

Homelessness MATTERS



NEWS & NOTES

August 15th, 2024

Dear Coalition Partners and Friends,

Whether you are a homeless services worker, volunteer, or citizen who appreciates the workers who sacrifice so much to help the unhoused, please take a few minutes to watch Iain De Jong's important message to homelessness workers:



"This work is hard. Really, really hard. But don't give up, you wonderful helper, you. Don't give up."

-The Staff of the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness

COALITION NEWS



Campaign to Register Unhoused Voters in NJ: Get Involved!

NJCEH is working on a historic campaign to register and engage unhoused voters in New Jersey ahead of the 2024 election!

Join our webinar on **Thursday, September 12 @ 12pm** about the specifics of this NJ campaign: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Our Homes, Our Votes has a biweekly webinar series about how shelter providers and housing organizations can engage in voter registration efforts:

Please email rrubinstankiewicz@njceh.org for more information about how to get involved with these efforts.

Use Your Voice to Empower Change: Garden State Leaders Program Now Accepting Applications



The Garden State Leaders program offers free leadership and advocacy training for NJ residents with lived experience of homelessness and poverty. Participants learn to effectively share their stories and advance their advocacy goals, with each session covering topics like the NJ legislative process, local government engagement, and media collaboration. This program creates opportunities and fosters a strong community among participants, empowering them to make a lasting impact. The program will be hosted by the County College of Morris and will include 4 in-person sessions + 4 virtual. More information can be found on our [website](#).

[Apply to the 2024 Garden State Leaders Program!](#)



Help the Coalition Help You! Complete the Annual Shelter Survey Today!

The Coalition's Annual Survey of Shelter Providers is the key tool which allows us to advocate for and create targeted programs suited to the needs of our state's shelters.

If you are a NJ homeless shelter and have not yet completed the survey, please do so today. We promise it's worth your time!

[Annual Survey of NJ Shelter Providers](#)

[Apply to be an Americorps Member !](#)
Statewide Positions Available

WE ARE HIRING

Are you ready to make a real difference in the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness? Join us as a Housing Readiness Coordinator with AmeriCorps and embark on a rewarding journey to empower clients across New Jersey shelters

**JOIN US AS A HOUSING
READINESS COORDINATOR
WITH AMERICORPS**



RESOURCES FOR HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

QPR Suicide Prevention (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training for Homeless Service Providers

The Mental Health Association of New Jersey, in Collaboration with the Coalition, will be offering FREE training sessions on 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 August 20th!

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

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!

Shelter Providers' Consortium Upcoming Monthly Meetings: August 15th and September 19th

Please join our monthly meetings for Shelter Providers, the third Thursday of each month from 12pm - 1:15pm. Meetings provide updates and bring experts from a range of fields to provide resources and opportunities for Shelters as well as a chance to network and share best practices and challenges among peers.

Register in advance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApfuGhqD0rE9QkgtWPwEIRFi3vK2efjA8B>

PARTNER NEWS



Important, Depressing Report Released

State Of Homelessness: 2024, The report reveals a troubling increase in homelessness across the United States, with a record-high 653,104 people experiencing homelessness on a single night, marking a 12.1% rise from the previous year. Key findings include a surge in first-time homelessness, which grew by over 23% from 2019-2023, and a significant increase in unsheltered homelessness, with 256,610 people living without shelter. Despite the homeless response system's efforts, including adding more shelter beds and permanent housing units, the system remains under-resourced and unable to keep pace with the growing demand, exacerbated by the nationwide affordable housing crisis



Job Opportunities

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.](#)

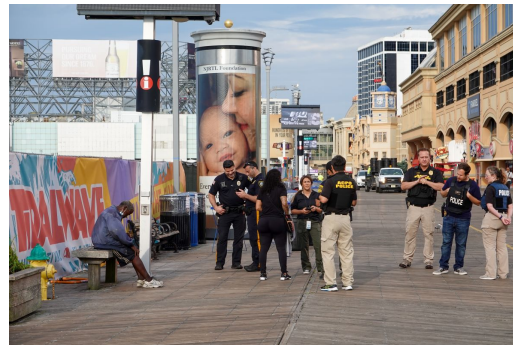
HOMELESSNESS IN THE NEWS



[NJ Pushes For Extra Protection For Homeless People](#)

PBS Thirteen

New Jersey lawmakers left for summer break without voting on the Homeless Bill of Rights, which aims to protect the rights of homeless individuals. This comes after the U.S. Supreme Court's decision allowing cities to enforce bans on outdoor sleeping, sparking concern among housing advocates who fear the ruling will further criminalize homelessness and make it harder for vulnerable people to access housing and services.



[Atlantic City Pushing Out Homeless People To Impress Tourist](#)

Invisible People

Following the Supreme Court's Grants Pass v. Johnson decision, Atlantic City is aggressively removing homeless individuals from under its iconic boardwalk to improve its tourist appeal. This reflects a broader trend where cities, empowered by recent legal precedents, prioritize economic interests over the needs of their unhoused populations, often resorting to harsh measures that displace vulnerable people without providing meaningful support. Despite offering some services, many of those displaced refuse help, highlighting the inadequacy of the solutions being offered..



[Atlantic County Homeless Provided Essentials By Jewish Family Services, Local Service](#)

Shore News Network



['I'm Tired Of Being In The Streets' This Critical Paterson Program Is Making A Difference](#)

northjersey.com

Jose Ortiz's life took a difficult turn at 14 when he first used heroin, leading to

In a coordinated effort, the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office, Atlantic City Police Department, AtlantiCare, and Jewish Family Services conducted an early morning outreach on the Atlantic City boardwalk, offering essential services to those in need. This initiative provided food, shelter, mental health support, and more to vulnerable individuals, demonstrating a strong commitment to supporting at-risk members of the community.

decades of addiction, homelessness, and severe health issues, including diabetes and HIV. Despite these challenges, Ortiz is now in recovery and no longer homeless, thanks to Paterson's RealFix program, an initiative funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. RealFix connects individuals struggling with opioid addiction to treatment and housing, achieving a 27% success rate in housing the homeless, significantly higher than the national average.

Jersey City Launches New Online Affordable Housing Portal

JERSEY DIGS

As housing costs rise in Jersey City, the city has launched a new online affordable housing portal at <https://affordablehousingjc.com> to simplify the search for affordable units. This portal allows residents to apply for multiple properties, track applications, and stay informed about new opportunities, aiming to enhance housing equity and accessibility. Mayor Fulop highlighted the portal as part of Jersey City's commitment to ensuring safe and affordable housing for all residents.



Controversial Park Fence Near Penn Station, NJ, Reportedly Displaces Homeless Residents

JERSEY DIGS

Newark's Ironbound Business Improvement District (IBID) and Councilman Michael Silva erected an 8-foot fence around Peter Francisco Park, claiming it was necessary to prevent homeless individuals from damaging monuments and driving away business. However, Jeff Wild, an attorney and Trustee with the New Jersey Coalition to End Homelessness, criticized the action, stating, "If this is public land, it is unconstitutional under New Jersey's constitution and New Jersey law." The fence has sparked a debate over the balance between public access and the rights of vulnerable communities





Adaptive Reuse Creates Affordable Housing For Grandparents And Grandchildren

Office Of Policy Development

Mill Street Square in Paterson, New Jersey, transformed a vacant textile warehouse into 74 affordable apartments, specifically designed for grandparents raising grandchildren. This development addresses the city's urgent need for affordable family housing, offering both residential units and support services in a historically preserved area. By providing targeted housing and resources, Mill Street Square supports multigenerational families in a city with a growing and diverse population.



NJ Organization Partners With IKEA To Renovate Facility For People Experiencing Homelessness

Action News

In Logan Township, New Jersey, an old building has been transformed into a fully furnished transitional home for people experiencing homelessness, thanks to a collaboration between Family Promise of Southwest New Jersey and IKEA South Philadelphia. Volunteers played a key role in renovating the house to provide a welcoming space for those in need.



Rising Heat Leads To Greater Health Risks. Who's Most Vulnerable

NJ Spotlight News

Heat-related deaths and emergency room visits have surged, exacerbated by factors like climate change, age, and chronic health conditions. Dr. Nicole Henry-Dindial, a family physician, emphasizes the need for careful planning to combat extreme heat, which she calls a "silent killer." Connie Mercer, founder of HomeFront, stresses that

The Rock Place Presents:

NIGHT OF TEN THOUSAND SANDWICHES 2024!

A night of compassion, community, charity, love and giving!

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday October 26, 2024

LOCATION: TBD

631-575-3416 (Call/Text)
 RockNationRPC@gmail.com
 www.TheRockPlace.org/Outreach

Night Of Ten Thousand Sandwiches

Patch

Join us for a powerful evening of

vulnerable populations, including the homeless, are particularly at risk, urging more comprehensive protections and resources to prevent heat-related illnesses.

community outreach in Newark, NJ, where we'll bring together people from local shelters and the streets to our church for health screenings, resources, food, and winter essentials. This inclusive event invites everyone, regardless of background, to volunteer and make a positive impact on those in need. Let's unite to create a chain of compassion that will resonate throughout the community..

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



[As San Francisco Cracks Down On Homeless Encampments, A Question Rises: Where Will People Go?](#)

Los Angeles Times

San Francisco is intensifying efforts to clear homeless encampments, bolstered by a recent Supreme Court ruling. Despite the push, questions arise about where displaced individuals will go, as shelters are nearly full and many refuse available options due to underlying issues like mental illness and addiction. Mayor London Breed's approach includes offering relocation and the potential for criminal penalties, though concerns persist about the effectiveness and humanity of these measures.



[Christopher Dummitt: 'Unhoused' NOT 'Homeless'- Advocates Craft A New Language Of Victimhood.](#)

National Post

Join us for a powerful evening of community outreach in Newark, NJ, where we'll bring together people from local shelters and the streets to our church for health screenings, resources, food, and winter essentials. This inclusive event invites everyone, regardless of background, to volunteer and make a positive impact on those in need. Let's unite to create a chain of compassion that will resonate throughout the community..

[The Supreme Court's Grant Pass Decision Has Lit A Fire Under Homeless Advocacy Groups](#)

Next City

In response to a surge of threats against unhoused individuals following the Supreme Court's Grants Pass ruling, homeless advocacy groups are developing strategies to protect unsheltered residents, including new model legislation and calls for increased federal funding. The ruling has led to the criminalization of homelessness, even in areas lacking adequate shelter, prompting swift action from some leaders and intensified efforts from advocates to push for long-term solutions like permanent supportive housing and enhanced social safety nets..



How California Is Clearing Homeless Encampments

Cali Matters

California Governor Gavin Newsom has warned counties that if they don't show significant progress in clearing homeless encampments, he will redirect state funding intended for homelessness. Following the Supreme Court's ruling allowing more aggressive sweeps, Newsom's executive order and increased pressure have led to more frequent and forceful clearances of encampments across the state. However, critics argue that these actions are not accompanied by a corresponding increase in shelter beds or affordable housing, leaving many unhoused individuals with few alternatives.



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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