

County-based Homeless Trust Funds Fact Sheet

Homeless Trust Funds Are distinct accounts that receive dedicated sources of public funds to support local efforts to prevent and end homelessness. They are typically established through ordinance or legislation creating the fund itself, an administrative structure for overseeing its operation, regulatory requirements for expenditure, and enabling the dedication of identified public funding sources. **In New Jersey, state-enabling legislation is required to enable counties to generate revenue for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a homeless trust fund.**

Potential Revenue Sources Include document recording fee; real estate transfer tax; developer fee; condo conversion fee; commercial linkage fee; hotel/motel tax; interest on real estate escrow accounts; sales tax; bond fees; private contributions. Many trust funds receive revenue from multiple sources. Counties reported leveraging their trust fund dollars with other public and private funding sources at an average rate of 1:5.

Funds Have Been Used For supportive services and case management for those who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless, as well as affordable housing construction, rental assistance, and security deposits.

Eligible Recipients May Include homeless service providers; nonprofit and for-profit affordable housing developers; housing authorities; and units of government. Recipients can be selected through a request for proposal process, or a notice of funding availability.

Trust Funds May Administered By government agencies and departments, or nonprofit corporations. A small percentage of trust fund revenue may cover administrative costs.

There are 76 county trust funds in 10 states. Examples of homeless trust funds include:

- The [Washington State Homeless Housing Services Fund](#) was created when the state legislature passed the Homeless Housing and Assistance Act of 2005, requiring counties charge an additional \$10 document recording fee dedicated to funding homeless initiatives. The program's goal is to leverage the fund by supporting model projects that reduce homelessness by demonstrating systems change through integration with criminal justice, social services, health, and other state and local systems. It is anticipated to generate \$12 a year million in support of local efforts to achieve Washington State's goal of reducing homelessness by 50% in ten years.
- Missouri's state legislature passed a law in 1990 permitting counties to levy an additional \$3 document recording fee, subject to a public vote. Funds are distributed to nonprofit homeless service providers to cover: emergency shelter; eviction and foreclosure prevention; coordination of existing community services; and projects promoting self-sufficiency, including the facilitation of transition from dependency on subsidized housing.
- The Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust was created in 1993 by the Board of County Commissioners, to fund the implementation of the County's continuum of care plan to end homelessness. The Trust generates \$11 million annually through a local food and beverage tax, which funds the provision of housing and services for homeless persons.

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