



www.trinitynj.com/trinity-center-for-community/
The Radical Well-being Program

Who we are:

For 35 years, Trinity Church has offered refuge to our neighbors experiencing hunger and homelessness. Trinity Center for Community expands that work, combining housing support with holistic, individualized resources to help clients thrive. We also advocate for systemic change to address community inequalities and barriers to personal and family wellbeing.

The program:

Homelessness is rising among women due to domestic violence, lack of affordable housing, and gendered wealth disparities. We saw this first-hand through our Code Blue emergency warming center, which last winter served more than 50 overnight guests each evening. Of the 345 guests we served, 21 percent were women. This year expanded services at Code Blue will be a springboard for helping women find a home. Trinity's Radical Well-being Program uses an innovative coaching model of casework to support Monmouth County residents experiencing homelessness and housing instability. We provide housing funds, mental health and recovery support, job training and employment opportunities, and mentoring to strengthen interpersonal and financial skills. This holistic model empowers community members with the resiliency to thrive.

We propose:

1) Increasing the number of staff during Code Blue nights, to ensure a safer environment and allow women to opt into separate spaces. 2) Hiring a professional caseworker to work during Code Blue hours, enhancing our ability to serve overnight guests 3) Increasing our budget for off-site emergency shelter and stable housing, specifically for women with children, and 4) Expanding our job training to assist with certifications and educational opportunities to access higher-paying careers.

Our goal is to secure stable housing for at least 60 women per year for the next two years.

How it aligns with our funding priorities

Women experiencing homelessness are a dramatically underserved population in Monmouth County. Data indicates that 44% of unhoused people in the county are women. That means at least 200 Monmouth County women do not have a home. Yet during the winter months, there are only 14 shelter beds in Monmouth County that are exclusively earmarked for women, and zero female-only housing shelters. While we served many of these women through our warming center and housing program, there is an urgent unmet need for more shelter spaces and more affordable housing for women.

In addition to increasing women's access to emergency shelter and stable housing, Trinity's proposal will empower women to make transformational changes in their lives, so that they can not only survive but thrive in stable housing.