

**NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
RESOLUTION**

**Urging the Adoption of Legislation to Authorize Counties
To Create Homeless Trust Funds**

September 28, 2007

WHEREAS, it is estimated by that no fewer than 10,000 New Jerseyans will be homeless at some point this year, and;

WHEREAS, according to experts more than fifty percent of those persons will be children, and;

WHEREAS, children whose families are homeless often are at greater risk of developing serious health, psychological, educational and social problems, and;

WHEREAS, homelessness causes or intensifies numerous physical and psychological maladies, the cost of treating which ultimately falls upon local, county, state and federal taxpayers, and;

WHEREAS, the cost of educating homeless children strains local school budgets and, therefore, local property tax payers, and;

WHEREAS, homeless persons require or necessitate additional local and county services as well, including police, fire, medical and social, the cost of which also falls upon property taxpayers, and;

WHEREAS, homelessness often results not from personal irresponsibility, but from terrible misfortune, including illness, disability, natural disaster, sudden unemployment or family crises, and;

WHEREAS, efforts to help the homeless are currently funded by federal and state grants, which are insufficient, and;

WHEREAS, county governments and their taxpayers may wish to establish their own Homeless Trust Funds to supplement current programs, and;

WHEREAS, in order for counties to establish and administer their own Homeless Trust Funds, the New Jersey State Legislature must first enable them to do so by law.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the New Jersey Association of Counties urges the New Jersey State Legislature to adopt legislation enabling our 21 County Governments to establish, fund and administer Homeless Trust Funds, and;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHERMORE that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to all members of the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor of New Jersey.

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