

CENTER PARTNERS

In January of 2008, the County Executive called on all County Departments to work together to end chronic homelessness, using a *Housing First* model. The Bergen County Department of Human Services and the Bergen County Division of Community Development provide leadership and oversight to keep the vision alive.

The Housing Authority of Bergen County provides administrative oversight and direct management of the continuum of services.

The partner agencies are:

- Bergen County Department of Health Services
- Care Plus NJ, Inc.
- Christ Church Community Development Corporation
- Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County
- North Jersey Friendship House

Many other agencies provide services at the Center on a weekly, bi-weekly, or bi-monthly schedule. Agencies utilize available flexible office space.

COUNTY OF BERGEN



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County Executive

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BERGEN COUNTY Housing, Health and Human Services Center



**120 South River Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601**

- *Temporary Shelter*
 - *Housing*
 - *Meals*
- *Links to Community Services*
 - *Health Services*

Phone: 201-336-6475
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MISSION

The mission of the Bergen County Housing, Health and Human Services Center is to end homelessness by providing a full continuum of housing services including homelessness prevention, temporary shelter, and permanent placement.

The Center:

- serves as a one-stop location and single point of entry for individuals to receive information, care management, health and human services, and financial assistance.
- is open 24 hours per day throughout the year.
- is a key feature in the *Bergen County Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, 2008* and is the foundation of a concentrated, community-wide effort to find permanent housing for people who are homeless.

SERVICE OVERVIEW

The Center is designed to serve individual men and women who are homeless, individuals and families who are precariously housed, and others who require linkage to community services.

Individuals and families who are not homeless, but need health and human services, are assisted to make direct contact with agencies that can respond to their need.

TEMPORARY SHELTER

The Center has a 90-bed temporary shelter capacity, 62 of which are in bedrooms that accommodate from 2 to 8 individuals and 28 are dormitory style. In addition, there is a seasonal (December 15th—March 14th) sit-up shelter for 15 individuals.

The Center receives referrals for temporary shelter from community agencies, religious institutions, and law enforcement agencies. Those referred to the Center may have a history of substance abuse, physical and mental health problems, and unemployment, in addition to homelessness. Referral forms are required from community-based programs such as hospitals, health centers, mental health centers, and the jail.

HOUSING PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT

Efforts to place clients in permanent rental housing begin immediately following client assessment. The Center maintains relationships with real estate agents and landlords for placement.

When a housing placement is arranged a neighborhood based team provides service coordination and follow-up.

The Center is establishing relationships with health and human service agencies to provide financial resources necessary to support housing placement or emergency financial assistance to individuals and families in proximate danger of becoming homeless.

NEXT STEP INITIATIVE

The Next Step Initiative (NS) offers life-improvement support for those who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or in other crisis situations. NS’s model blends professional staff, a corps of trained volunteers, and a team of social work interns to provide one-on-one case management.

Individuals are assessed for needs, and community-based social services and resources are used to build or rebuild life skills and to provide crisis intervention.

Services are available daily:
 9:30 am—11:00 am; 1:00 pm—4:00 pm

WELLNESS PROGRAM

The Wellness Program provides health education, medication management and review, health screenings, and immunizations to shelter guests. It has transfer agreements for acute care.

HIV counseling and testing are available for county residents:

Monday and Tuesday: 9:00 am—8:30 pm
 Wednesday: 7:00 am—8:30 am
 Friday through Sunday: 9:00 am—5:30 pm
Last test done 45 minutes before closing.

MEALS

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided to guests of the temporary shelter. Lunch and dinner are provided daily for individuals and families at risk of homelessness who live in the community.

Lunch: 11:30 am—12:30 pm
 Dinner: 5:00 pm—6:30 pm

