



# Defining the Framework:

Statewide Strategies for Addressing Key Subpopulations Experiencing Homelessness

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Housing as a Human Right: Driving Progress in Times of Uncertainty

September 26, 2025



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Statewide Strategies for Addressing Key Subpopulations Experiencing Homelessness

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# Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) Briefing

## Veteran Homelessness Symposium: Program Introduction

Date: September 26, 2025

Office of Homelessness Prevention (OHP)

Department of Community Affairs

Prepared by: JT

# Agenda

*Bringing Veterans Home (BVH)*

## Facilitators

- Jaclynn Trakalo, Project Director, Office of Homelessness Prevention

## Agenda

- **Part I:** BVH Overview

# Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

*Bringing Veterans Home (BVH)*

## 1. What is the population we are serving?

- a. Persons experiencing homelessness in New Jersey meeting the federal definition of Veteran eligible for homelessness services
- b. Persons experiencing homelessness in New Jersey meeting the state statutory definition of Veteran.
- c. Service members (reservists) and National Guard members that, while not meeting the federal or state statutory definition of Veteran for homelessness services, are experiencing homelessness in the State of New Jersey. \*

*\* This is unique to New Jersey's effort.*

# Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

*Bringing Veterans Home (BVH)*

## 2. What are the intended outcomes of the effort?

- a. **The first intended outcome** of the BVH project is that the State of New Jersey reaches an **effective end to veteran homelessness**, meaning that, for the population identified above across the entirety of the state, fewer BVH eligible persons are experiencing homelessness in the state than can be routinely housed in one month (30 days).
- b. **The second intended outcome** of the BVH effort is that homelessness for veterans and service members in our state **is rare and brief**. This means that we are enhancing, not replacing, the existing ecosystem of care to more rapidly achieve housing stabilization and **ensuring that all BVH veterans have a defined and accessible pathway to permanent housing**.

In addition to housing Veterans, we are **creating a lasting systemwide change that can be replicated** for other vulnerable populations.

# Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

*Bringing Veterans Home (BVH)*

## 3. Who will provide care and direct the effort?

- a. The BVH effort is led through the NJ Department of Community Affairs (DCA) **Office of Homelessness Prevention** via a dedicated data and project management team, in partnership with the **Department of Military and Veteran Affairs**. We have enhanced existing programs (e.g., Grant-Per-Diem [GPD] programs, Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) programs, Vets Haven @ DMAVA, HUD-VASH programs) has by adding BVH diversion, rapid rehousing, street outreach, emergency sheltering, and permanent housing voucher programs (SRAP & HOME) to generate the surge capacity necessary to **effectively end to veteran homelessness** within two years.
- b. BVH is enhancing the data infrastructure of the state's Continuums-of-Care and coordination around veteran homelessness through the establishment of **six (6) regional hubs** to accelerate housing outcomes and standardize veterans access to housing across CoC, VISN, and county lines.

# Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

*Bringing Veterans Home (BVH)*

## 4. How can people request help?

- a. **Existing Coordinated Entry systems, Department of Veterans Affairs, NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, and housing providers:** Homelessness Prevention and Services Ecosystem providers (including NJ Vet2Vet and NJ 211) can electronically send a secure referral through the Department of Community Affairs's BVH SimpliGov Referral Form
- b. **Community partners and members of the public:** persons not affiliated with the agencies outlined above (e.g., a social worker in an emergency department) can also electronically send the BVH Referral Form.
- c. **Veteran service organizations** throughout the state are fighting against unsheltered veteran homelessness, with BVH street outreach and emergency sheltering providers directly connected for rapid response.
- d. **Self-referral:** Veterans and service members experiencing homelessness can self-refer using DCA's BVH Referral Form, powered by SimpliGov, calling NJVet2Vet, NJ 211 or by visiting any of the service providers listed above.
- e. **Street Outreach contact:** BVH Street Outreach teams engage directly with veterans living in encampments or unsheltered conditions without access to resources, transportation, or other means, and facilitate direct placement to emergency and permanent housing placements.

# Bringing Vets Home: Overcoming Challenges

*Bringing Veterans Home (BVH)*

- **Fragmented Systems:** The creation of a **statewide By-Name List (BNL)** and **six regional coordinators** addresses challenges with coordinating services across different jurisdictions and systems (CoC, VISN, state departments, and county lines/governments). **Outcome:** Improved communication and collaboration across providers
- **Access Barriers:** Multiple established access points suggest there may have been difficulties accessing services. The new system expands access by allowing providers, community partners, street outreach and service members to directly refer. **Outcome:** Understanding range of available services and streamlining referrals and collaboration.
- **Coverage Gaps:** The program expands eligibility beyond federal definitions. **Outcome:** Reaching service members who may have previously been ineligible for veteran programming.
- **Landlord Engagement & Housing Production:** BVH adds a dedicated team of landlord engagement staff with private/public partnerships removes the burden of housing search from a person in crisis to the system of support. The “all-in” strategy brings veteran serving organizations and allies into the conversation and provides access to NJ housing production programs. The creation of new, affordable units with veteran prioritization will enhance and sustain the surge response over the next two years and into the next decade. **Outcome:** More housing navigation resources to reduce barriers to housing placement.

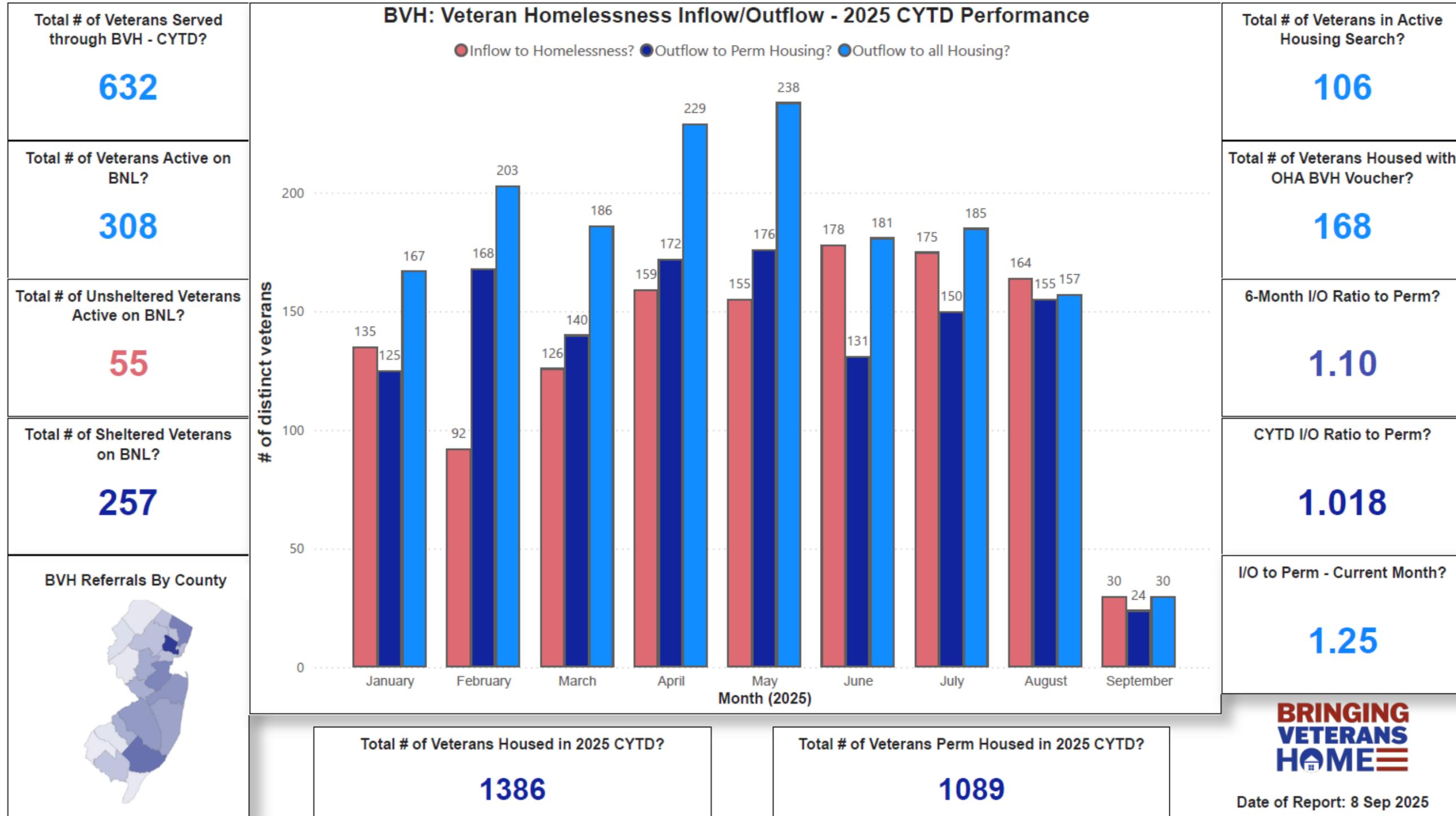
# Bringing Vets Home: BVH Awarded Partners

*Bringing Veterans Home (BVH)*

Region	Counties	Agency	Program Email
<b>1 - Gateway</b>	Bergen, Hudson, Passaic	Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey, Inc. (CSPNJ)	<a href="mailto:bvh@cspnj.org">bvh@cspnj.org</a>
<b>2 - Metro</b>	Essex, Union	Bridges Outreach	<a href="mailto:veterans@bridgesoutreach.org">veterans@bridgesoutreach.org</a>
<b>3 - Highlands</b>	Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Warren	Community Hope	<a href="mailto:bvh@communityhope-nj.org">bvh@communityhope-nj.org</a>
<b>4 - Coastal</b>	Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Mercer	Garden State Home (GSH)	<a href="mailto:bvh@gardenstatehome.org">bvh@gardenstatehome.org</a>
<b>5 - Shoreline</b>	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem	Soldier On	<a href="mailto:bvh@wesoldieron.org">bvh@wesoldieron.org</a>
		Monarch Housing Associates	
<b>6 - Riverline</b>	Burlington, Camden, Gloucester	Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC)	<a href="mailto:bvh@vmcenter.org">bvh@vmcenter.org</a>

# Bringing Vets Home: Outcomes

## Bringing Veterans Home (BVH)



Total # of Veterans Housed in 2025 CYTD?

**1386**

Total # of Veterans Perm Housed in 2025 CYTD?

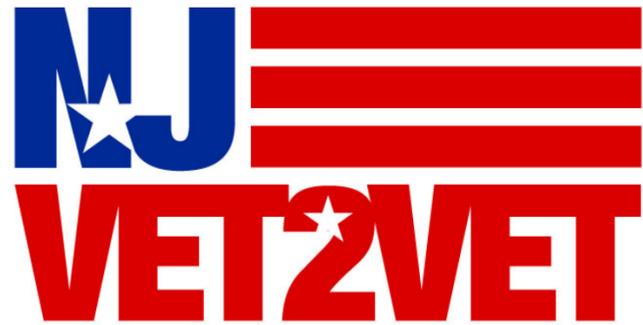
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Date of Report: 8 Sep 2025



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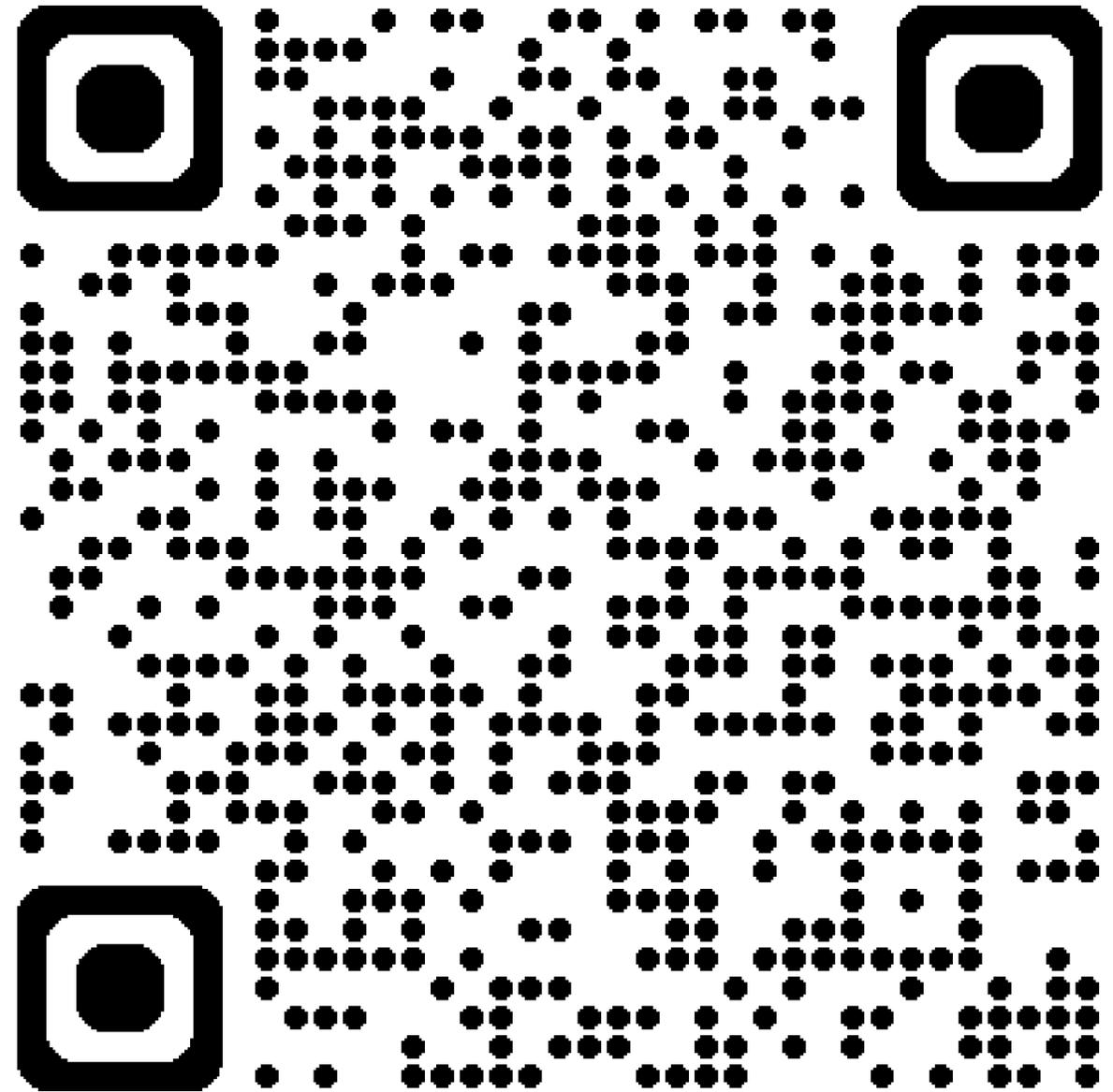


**1-866-838-7654**

Refer via Phone:



Refer or Self-Refer via Web:



<https://bvh.dca.nj.gov/>

Questions?



# Thank you to our Speakers!

**Kellie Donovan**

Executive Vice President,  
Soldier On

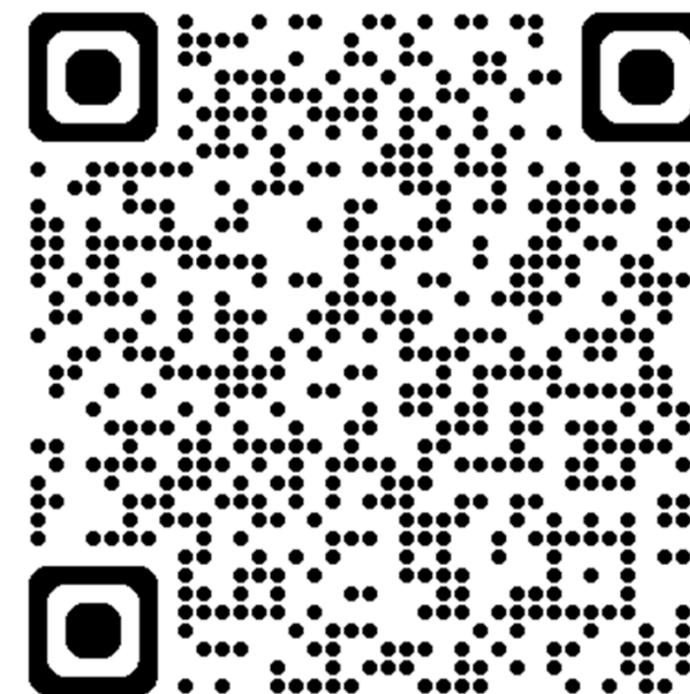
**Taiisa Kelly**

[www.monarchhousing.org](http://www.monarchhousing.org)

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