



NEW JERSEY ADVOCACY NETWORK TO END HOMELESSNESS

County-based Homeless Trust Funds Fact Sheet

The county based Homeless Trust Funds, which was signed into law on September 8, 2009, will provide funding for the implementation of the locally developed Plans to End Homelessness.

Funding: Public Law 2009 Chapter 123 permits a county to impose a surcharge of \$3 on each document recorded with a county, for deposit into a county homelessness trust fund, five per cent of which may be used annually for administrative costs related to the administration of the fund, and the remainder of the monies in the fund may be used solely for the operation of a homelessness housing grant program. Counties that have established these funds in other states have reported leveraging their trust fund dollars with other public and private funding sources at an average rate of 1:5.

Uses: The uses of the Homeless Trust Funds are:

1. for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing projects, or units within housing projects, that supply permanent affordable housing for homeless persons or families, including those at risk of homelessness;
2. rental assistance vouchers, including tenant and project based subsidies, for affordable housing projects or units within housing projects that provide permanent affordable housing for homeless persons or families, including those at risk of homelessness;
3. supportive services as may be required by homeless individuals or families in order to obtain or maintain, or both, permanent affordable housing; and
4. Prevention services for at risk homeless individuals or families so that they can obtain and maintain permanent affordable housing.

Projects that are approved must:

- Measurably reduce homelessness
- Demonstrate government cost savings over time
- Employ evidence-based models
- Show they can be replicated in other counties
- Include an outcome measurement component
- Be consistent with the local homeless housing plan.

Implementation: To establish the fund a county must have or be in the process of developing a ten year plan and they will need to pass an ordinance to establish the Homeless Trust Fund and begin to collect the surcharge. The Advocacy Network has prepared a draft document for use by counties.

<http://www.njaneh.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/DraftFreeholdersOrdinance.doc>

In addition, the county must establish a County Homelessness Trust Fund Task Force to advise local government on the creation of homeless housing plans and programs, assess priorities for funding, review applications, and prepare an annual report and measure utilization.

For more information or for help in drafting your plan/ordinance contact NJANEH.