



Mission and History

The Coalition for the Homeless is the nation's oldest advocacy and direct service organization helping homeless men, women and children. We believe that affordable housing, sufficient food and the chance to work for a living wage are fundamental rights in a civilized society. Since our inception in 1981, the Coalition has worked through litigation, public education and direct services to ensure that these goals are realized.

For 35 years the Coalition for the Homeless has developed, implemented and advanced humane, cost-effective strategies to end mass homelessness in New York City. Our programs model replicable solutions that can dramatically reduce homelessness, as well as prevent it before it begins.

Direct Service Programs

Every day, the Coalition for the Homeless helps more than 3,500 people who are suffering in extreme poverty. Our 11 frontline programs address immediate needs and help individuals and families overcome long-term barriers to employment and stability.

- **Grand Central Food Program** delivers 1,000 hot nourishing meals – 365 nights per year – to homeless and hungry people living rough on the streets, providing a gateway to vital benefits and services.
- **Eviction Prevention Program** rescues more than 600 families per year who are on the brink of homelessness by providing small, one-time grants – an average of \$1,000 per household – to those with impending evictions but who have the capacity to pay rent going forward.
- **Crisis Intervention** provides more than 8,000 men, women and children per year with emergency grants for food, baby formula, work uniforms, school supplies, medication and transportation. We also connect them to shelter, housing, public benefits, substance abuse treatment, mental health programs, domestic violence counseling and job training.
- **Client Advocacy Program** engages long-term shelter residents who have severe mental and physical disabilities and helps them access vital government benefits – allowing these often shunned and forgotten men and women to finally transition into permanent housing.
- **Rental Assistance Program** is a life-line for homeless men and women who work but still cannot afford permanent housing. Our modest monthly stipend bridges the gap between low wages and the high cost of NYC housing for up to two years while we help them achieve complete self-sufficiency.

- **Scattered Site Housing Program** ensures that individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS can thrive in safe and stable apartments with compassionate case management and access to continuous medical care.
- **Coalition Houses** offers private apartment living and case management for formerly-homeless individuals in three contiguous five-story brownstones on the Upper West Side.
- **Bridge Building** provides safe and affordable one- and two-bedroom apartments that allow formerly homeless mothers to create a safe, nurturing environment for their kids while fostering a strong sense of community.
- **First Step Job Training Program** gives scores of homeless and low-income women the computer training, literacy, life skills, mentoring and networking opportunities – as well as the self-confidence – they need to secure living-wage employment.
- **Camp Homeward Bound**, the nation’s first sleep-away camp designed specifically for homeless children, gives 300 girls and boys each summer the chance to play, learn, grow and thrive at our beautiful, lakefront campsite in Harriman State Park.
- **Bound for Success** offers critical after-school and summer day-camp programs to homeless kids – who otherwise risk falling behind their classmates – by providing tutoring with homework, literacy and math skills as well as active, recreational fun.

Advocacy

- **Impact Litigation** - Our trailblazing litigation, *Callahan v. Carey*, established the legal right to shelter for homeless adult men in NYC and was the first crucial step in creating a safety net for our homeless neighbors. We have since won a string of legal victories including extending the right to shelter to women and families; securing protective services for homeless children; requiring medically appropriate housing for people living with HIV/AIDS; and ensuring the right to vote for New Yorkers without homes.
- **Organizing and Shelter Monitoring** - The Coalition serves as the court-appointed monitor of the homeless shelter system for single adults, and maintains a constant presence to assess conditions and advocate on behalf of residents. However, we believe that the most effective advocates are homeless people themselves, and we help give them a voice and a platform to work constructively for meaningful change.
- **Research, Analysis and Public Education** - By helping the public and policymakers fully understand the reasons for – and solutions to – homelessness, we give New Yorkers the tools to help us fight for the proven and cost-effective housing-based solutions to this terrible crisis. The Coalition is the most trusted and credible source of information about homelessness in New York and is relied upon by elected officials, academics, service providers, the press and the general public. Our annual *State of the Homeless* report is widely used as the benchmark to gauge the City’s success or failure in addressing the catastrophe of homelessness.