating Cash As Alternative To Housing Vouchers](#)

One United Lancaster

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is exploring the potential benefits of providing low-income households with cash assistance instead of traditional rental vouchers to facilitate apartment rentals. This shift aims to make it easier for tenants to secure housing, as landlords may prefer cash payments over navigating the complexities of the voucher system. However, HUD is seeking third-party research to address important program details, such as how to manage inspections and whether to distribute cash directly to families, balancing flexibility with the risk of rent nonpayment.



[That's Our Land: Homeless Veterans In LA Hail Court Ruling Ordering VA To Use](#)

[Campus For Housing](#)

Military.com

In a landmark ruling, a federal district judge has sided with homeless veterans in Los Angeles, voiding numerous leases on the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center grounds that prioritized non-veteran facilities over housing for veterans. The judge emphasized the need to



[Opinion: How Homelessness Made Me A Criminal In Denver](#)

Newsbreak

Cities across the U.S. have enacted laws that criminalize basic activities for homeless individuals, such as sleeping or sitting in public spaces, leading to significant legal repercussions. As a result, homeless people are 11 times more likely to be arrested than those with

restore the land's original purpose as a sanctuary for disabled veterans, mandating the construction of 1,800 permanent housing units and addressing long-standing frustrations with the VA's management of resources and commitments. This decision reflects a broader demand for accountability and action to end veteran homelessness in the area, with veterans expressing their determination to fight for their rights and the necessary housing support.

housing, often facing charges that contribute to a damaging criminal record. Advocates emphasize the need for alternatives like the Housing First model, which prioritizes stable housing to help break the cycle of homelessness and its associated criminalization, allowing individuals to address underlying challenges in a supportive environment.

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



NJ Coalition to End Homelessness | 10 Mercer Street | Princeton, NJ 08540 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!