

NEW JERSEY ADVOCACY NETWORK TO END HOMELESSNESS
POSSIBLE USES FOR A NEW JERSEY COUNTY BASED HOMELESS TRUST FUND

When the New Jersey Legislature approves legislation to allow Counties to establish Homeless Trust Funds with local designated funding sources, a new funding stream would be available to counties to achieve their goals to end homelessness. These Homeless Trust Funds would provide funding for supportive services, capital and rental vouchers needed for the implementation of locally developed Ten Year Plans to End Homelessness.

Populations to be Served: The funding created through this trust fund would be used to serve those in the most need who meet the following definition:

“An individual living outside or in a building not meant for human habitation or which they have no legal right to occupy, in an emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program which may include a transitional and supportive housing program if habitation time limits exist; and/or Persons at-risk of homelessness such as:

- a. Persons being evicted from a private dwelling unit, or leaving an institution such as a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility or a jail/prison with no subsequent residence identified and lacking the resources needed to obtain housing;
- b. Persons fleeing domestic or family violence with no subsequent safe residence identified and lacking the resources needed to obtain such housing;
- c. Persons living on the streets or in emergency shelter but is spending a short time (up to 30 consecutive days) in a hospital or other institution;
- d. People who have lost their housing and do not have the means to replace it;
or
- e. Persons who would otherwise be living on the streets or in an emergency shelter.

Types of Projects: In order to utilize funding through the homeless trust fund, groups must demonstrate that their projects are widely leveraged, leveraging other sources of funding including HUD’s Continuum of Care, NJ Special Needs Housing Trust Fund and other local sources.

This funding would need to be coordinated and in compliance with local ten year plans to end chronic homelessness. whereas any county setting up a fund must have a solid ten year plan in place and organization applying for funding is required to be involved in that planning and implementation process.