

# Veteran Homelessness Report

## March 31, 2019

---

A4177/S2737 Allows county homelessness trust funds to be used for code blue emergency shelter services.

Approved P.L.2019, c.53 3/18/2019.

This bill, as amended, allows county homelessness trust funds to be used to help support the provision of Code Blue homeless shelter services.

Currently, county homelessness trust fund monies may only be used for purposes tied to the provision of permanent affordable housing. This bill expands the list of permissible uses of these funds to include support for homeless shelter services that are provided in connection with a Code Blue alert issued because of a cold weather emergency (specifically, when the temperature has been forecasted to fall to 25°F without precipitation, 32°F with precipitation, or a wind chill of 0°F). The bill also provides counties with the option, upon resolution or ordinance of the county governing body, to charge a surcharge of five dollars for each document recorded, of which two dollars must be used to support emergency shelter for the homeless services provided in connection with a Code Blue alert.

The amendments provide that, upon resolution or ordinance of the county governing body, a surcharge of five dollars may be charged for each document recorded, two dollars of which must be used to support emergency shelter for the homeless services provided in connection with a Code Blue alert. The title of the bill is also amended accordingly.

---

### Critical Funding for National Housing Trust Fund May Be at Risk

Last month, the administration signaled that funding for the Housing Trust Fund (HTF) could be suspended. This suspension would undermine our nation's ability to address homelessness and housing poverty.

The National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) is the first new housing resource since 1974 targeted to the building, rehabilitating, preserving, and operating rental housing for extremely low-income people.

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC), its members, and other stakeholders played a critical role in the creation of the National Housing Trust Fund through the passage of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008.

In 2016, the first \$174 million in HTF dollars were allocated to states. In 2017, \$219 million was available, and in 2018, \$267 million is available. These initial allocations are important steps, but far more resources are needed.

NLIHC leads the Housing Trust Fund Implementation and Policy Group, a coalition of national advocates committed to protecting and expanding this new resource. NLIHC works with stakeholders to build Congressional support to increase funding for the HTF

through tax reform, housing finance reform, investments in infrastructure, and other legislative opportunities.

December 18, 2018, 1,894 organizations, wrote to Congress to express their support for the national Housing Trust Fund (HTF) and to urge Congress to expand this critical resource to at least \$3.5 billion annually in comprehensive housing finance reform legislation, as part of a broader commitment to access and affordability throughout the housing market.

---

### Over \$44 Million Awarded to Renewal Projects in New Jersey

On September 18, 2018 Continuums of Care across the country submitted applications for funding through the competitive Continuum of Care grant application process. CoC funding provides support to programs serving those experiencing homelessness with a goal of helping communities quickly rehouse individuals and families while working to minimize the trauma caused by homelessness.

On Saturday, January 26, 2019 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced funding awards for FY2018 CoC renewal projects. Almost \$2 billion in funding will be made available to more than 5,800 projects providing housing and services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This funding provides over \$44 million to support over 200 projects in New Jersey.

For the FY2018 Competitive CoC grants, HUD is announcing funding in two parts.

Renewal funding announcements were made on January 26, 2019. Funding for new projects, including those seeking funding through the Domestic Violence Bonus funding, will be announced at a later date.

To see the list of projects funded in New Jersey go to:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/2018-new-jersey-coc-grants.pdf>

---

### HUD Awards Over \$200 Million for New FY 2018 CoC Projects

February 06, 2019 HUD announced the awarding of over \$200 million for over 900 new homelessness programs across the U.S. and its territories. These Continuum of Care (CoC) grants will help end homelessness and provide critically needed support to local programs on the front lines of serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This final announcement includes FY 2018 awards for all new, CoC planning, and Unified Funding Agency (UFA) costs projects. These awards also include new projects being awarded with Domestic Violence Bonus (DV Bonus) funding. HUD has now announced all FY 2018 CoC Awards.

Note: This announcement follows HUD's January 26, 2019 announcement that nearly \$2 billion was awarded to renew more than 5,800 local homeless housing and service programs across the U.S. and its territories. The January 26 announcement included FY 2018 awards for all renewal projects and projects that applied for transition grants.

Further information for New Jersey is available through:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/2018-new-jersey-coc-grants.pdf>

## Federal Legislation Impacting Veteran Homelessness

### S.8 — Preserving Our Commitment to Homeless Veterans Act

Sponsor: Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL] Cosponsors: (0)

(Introduced 01/03/2019)

Committees: Senate - Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 01/03/2019 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### S.91 — Creating a Reliable Environment for Veterans' Dependents Act of 2019

Sponsor: Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO] Cosponsors: (5)

(Introduced 01/10/2019)

Committees: Senate - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 01/10/2019 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### S.257 — Tribal HUD-VASH Act of 2019

Sponsor: Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] Cosponsors: (7)

(Introduced 01/29/2019)

Committees: Senate - Indian Affairs

Latest Action: Senate - 02/06/2019 Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

S.767 — A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify homeless youth and veterans who are full-time students for purposes of the low income housing tax credit.

Sponsor: Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH] Cosponsors: (2)

(Introduced 03/13/2019)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 03/13/2019 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

### H.R.95 — Homeless Veteran Families Act

Sponsor: Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26] Cosponsors: (235) including NJ Reps. Sires [D-NJ-8], Pallone [D-NJ-6], Payne [D-NJ-10], Watson Coleman [D-NJ-12], Malinowski [D-NJ-7], Van Drew [D-NJ-2] Sherrill [D-NJ-11] & Kim [D-NJ-3].

(Introduced 01/03/2019)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: House - 01/16/2019 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

### H.R.165 — Improving Access to Homes for Heroes Act of 2019

Sponsor: Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9] Cosponsors: (0)

(Introduced 01/03/2019)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 01/03/2019 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.715 —HOMeS Act of 2019

Sponsor: Rep. Stivers, Steve [R- OH-15] Cosponsors: (1)

(Introduced 01/23/2019)

Committees: House - Financial Services

Latest Action: House - 01/23/2019 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.716 —Homeless Veterans Legal Services Act

Sponsor: Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3] Cosponsors: (4)

(Introduced 01/23/2019)

Committees: House - Veterans' Affairs

Latest Action: House - 02/08/2019 Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

---

### New Jersey Legislation Impacting Veteran Homelessness

A783 Establishes grant program for Homeless veterans shelters. Identical bill S2153. Introduced, referred to Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee 1/9/2018. Initially introduced 3/16/2015, referred to Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

A1070 Authorizes special Support Our Veterans license plate with proceeds supporting New Jersey Homeless veteran's centers. Identical bill S1474. Introduced, referred to Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee 1/9/2018. Previously passed by the Assembly (76-0-0) 6/22/2017. Previously passed by the Assembly (76-0-0) 4/29/2013. Initially introduced, referred to Assembly Transportation, Public Works and Independent Authorities Committee 9/27/2012.

A1277 Requires hospitals and Homeless shelters to provide information on services and resources to individuals who are Homeless or military veterans. Identical bill S2629. Passed by the Assembly (74-0-0) 5/24/2018.

A4022 Directs Adjutant General to enter into agreements with legal services organizations to provide legal services to Homeless veterans and veterans at risk of Homelessness. Identical bill S2525. Introduced, referred to Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee 5/24/2018.

A4089 Authorizes grants to purchase and rehabilitate abandoned homes for Homeless veterans. Identical bill S2607. Introduced, referred to Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee 6/4/2018.

S1474 Authorizes special Support Our Veterans license plate with proceeds supporting New Jersey Homeless veteran's centers. Identical bill A1070. Introduced in the Senate, referred to Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee 2/1/2018. Previously passed by the Senate (39-0) 1/11/2016. Initially introduced, referred to Assembly Transportation, Public Works and Independent Authorities Committee 9/27/2012.

S2153 Establishes grant program for Homeless veterans shelters. Identical bill A783. Introduced in the Senate, referred to Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee 3/5/2018. Initially Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee 3/12/2015.

S2525 Directs Adjutant General to enter into agreements with legal services organizations to provide legal services to Homeless veterans and veterans at risk of Homelessness. Identical bill A4022. Passed by the Senate (40-0) 12/17/2018.

S2607 Authorizes grants to purchase and rehabilitate abandoned homes for Homeless veterans. Identical bill A4089. Passed by the Senate (35-0) 2/21/2019.

S2629 Requires hospitals and Homeless shelters to provide information on services and resources to individuals who are Homeless or military veterans. Identical bill A1277. Introduced in the Senate, referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee 6/4/2018.



Through our Hope for Veterans® Programs, we have rescued over 6,000 veterans and their families from homelessness and despair. We believe that those who honorably served our country and defended our freedom deserve a roof over their head and to live with dignity.

<https://www.communityhope-nj.org/what-we-do/hope-for-veterans/>

959 Route 46 East, Suite 402, Parsippany, NJ 07054 | (973) 463-9600

Community Hope is a 501(c)3 organization and donations are tax-exempt to the extent allowed by law.

---

## United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

### Homelessness in America: Focus on Veterans

[https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Homelessness\\_in\\_America\\_Focus\\_on\\_Veterans.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Homelessness_in_America_Focus_on_Veterans.pdf)

To prevent and end homelessness in America, we need to have a clear understanding of who is at risk of homelessness and who experiences homelessness. We also need to be attentive to differences within and between subpopulations of people who are at-risk or are experiencing homelessness. In our Homelessness in America series, we are summarizing the most relevant data and research regarding different subpopulations to help inform the work we must do, together, across the federal government, states, and local communities to end homelessness once and for all. In this Focus on

Veterans brief, we review data and information that help us answer the following questions:

- What is the scale of Veteran homelessness?
- What do we know about the Veterans who experience homelessness?
- What do we know about patterns of homelessness among Veterans?
- What do we know about Veterans' risks for homelessness?
- What are the most significant gaps in available data and our current understanding of Veterans who experience homelessness?

---

### Housing Affordability Struggles of Post-9/11 Veterans

#### Younger Post-9/11 Veterans 5% More Likely Than Similar Non-Vets to Have Housing Affordability Struggles

A report from Apartment List, *The Housing Affordability Struggle of 21st Century Veterans*, finds that post-9/11 veterans are more likely to struggle with housing affordability than veterans of previous generations.

These veterans are 5% more likely than non-veterans of their own age, race, and gender to be housing cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of their incomes on their housing. Older veterans of previous generations, on the other hand, are less likely to have housing cost burdens than their civilian counterparts.

- Compared to non-veterans, veterans generally have higher home ownership rates (76% vs. 62%) and lower housing cost burdens (24% vs. 33%).
- The story is different for post-9/11 veterans, however, as just 45% are homeowners and 35% are housing cost-burdened. Post-9/11 veterans' ages partially explain their lower home ownership rate (younger adults are less likely to be homeowners), but their ages do not explain the higher housing cost burdens.

The 2008 housing market crash coincided with the return home of many veterans, leaving young veterans disproportionately affected by tight credit and a volatile market. The authors of the report call for more research to determine the root causes of the affordability challenges of post-9/11 veterans.

- Over twenty million U.S. military veterans live in America, comprising just over 7% of the adult population.
- While this share has been declining, new veterans are coming home each year. In 2016, the number of men and women serving in wars throughout the Middle East over the past twenty-five years finally surpassed the number of Vietnam veterans.
- As these troops return home, they face unique challenges re-entering labor and housing markets. As these markets continue to evolve, are our policy efforts adequately supporting them?

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA.)

While all veteran households in need of affordable housing may not also need support services, HUD VASH can certainly assist a portion of the veteran population in need of affordable housing.

As time goes by, veterans are decreasing as a share of the population. Their benefits and experiences are becoming less commonplace and understood, even during prolonged periods of combat.

As young adults start to enlist that were not even born before the 9/11 attacks, this report recommends that we need to feel the urgency of finding 21st century solutions to the problems of 21st century veterans.

---

### Counties with Homeless Trust Funds Collected \$1.76 in 2017

According to data collected by the NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, the County-Based Homeless Trust Funds continue to have a significant impact on ending homelessness in NJ. Funds raised have been spent in local counties to provide a variety of activities that are ending homelessness.

These activities include:

1. supportive services,
2. case management,
3. rental assistance and subsidies,
4. security deposits payment of rent in arrears,
5. support services and case management,
6. homeless prevention,
7. rehabilitation of affordable housing,
8. temporary shelter for households waiting for permanent housing,
9. fair housing and legal services, and
10. financial counseling to help households achieve self-sufficiency.

The total of \$1,758, 843 raised in 2017 includes funding for the following counties:

1. Bergen – \$276,366
2. Cape May – \$73,125 – the County has not yet distributed funds
3. Camden – \$294,029
4. Cumberland – \$52,398
5. Essex – funds are being reviewed for allocations
6. Hudson – \$149,982
7. Mercer – \$117,040
8. Middlesex – \$240, 726
9. Passaic – Being Finalized
10. Somerset \$120,342 and
11. Union – \$434, 835



# Atlantic City Regional STAND DOWN

May 22, 2019  
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
All Wars Memorial Museum  
1510 Adriatic Ave., Atlantic City, NJ



## SERVING HOMELESS VETERANS

### ★ FREE SERVICES ★

- VA benefits
- Welfare benefits
- Legal services
- Housing
- Employment
- Haircuts
- Woman products & services
- Clothing (men & women)
- Medical, mental health & addiction counseling

### ★ SUPPORTIVE AGENCIES ★

- Backpacks for Life
- Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden
- DAV (Disabled American Veterans )
- Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- New Jersey State Parole Board
- Sons of The American Legion
- The American Legion
- The American Legion Auxiliary
- The American Red Cross
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars)

All Service Providers & Volunteers Must register at: <https://bit.ly/2RUMo98>

---

#### ALL TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS TO:

Nelson Gonzalez  
Nelson.Gonzalez@CamdenDiocese.org  
609-413-1451

#### ALL OTHER QUESTIONS TO:

Jim Scanlon  
sajobsjds@aol.com  
732-306-9268

---

Prepared by Robert E. McNulty, Sr.  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
New Jersey State Council  
Veterans Homelessness