

New Jersey's Voucher Success Stories

NJ Counts 2015 found 10,211 homeless men, women and children across the state. *

Rental assistance provides an important stepping stone that helps working families, people with disabilities, seniors, and veterans to keep a roof over their heads and make ends meet. Vouchers prevent homelessness and help homeless households rebuild their lives. From 2010 to 2014, New Jersey lost 1,900 vouchers due to sequestration.



There are currently 64,596 households in New Jersey using rental vouchers. Nearly 90% of these households are seniors, people with disabilities, or families with children. Without rental assistance these households would have to make tough choices between paying for housing and putting food on the table or paying for life-saving medication.

It is critical that Congress in the fiscal year (FY) 16 budget provide:

- \$18.3 billion to renew all vouchers in use at the end of 2015 and an additional \$512 million to restore the 67,000 vouchers lost to sequestration and target those vouchers to homelessness and other vulnerable populations and
- \$2.02 billion for administrative fees to help housing authorities administer the Housing Choice Voucher program.

Below are some examples of “voucher success stories” from across New Jersey. Each of these individuals is willing to share more details about his or her story with the members of the media.

Nyasias - 609-431-1104 - Nyasias and her two children having been living in an apartment in Atlantic City for two years. Prior to moving into their own apartment, they were homeless for five years. She is currently working and recently received her Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) certification and hopes to find a new job in the medical field. She says that the best thing about living in her own apartment is having privacy and her own space to raise her children.

Paul M. - 732-900-6752 - pmyers88@gmail.com - Paul moved into Kilmer Homes in Edison in April 2015 with his fiancée and baby son. The family lost their previous apartment after Paul was laid off and couldn't afford rent and moved into a shelter in Edison. Now Paul is working again – seven days a week. To him, having a voucher “means a lot because it is a place we can call home and raise their child in a safe environment.”

Debbie B. - 201-332-8125 - drbermudez0704@gmail.com - Debbie moved into her Jersey City apartment in April 2014. Since then her chronic health condition has been stabilized for a year. She finds it easier to keep appointments and look for work. She had been homeless for almost four years. Her apartment gives her “piece of mind which is priceless.”

For more information, contact Kate Kelly at Monarch Housing Associates, 860-306-1688 (cell) or kkelly@monarchhousing.org

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Lynne Radcliffe – 843-834-2679 – radcliffe@yahoo.com - Lynne lives in Wharton (Morris County.) She had lost her home after a divorce and was unable to find steady work as a teacher, even given her 30 years of experience. In February 2015, she moved into own apartment and says living there helps with her job search and volunteer work. To her, a voucher means “a safe place to call home” and independence.

Patrick Cicallese – 973-855-6221 – Paul rents an apartment in Clifton. He is employed doing custodial work. He also receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) due to brain damage from a car accident and an additional physical disability. He lost his job when his family business was sold and was homeless for two years. With his voucher and apartment, he has a “sense of security” and “now can live.”

** For more information about NJCounts 2015, visit monarchhousing.org.*