

MISSION AND HISTORY

The Coalition for the Homeless is the nation's oldest advocacy and direct service organization helping homeless individuals and families. 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 more than 40 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 scalable solutions that can dramatically reduce homelessness, as well as prevent it before it begins.



ADVOCACY

IMPACT LITIGATION

Since 1981, the Coalition's advocacy has ensured that well over a million homeless New Yorkers have had a way off the streets.

Our landmark 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 City's homeless shelter system, and maintains a constant presence to assess conditions and advocate on behalf of the tens of thousands of individuals and families in need of safe, decent, and accessible shelter.

However, we believe that the most effective advocates are people experiencing homelessness, and so we facilitate grassroots organizing and provide a platform for those in shelters and on the streets to take an active part in creating real and lasting solutions.

RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

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 to bring clarity to this complex issue.

Our policy analyses and public education campaigns effectively shape the public discourse on homelessness, and our annual *State of the Homeless* report is widely used as the benchmark to gauge the City's and State's success and failure in responding to this historic crisis.



MISSION & PROGRAMS

DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

Every day, the **Coalition for the Homeless** helps thousands of 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 over 1,000 hot, nourishing meals each night – 365 nights per year – to homeless and hungry people on the streets of NYC, and provides a gateway to vital benefits and services.



EVICTION PREVENTION PROGRAM helps more than 800 families per year to avoid homelessness and remain in their homes by providing one-time grants to pay off arrears – an average of \$1,500 per household – to those with impending evictions who have the capacity to pay rent going forward.



CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM helps roughly 10,000 homeless individuals per year, connecting them to shelter, housing, public benefits, substance abuse treatment, mental health programs, domestic violence counseling, and job training.



THE KEYS PROGRAM engages long-term shelter residents and unsheltered individuals who have mental and physical disabilities, transitioning them into permanent supportive housing and stability.



EMERGENCY MAIL PROGRAM provides roughly 1,000 homeless individuals with a secure, reliable, and discreet address where they can receive private mail as well as benefits and important documents from government agencies and social service organizations.



CARE PROGRAM launched in 2026, is the Coalition's Aid, Relief, and Essentials Program. The CARE Program helps to distribute critical concrete items like blankets, clothing, toiletry kits, and more to make New Yorkers' daily lives easier.



SCATTERED SITE HOUSING PROGRAM ensures that individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS can thrive in safe and stable apartments of their own with compassionate case management and access to continuous medical care.



COALITION HOUSES offers the dignity and stability of private apartment with case management for formerly-homeless adults in three contiguous 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 homeless and low-income women the job skills, 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 up to 360 kids each summer the chance to play, learn and grow 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 as well as enriching recreational activities.

THE COALITION FOR
THE HOMELESS
WAS ESTABLISHED IN

1981

WE'VE GIVEN
**MORE THAN
ONE MILLION**
HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS
AND FAMILIES A WAY
OFF THE STREETS



40,000

NUMBER OF
HOMELESS AND AT-
RISK PEOPLE THE
COALITION HELPS
EACH YEAR

96,500

PEOPLE WERE SLEEPING IN NEW YORK
CITY SHELTERS EACH NIGHT
IN MAY 2026



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NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN
THE PAST FOUR DECADES WE
HAVE ENCOUNTERED WHO HAVE
TURNED DOWN A REAL OFFER OF
AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

MORE THAN

156,000

NYC SCHOOLKIDS
EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS
LAST YEAR

