



***HOMELESS SERVICES IN
ALBANY COUNTY***

Presented by the ACCH Community
Education Committee



Meeting Purpose & Goal

- **Inform** community members **on the root causes** to homelessness and the services available.

- **Educate** neighborhood associations on how to help their unhoused neighbors **on accessing services**



- ACCH would appreciate your **feedback** on this effort and we're considering how to expand the conversation

Agenda

- Overview of Albany County Coalition on Homelessness (ACCH)
- Review Factors Relating to Homelessness
- Common Misconceptions
- Recent Albany County Data on Homelessness
- An Overview of Homeless Services



About the ACCH

The ACCH is a diverse group of stakeholders who work to prevent & eliminate homelessness.

The ACCH works to ensure there is an effective system of housing and support services for at risk and homeless individuals and families



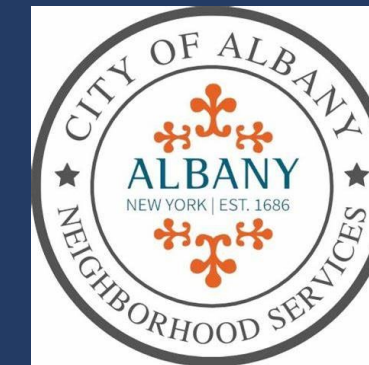
Albany County Coalition on Homelessness

ACCH Community Education Committee

This committee works to educate community members on Albany homeless services



*Albany County
Coalition on
Homelessness
Board Members*





Root Causes & Perpetuating Factors

- Poverty
- Discriminatory systems and practices
- Loss/lack of sufficient income
- Domestic Violence
- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of quality housing/code violations
- Disability (ies)
- LGBTQ+ discrimination
- Lack of social supports
- Lack of trust/engagement with service providers
- Justice Involvement
- Language Barriers
- Loss/lack of identification documents
- Lack of landlord references
- Illness/Lack of Paid Sick Leave

Common Misconceptions

Staying in Shelter is Free

A significant portion of an individual's income (including from benefits) is paid toward shelter

Providing Services Enables People To Remain Homeless

Support Services and long-term permanent housing or Section 8, reduce numbers of people who are homeless

It's Easy to Access Shelter

Services are often limited and/or not available for certain populations



Current Albany County Data on Homelessness



Point-In-Time Count

- Federally mandated through HUD
- Conducted every January (or February) on a single night
- The most inclusive and comprehensive count of unhoused persons/households
- Includes Individuals
 - In Transitional Housing
 - Unsheltered (*e.g.: literally/street homeless*)
 - In Emergency Shelters





*2024
Point-In-Time
Count
Albany County*

- 838 persons/783 households
- 107 Families
 - 205 children (under 18)
- 668 households without children
 - 168 Unsheltered Adults



Coordinated Entry

- A system of prioritization ensuring equitable access to housing resources for eligible applicants based on the length of time they have experienced homelessness in combination with their service needs
- “No Wrong Door” application process
- Transparency & collaboration
- Community-wide prioritization list

Continuum of Services



Outreach

Support
Services



Shelter

Housing

Homelessness
Prevention



Online Resource Guide

www.albanyhomeless.com



HOME ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS GET INVOLVED CONTACT

HATAS
Homeless and Travelers Aid Society

- ▼ I'm Homeless Now
- ▼ I Will Be Homeless Soon
- ▼ I Need Food Now
- ▼ I'm A Victim of Domestic Violence & I Am Homeless
- ▼ I'm Under 18 & Need Homeless Services

HATAS
Homeless and Travelers Aid Society

Contact Us
(518) 463-2124 | info@hatas.org
138 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206
M-Th 9 AM to 4 PM

Resources
[990 Disclosures](#)
[2023 HATAS Annual Report](#)

[DONATE ONLINE](#)

[LEARN ABOUT HATAS](#)

Outreach

Joseph's House & Shelter

- Albany Outreach Van: 6am-10pm 7 days a week
- Provides food, water, blankets, clothing, and personal supplies to people living outside
- Case Management Services
- Resource Education
- Contact **518-495-0663** for information or assistance



Outreach

Albany Navigates

- Program Designed to guide Albany County residents through the challenges of unsheltered homelessness
- Applications Assistance
- Obtaining Documents
- Enrollment Assistance
- Contact 518-870-3534 or AlbanyNavigates@caresny.org for information or assistance



*Additional
Outreach
Services*

St. Anne Institute

- Youth Street Outreach & Shelter
- Serves Youth Under 18

Albany LEAD

- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion

RSS SOS Program

- Intensive Street Outreach for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness





Services

IPH Community Connections

315 Sheridan Ave - (518) 694-8899

- Monday-Friday 9am-3pm
- Low barrier setting
- Open to anyone in need
- Case management
- Showers, lockers, mailboxes, phone, laundry, clothing, hygiene items, community meal, and food pantry
- Access to community providers
- Harm Reduction Services: providing support for individual's struggling with substance use and other high-risk behaviors



Services

Drop-In Living Room

518-449-7119- The Albany Damien Center- 728 Madison Avenue

- Monday-Friday 8am-6:30pm
- Open to anyone living with or directly affected by HIV who commits to being respectful in a community atmosphere
- Programs Include
 - HIV+ peer-led access to care
 - Supportive Counseling & Support Groups
 - Educational Presentations and Support Groups
 - Opportunities for social and recreational activities
 - Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
 - Shower, Gym, and Computer Room



Services

Vince Pangano Consumer Drop-In Center (CDIC)

354 Central Avenue

- Monday-Sunday 9am-4pm
- For community members receiving mental health services in Albany County
- Breakfast and Lunch Served
- Social Opportunities
- Peer Support
- Benefits Counseling
- Clothing and Households Items
- Exercise Room



Services

In Our Own Voices (IOOV)

245 Lark Street

- Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
- IOOV offers a variety of programs designed to promote the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ BIPOC
- Advocacy: Help navigating legal support, housing assistance, healthcare, and social opportunities
- Counseling & Emotional Support
- Emergency Assistance
- Social Support Groups
- Linkages & Referrals
- HIV & Hep C Testing/Screening

Access to Referral-Based Shelter

During Business Hours

- A person seeking shelter must apply at Department of Social Services (DSS) and receive a shelter referral
- DSS generally knows availability at shelters and makes referrals accordingly
- Shelter residents must comply with DSS requirements, such as:
 - Employment program
 - Treatment program
 - Shelter payments (~90% of income)

Outside of Business Hours

- Homeless and Travelers Aid (HATAS) operates an Emergency Services hotline
- 518-463-2124
- Will likely have to apply to DSS the next business day

Victims of Domestic Violence- Contact Equinox 24 hours hotline directly for emergency shelter and services at 518-432-7865



Homelessness Prevention

Albany County DSS



Emergency Assistance for rental arrears



Emergency Assistance for utility shut-offs



Security Deposits



Homelessness Prevention

United Tenants of Albany

- Tenant Advocacy
- Emergency rental assistance
- First month's rent & security deposit
- Rental arrears
- Case Management
- Mediation
- Court Advocacy
- Foreclosure assistance
- Referral Services



Homelessness Prevention

Legal Aid Society

- Free services (based on financial eligibility)
- Access by phone 518-462-6765
- Can intervene prior to court proceedings
- Legal assistance/ Legal representation of tenants in eviction proceedings
- Representation of homeowners in foreclosure proceedings
- Representation of tenants at risk due to foreclosure
- Landlord/Tenant negotiation
- Legal assistance with DSS and other benefits programs
- Financial assistance- up to 6 months of rental arrears





THANK YOU



Are there any questions?

