



## Contact

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### **Monarch Housing Associates Granted \$1.25 Million from Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez to Connect New Jersey Families Experiencing Homelessness with Stable Housing and Critical Services**

***40 organizations across the U.S. receive a total of \$110.5 million from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund to help end homelessness for families***

**CRANFORD, N.J. – (November 20, 2024):** Monarch Housing Associates, a non-profit organization focused on creating affordable and supportive housing as well as building and implementing plans to end homelessness, today announced that it has received a \$1.25 million grant from Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sánchez through the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. This donation is the largest gift in the organization’s history. This is the seventh year that the Day 1 Families Fund has awarded grants to organizations across the country that are leading the way to move the needle on family homelessness with the goal of ensuring that no child sleeps outside.

“We are thrilled to have these kinds of resources coming into New Jersey to address family homelessness,” said Taiisa Kelly, CEO of Monarch Housing Associates. “We truly believe housing is a human right and this funding will help us make that a reality for so many New Jersey families experiencing homelessness.”

Family homelessness in the U.S. rose dramatically from 2022 to 2023, and families now represent more than 28 percent of the country’s homeless population, according to a 2024 report from the [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#). With its one-time Day 1 Families Fund grant, Monarch will work to reverse this national trend by serving families experiencing homelessness throughout the state of New Jersey.

Specifically, Monarch Housing Associates plans to use its funds to support implementation of a statewide Strategic Plan to End Family Homelessness. The Day 1 Families Fund investment will be used to expand on the success of Rapid Rehousing to ensure more families can access this critical support to regain housing stability. Funding will also be used to develop regional hubs which will support families in navigating the services and benefits available to help them maintain stability in housing.

A group of national advisors who are leading experts on family homelessness and its solutions, including the intersection of homelessness and housing policy, child welfare, racial equity and service provision, identified the organizations selected for funding.

Since 2018, the Day 1 Families Fund has awarded 248 grants totaling more than \$750 million to organizations serving families in 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The grants are uniquely flexible and enable organizations to support families experiencing homelessness—including those who are unsheltered or staying in shelters—to regain safe, stable housing and achieve well-being.

This year, the Fund issued a total of \$110.5 million in grants to 40 organizations, and for the first time, nonprofits in Kansas and New Jersey are among the awardees. The other organizations receiving grants in New Jersey are: Family Promise of Essex County, Family Promise of the Jersey Shore and Family Promise of Morris County. The full list of awardees is available at [bezosdayonefund.org/day1familiesfund](https://bezosdayonefund.org/day1familiesfund).

### **About Monarch Housing Associates**

Monarch Housing Associates is a non-profit organization committed to ensuring every person in New Jersey has access to a safe, stable, affordable place to call home. Monarch strives to accomplish this through three pillars of work. First, Monarch partners with non-profit and for-profit developers to create affordable and supportive housing. Second, Monarch works with communities to develop plans to end homelessness, supporting state and local efforts to convene stakeholders, implement best practices, complete data analysis, and monitor system progress. Finally, Monarch partners with advocates, impacted communities, and practitioners to advocate for the resources, policy, and regulation changes necessary to ensure we can build the affordable housing needed to address the housing crisis and design homeless systems that work to quickly exit individuals and families out of homelessness into housing.

### **About the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund**

Launched in 2018, the Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help families experiencing homelessness, and creating a network of new, nonprofit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Bezos Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness—including those who are unsheltered or staying in shelters—regain safe, stable housing and achieve well-being. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit [www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund](https://www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund).

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