

The Path Home:  
Mayor Ras J. Baraka's Plan to  
End Chronic Homelessness

City of Newark, NJ

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**Profiles of Success:**  
**Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness**  
February 26, 2025



TOGETHER *WE LIFT*

## Leadership Matters: The Political Will in Newark



Inclusionary Housing Ordinance

Office of Violence Prevention

Office of Tenant Legal Protections

Newark Land Bank

Lead Line Replacement

Digital Inclusion

# City of Newark

## Office of the Mayor

### Division of Homeless Services

Street Homeless Outreach

Emergency Housing

Low-Barrier Bridge Housing

Homelessness Prevention

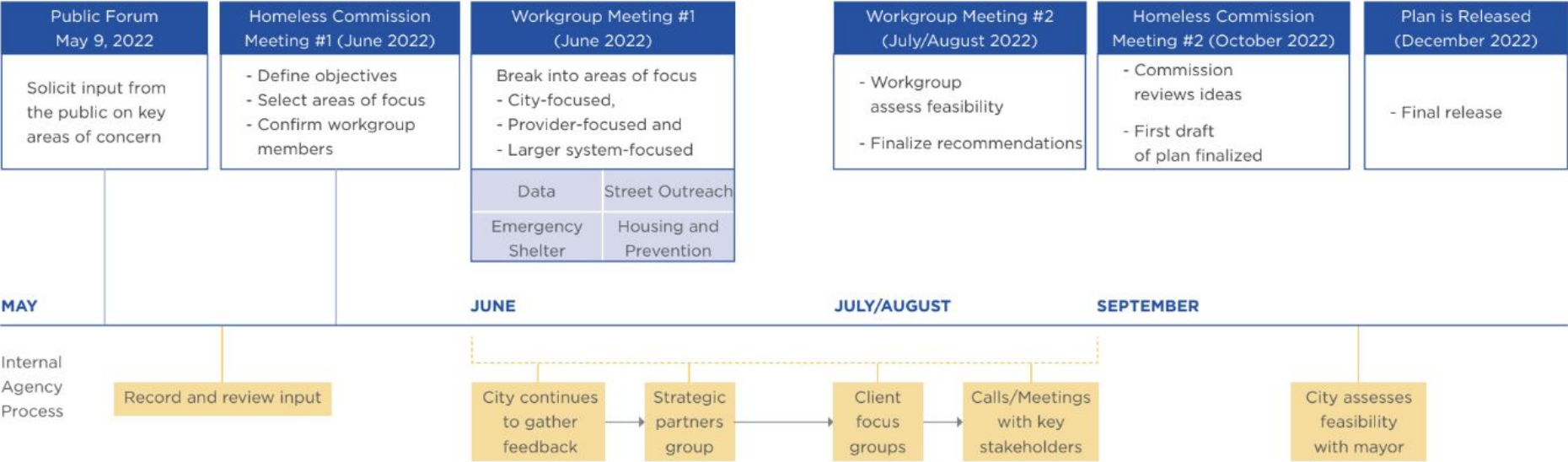
Short-Term Rental Assistance

Permanent Supportive Housing



# Planning and Coalition-Building: Collaborating Across Our Community

THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE PLAN INCLUDED SEVERAL SEPARATE BUT INTERRELATED ACTIVITIES





# The Path Home: End Chronic Homelessness in Newark



## STRATEGY 1: BETTER ADDRESS STREET HOMELESSNESS

- Create a real-time Data Dashboard for the street homeless population
- Enhance street outreach efforts
- Create multiple entry points to connect to shelter and services
- Coordinate with mobile behavior health services to reach street homeless
- Expand diversion efforts
- Improve targeted support and engagement efforts around Penn Station
- Create a citywide crisis response hotline
- Strengthen healthcare partnerships

## STRATEGY 2: IMPROVE ACCESS AND SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE SHELTER SYSTEM

- Develop city-wide shelter standards of practice
- Improve training for homeless services employees and emergency shelter providers
- Better integrate employment programs for shelter residents
- Expand Housing Navigators across emergency shelters
- Integrate coordinated entry into emergency shelters
- Improve access to behavioral health services in shelters
- Develop more flexible space options in shelters
- Collaborate with the Newark Reentry Council Partnership

## STRATEGY 3: EXPAND PREVENTION AND HOUSING SERVICES

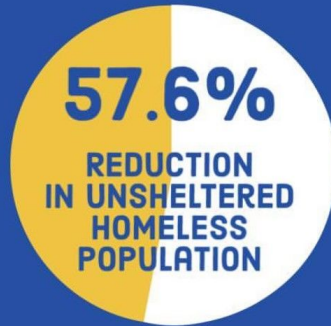
- Develop a public and private funding plan to expand housing and services
- Increase awareness of Homeless Prevention Services
- Create a Landlord Task Force
- Secure additional Rental Subsidy Vouchers
- Increase Low Barrier Housing
- Support Creative Housing Solutions
- Expand the number of Permanent Supportive Housing units
- Deploy an Housing Stability Pilot Program
- Develop an Advocacy Agenda with local and state partners



## NEWARK LEADING THE WAY IN ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) annual report show the City of Newark has achieved a staggering 57.6% reduction in its unsheltered homeless population year-to-year.

The report, released in November 2022, show Newark had a total of 3,841 total unsheltered persons. This year to date, there are only 1,627.



## 57.6% Reduction in Unsheltered Homelessness

- ✓ Strengthened Street Outreach
- ✓ Increased Shelter Capacity
- ✓ Expanding Diversion Model
- ✓ Collaborative Approach
- ✓ Improved Data Infrastructure

NEWS

# **N.J. homeless population up 24%, survey says. See county-by-county numbers.**

November 24, 2024



PUSH *HARDER*

# COME AS

BRIDGE HOUSING COMMUNITY

# YOU ARE

- Chronically Homeless
- 20 Private Rooms
- 24/7 Support Services
- Health Navigation
- Green Space/Gardens
- Food/Nutrition Education



# COME AS

BRIDGE HOUSING COMMUNITY

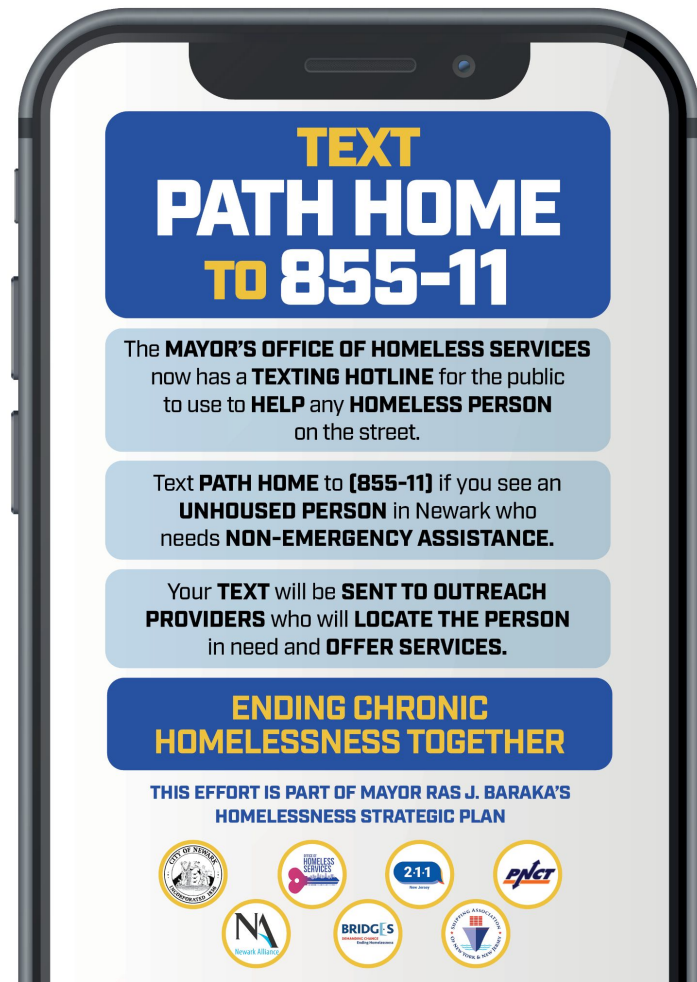
# YOU ARE

- Shower Facilities
- Communal Space
- WiFi/Desktop Computers
- Kitchenette/Microwave








# Texting Hotline for the Public to use to help any homeless resident on the streets of Newark

## Text **PATH HOME** to 855-11





## Homeless Outreach Medical Unit Street Medicine Model

-  Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
-  Licensed Social Worker
-  Peer Specialist
-  Street Outreach Workers
-  Community Resource Officers





## Launch of **Major** Expansion Street Outreach Efforts

**New** Downtown Outreach Hub  
**New** Clinical Metro Team  
**Expanded** 24/7 Program  
**Expanded** Street Medicine  
**Expanded** Outreach Personnel





POLITICS

## Housing the homeless: New initiative in Newark making 200 public housing units available



## The 'Path Home' Program

- Renovating 200 vacant Public Housing units for Chronically Homeless Newark residents
- Fully furnished units scattered throughout City of Newark
- Transitional Housing model with Supportive Services
- Direct pathway for sheltered or unsheltered residents

# NEWARK *FORWARD*

# Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver Center

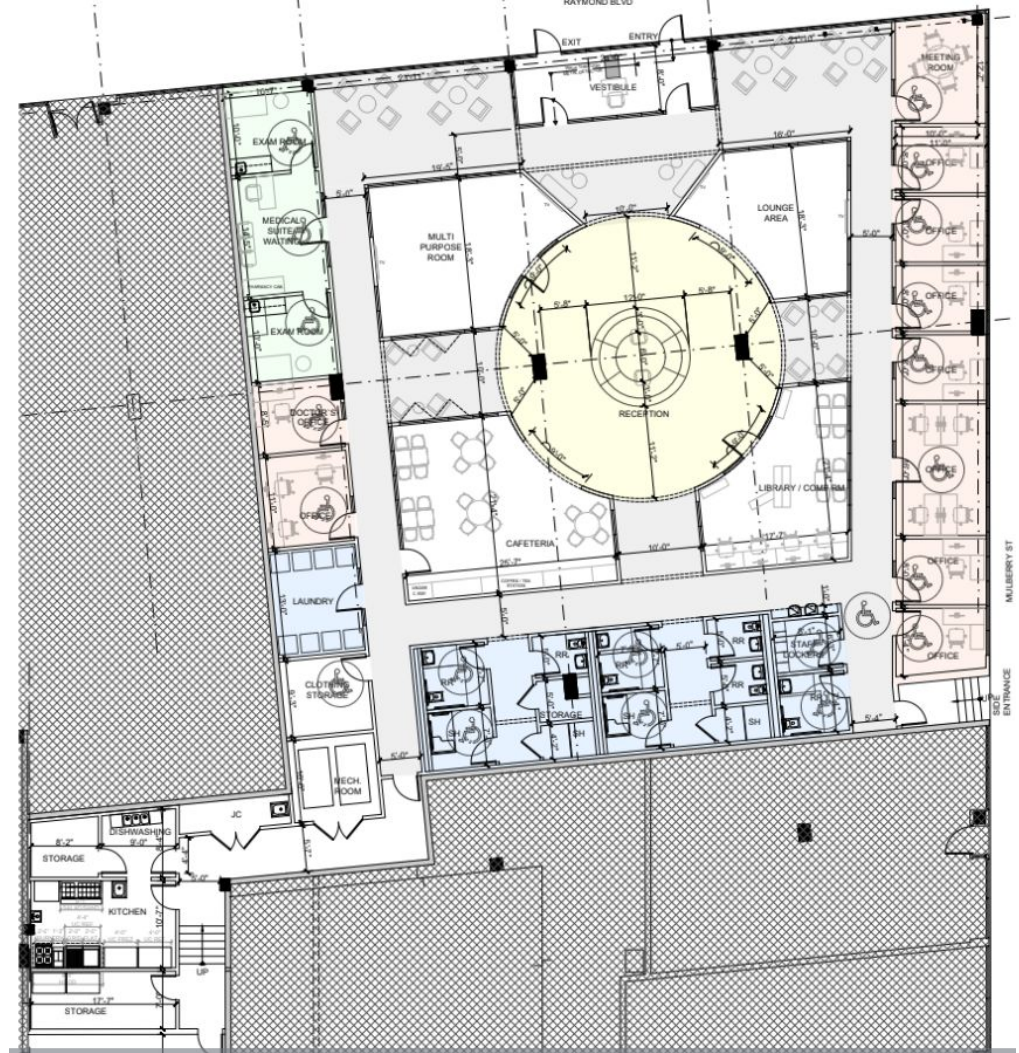
## 24/7 Drop-In and Resource Services





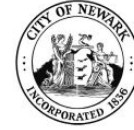
## Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver Center 24/7 Drop-In and Resource Services

- Medical Suites
- Case Management Offices
- Lounge/Computer Lab
- Laundry/Shower Facilities
- Kitchen/Dining Areas

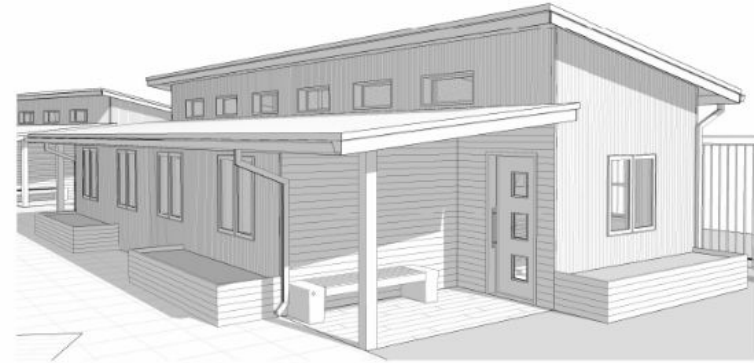
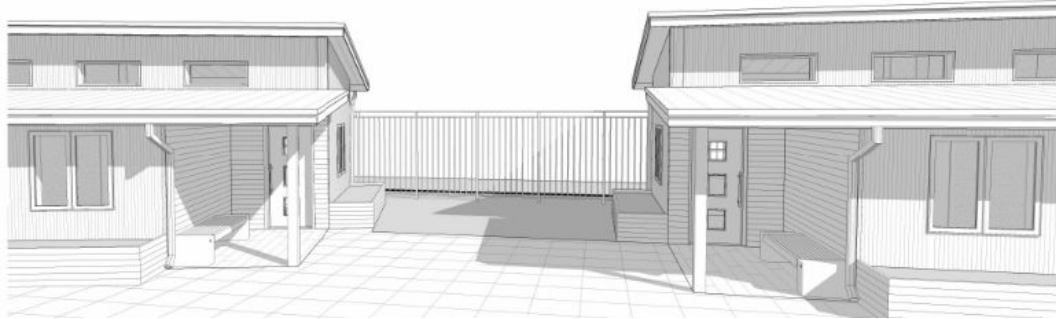


# Resilient Hope

- Tiny Homes Model
- Public/Private Partnership
- 24 Chronically Homeless
- Clinic/Community Bldgs
- Opening Late-2025



# Resilient Hope







## Hotel Conversion

### Housing and Services

- Community Resource Hub
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Supportive Housing

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February 26, 2025





# Reducing Street Homelessness Initiative Progress Report

February 26, 2025

To Eliminate Unsheltered Homelessness

# AGENDA

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- Initiative Progress Data
- Updated Encampment Closure Timeline
- Securing the Remaining Funds
- What's Next in Q1 2025
- Managing Challenges





Public and private sector collective impact initiative that aims to reach low or no unsheltered homelessness in Greater New Orleans by the end of 2025.

### Initiative Goal & Strategies

House and stabilize 1,500 individuals experiencing homelessness

2023-2024  
Targeted  
Encampment  
Decommissioning  
(Inner Core)

2023-2025  
Coordinate Housing  
Navigation to All  
Other Unsheltered  
Persons

2023 & Beyond  
Accelerate Exits to  
Housing from  
Shelters



As of 12/31/24



**285** Targeted Encampment Decommissioning

**363** Housing Navigation for Other Unsheltered Persons

**188** Accelerated Exits from Shelter to Housing

Total as of December 2024: **850 Individuals**



# City Approved 2025 Budget Items

- \$4.5M for 200 Rapid Rehousing packages
- \$550K in 6 new outreach positions, plus a fiscal manager. These outreach positions would respond to constituent requests.
- \$146K in operations for the new staff, including a vehicle.
- \$6.5 Million for Low Barrier Shelter operations (plus facility maintenance)
- \$1 Million for Flex Fund

**Total: \$13,196,000**

# Initiative Progress Overview

**Pace - Despite disruptions by State sweeps, we are on pace but will need the remaining \$6.5M to finish the job.**

- Over Halfway - Housed 54% of 1,500 goal
- With new 2025 resources, OHSS moving into next phase, working to accelerate rehousing from low barrier shelter, freeing up beds for newcomers.
- OHSS (with partners) will shift there focus on rapid exits from the shelter level to help create system flow.
- Provided OHSS secures the additional resources needed, finish rehousing all other unsheltered individuals living outside of inner core by end of 2025.

# Still Need Additional Resources

|                    | Initiative Budget | Resources Secured                         |                                 |                     |                 | Gap             |
|--------------------|-------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                    |                   | UNITY                                     | City                            | Housing Authorities | Private Funders |                 |
| Rehousing Packages | 1,500             | 827<br><i>(Federal &amp; State Funds)</i> | 358<br><i>(ARPA + GR Funds)</i> | 100<br>(vouchers)   |                 | 215<br>(\$5.5M) |
| Flex Fund          | \$3M              |   | \$1.5M                          |                     | \$485K          | \$1.02M         |

## Updates

- Received 100 vouchers from LHC
- OHSS received \$4.5M for in 2025 budget for addtl. rehousing packages
- Asked the State to match with at least \$6M (no commitment yet)
- Applied for Super Bowl Funds – Received \$225,000

# What's Next for in Q1?



## Close Inner Core to Sleeping

- Upon completion of rehousing activities, activate closure maintenance throughout the entire inner core.
- Move remaining individuals and newcomers into low barrier shelter and rehouse from there



## Accelerate Exits from Shelter

- Using \$4.5M to activate rehousing from shelter, freeing up new beds.
- Set up new management structure to actively manage and support timely movement from shelter.
- Secure additional resources to sustain low unsheltered homelessness in 2025.



## Present Sustainability Plan

# Managing Challenges

- **Introduction of State Shelter Facility Without Additional Rehousing Resources**

- Home For Good can only aggressively rehouse from the State shelter if the additional rehousing resources are provided – the remaining resources are already activated to rehouse from existing shelters in support of maintaining closure of inner core.
- If funds are not provided, individuals will be placed on the UNITY housing list and wait for their name to come up and UNITY will support the rehousing.
- If the State closes the shelter, then hopefully the low barrier shelter will have rehoused folks and created space for them to transfer.
- CAUTION – we will end up right back in the same place without continued funding for rehousing. The resources the State is investing in shelter need to shift to ongoing allocations to the City to sustain low unsheltered homelessness in the inner core and beyond.

- **Maintaining Closures**

- OHSS monitoring and engaging, moving folks to shelter or other locations to be housed
- Partnerships required from businesses, mgmt. districts, NOPD and others to patrol and engage
- Working to change behaviors of some partners so there is no mixed messaging
- Activation of areas is key to change behaviors and minimize patrol burden

- **Reestablish Relationships with Landlords**

- 2 OHSS dedicated FTEs to engage, secure units, respond, and support landlords
- Focused on bringing landlords back to the table and helping them understand how the vouchers work so they can reengage with OHSS
- Essential to securing quality units ongoing