CENTRAL JERSEY HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER (CJHRC)
501(c)(3) non-profit organization & HUD Agency

#HUDCertifiedProud

Jennifer Laterra, President
Sharon Clark, Executive Director

What services are available to help the homeless?

We understand that one of the most stressful things for individuals and families is not knowing where they will stay and if they are facing homelessness. This is second only to those already homeless. While there are resources it can be overwhelming. This handout is to give you some guidance and information. Please note: different counties may work differently.

Disclaimer: Although every effort has been made to provide you with the most accurate, current and clean information possible, Central Jersey Housing Resource Center (CJHRC) cannot be responsible for inaccurate, misinterpreted or outdated information contained in this handout. The below are just suggestions.

Have a paper and pen so that you can take notes as you speak with people/entities. Write down detailed notes. Inquire if places you contact are willing to email you their information.

We suggest calling 2-1-1 for help in NJ. 2-1-1 community resource specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can help clients who speak many different languages. Information provided will be kept confidential, except for information that needs to be shared with providers involved in providing shelter or shelter-related services.

Social Service for the Homeless (SSH) program assists families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless, but are not eligible for welfare (usually because their income is too high) and so are not eligible for Emergency Assistance. The SSH program provides emergency food, emergency shelter and payment of security or utility deposits as well as back rent, mortgage and utilities costs. These services, which are available on a 24-hour emergency basis, also include referral services and limited case management.

Additional Resources

Those in need of food, cash, or other assistance, can learn about what programs are available and how to apply online or call 211.

For help dealing with stress, anxiety, or depression, call 866-202-HELP (4357) for free telephone counseling or assistance. You can also text NJHOPE to 51684.

Those struggling with addiction or substance use disorder, can call 1-844-ReachNJ (844-732-2465), a 24-hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week addictions hotline where people can get support from trained addiction counselors.

If you are having suicidal thoughts call or text 988, or visit the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline to chat online with a trained crisis counselor.

For veterans in crisis, help is available by calling the Veteran Crisis Line at 1 (800) 273-8255 and pressing 1 or texting 838255

Survivors of domestic violence can call the New Jersey Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-572-SAFE (7233).

VERY IMPORTANT – Please Contact Your Board of Social Services (where you live now or last lived).

SOMERSET COUNTY:

Individuals or families who are homeless or are at imminent risk of homelessness should call the **Somerset County Board of Social Services** during business hours between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm at 908-526-8800 or visit any of our locations in Somerville, North Plainfield or Somerset. A wide variety of needs-based programs offering financial assistance may be available to qualified eligible individuals, including temporary or emergency housing. Visit NJHelps to learn about and apply for NJ Family Care, NJ SNAP, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, General Assistance and Emergency Assistance.

After business hours, individuals should contact NJ 211 by calling their toll-free number: 211. NJ 211 provides emergency overnight shelter placements for homeless individuals and families.

In Somerset County there are also housing opportunities through the Coordinated Entry System. While units are limited, the focus of this system will be to help users identify other community housing resources and supportive services.

Another resource might be Somerset County Community Development Office at 908-541-5756.

HUNTERDON COUNTY:

Hunterdon County call 908-788-1300 or after hours call 211

Hunterdon County has several programs. They will ask about your income to determine which program(s) you may qualify for. They have the **Social Services to the Homeless (SSH) Program -** The program assists families and individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless but are not eligible for WFNJ Emergency Assistance, usually because their income is too high. SSH can help with emergency shelter and attaining or maintaining permanent housing. Client must have regular income and be sustainable after assistance. Assistance includes security deposits, first month's rent, utility shut-offs, back rent, and short-term motel placement.

Hunterdon County Senior Citizen Emergency Program (SCEP)- Provides assistance for clients 60 years of age and older with a demonstrated emergency need and a lack of funds to remedy the problem.

Hunterdon County has "The Dr. Orlie Pell Fund"- A private, non-profit, organization established by Dr. Pell to help individuals in Hunterdon County who are in need of assistance but not eligible for any other formal public program.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY:

Middlesex County call 732-745-3500 or after hours call 211.

They have a large amount of programs. You can google "Middlesex County NJ Board of Social Services" they have an easy to use website filled with information.

You can fax them at 732-745-4558 or email to MCBSS@mid-boss.com and they are located at 181 How Lane in New Brunswick, NJ 08903