

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

13 Nov 2023 - 21 Nov 2023

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is celebrated each year one week before Thanksgiving. This observance raises awareness around the reality that those who face significant challenges maintaining access to food and shelter endure. The holiday season and colder weather can create added layers of complexity for those without food, shelter, and other essential resources. National Hunger and Homeless Awareness week is important because it addresses 582,462 individuals who are experiencing homelessness according to the January 2022 Point in Time Count. Several factors can lead to homelessness such as:

Affordability

More than any other time in history, there is a lack of housing that lower income individuals can afford. Without housing options, people face eviction, instability, and homelessness.

Racial Disparities

Racial disparities contribute significantly to homelessness through factors such as systematic discrimination, economic inequality, and limited access to resources.

Health and Wellness

Health conditions including physical, mental, and/or behavioral disabilities or challenges can lead to a state of homelessness, as conditions can contribute to an individual's inability to maintain housing without help.

Domestic Violence

A domestic violence experience is common among youth, single adults, and families who experience homelessness. Survivors of domestic violence may turn to homeless service programs seeking a safe and immediate temporary place to stay after fleeing an abusive relationship.

Veteran's Transition into Civilian Life

The experience of homelessness among veterans is influenced by a complex web of factors, including the challenges associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, economic hardships, and the often-difficult process of reintegrating into civilian life.

Homelessness is influenced by diverse factors. Seldom is it linked to criminality, lack of motivation, or addiction. Therefore, it is important to broaden our perception of those experiencing homelessness and the paths that led to those circumstances.

To challenge some misconceptions around homelessness and raise awareness this week, use the following link to take a 5-question quiz, provided by the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Take the Quiz

Join the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DMAVA-DEIB) this month as we host a **Sock Drive** to help our very own Veteran residents in need.

November 13th - November 30th

A collection bin will be located on the second floor, in the DEIB corner. Please consider donating a new pair of adult socks this month.



For additional information and resources regarding NJ's Homelessness Initiative, [click here](#).