



**PROJECT
HOMELESS
CONNECT**



New Jersey

January 29, 2008

Project Homeless Connect is a one day event sponsored by community leaders and designed to provide housing, services, and hospitality in a convenient one-stop model for people experiencing homelessness. More than 35 cities have replicated this model nationwide, and New Jersey was the first state to coordinate a statewide Project Homeless Connect.

The New Jersey Alliance for the Homeless is coordinating a statewide Project Homeless Connect (PHC) day along with Monarch Housing Associates, which will take place in conjunction with the HUD mandated Point in Time Count (PIT).

The Point in Time Count (PIT) is mandated by HUD on a bi-annual basis. On this date Continuum of Care's (CoC) survey the homeless in their area. This includes those living on the streets and those in emergency and transitional programs. In order to perform a successful count CoC's must outreach to volunteers, local churches and businesses for donations of time and useful items that can be distributed to those that fill out the survey.

Holding PHC on the same day as the PIT will allow CoC's statewide to reach out to and survey more of the homeless people in their communities. In addition it will allow the CoC to provide those people with much needed services.

The success of Project Homeless Connect is reliant on the community's support. Through the participation of local business, corporations, hospitals, doctors and a variety of other providers, this one day event will positively affect the lives of many individuals who are homeless throughout the state. To see of a list of suggested services to be provided on the day of the event please see the reverse of this page.

To learn more about Project Homeless Connect please visit :

<http://www.usich.gov/slocal/NationalProjectHomelessConnectPromo.html>

Or

<http://www.monarchhousing.org/EHT/PHC/>

If you are interested in becoming involved in your County's Project Homeless Connect please contact the Salem County representative:

Paul Sutton

Salem County Inter-Agency Council of Human Services, Inc.

98 Market Street, 2nd floor

Salem, New Jersey 08079

(856) 935-7510, Ext. 8445

Email: Paul.Sutton@salemcountynj.gov

Suggested Services to be Provided at Project Homeless Connect

Service	Who to Involve
Alcohol/Drug Treatment:: Provide information, referrals for substance abuse issues and treatment. Possible on-site treatment, i.e. methadone	Alcohol & Drug treatment providers, Detox, Hospitals, Counselors.
Behavioral Health: Provide information, referrals and onsite assessment.	Mental Health Providers, Hospitals
Books: Provide free books for both adults and children.	Donations from Libraries / bookstores / thrift stores / hold book drive.
Children's donations: Donations of toys, board games, other activities (i.e. bouncy bounce)	Local businesses, entertainment providers, gift certificates to local attractions (i.e., bowling).
Dentists: Provide teeth cleanings on-site and make future appointments for dental care. Dispense toothbrushes/paste, and other useful items.	Local Practices, Donations of Toothbrushes/paste, etc. from corporations.
Employment: Enroll in job training and counseling programs to help link with jobs. Representative on-site to discuss local job opportunities. * Provide clothing for interviews	County one-stop center, Workforce Investment Board, Local Temp agencies, Local employers. Dress for Success, Local clothing donations from thrift stores and clothing stores.
Food Pantry: Distribution of non-perishable/ perishable food. County can run a food drive at a local grocery store prior to the event to collect these items.	Local Supermarkets, corporations, libraries, schools county/city Government, etc. can all hold food drives
Foot Washing	Volunteers
Free Clothing: Donations of clothing collected through clothing drives held throughout the county. * Coats, Socks, Underwear, Boots/Shoes are very useful items.	Dress for Success, Local clothing Drives, Veterans Affairs, Thrift Stores. Local department and clothing stores- i.e. the Gap donated T-shirts in one city.
Free Lunch	Food donated by supermarkets, donations from local restaurants to cater the event. Volunteers to serve
Haircuts/Manicure	Local barbers, salons, to attend event and provide service.
HIV/AIDS testing	Local Clinics, Planned Parenthood
Housing: If possible, set aside vouchers to distribute on-site.	Housing providers, Housing Authorities
Identification: Help individuals obtain I.D.	NJ DMV, County ID, other agencies to help in process.
Legal Aid: To solve small cases on-site (i.e. vagrancy tickets)	Legal Services of NJ, Local Attorneys, Local Judges
Mail: Provide free shipping of letters	Post Office, Fed Ex, DHL, UPS, etc.
Massages	Local masseuses donate time and service on-site
Medical Doctors, Nurses, and Urgent Care: Medical screenings, wound care, physicals, referrals and prescription medication. Possibly some treatment on-site.	Local Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics, VA
Needle Exchange: Clients can exchange used needles for clean.	Local needle exchange programs / hospitals/other substance abuse treatment providers.
Phone calls and Voicemail accounts: Free phone calls and set-up free voicemail accounts.	Local cell phone stores and telephone service providers.
Podiatry	Local Doctors / Hospitals
Public Benefits: Individuals can apply for mainstream benefits (i.e. GA, food stamps, TANF, etc.)	County / local board of social services. Providers that could help people to access services.
Shelter- Info and referral/reservations	Local Shelter staff
SSI/SSDI Advocacy: Offer potential eligibility screening and advocacy. Legal aid for those that have applied already	Social Security, Legal Services of NJ
Vision Care: Eye exams and free glasses	Local optometrists, Eyeglass providers ex- Pearl Vision and lens crafters for donation of doctors and glasses.
Veterans benefits: Information and referrals for veterans	VA to provide giveaways & services for this population, can also register eligible candidates for Veteran's benefits.
Volunteers: A number of dedicated volunteers are necessary on the day of the event, and also for the services they can provide.	Local colleges, community members, faith-based organizations. Businesses, county & city government to encourage volunteers by making it a paid work day.

Wheelchair repair

Local stores/ volunteers capable of this type of work.