



Contact:

Nancy Hedinger

President, League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area

[lwvmorrisarea@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmorrisarea@gmail.com)

973-202-7706

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### **Homeless Trust Fund for Morris County, New Jersey**

The ability of non-profit agencies in Morris County to provide services to the homeless is strained and will become even more so with the approaching cold weather. Relief for these agencies may be attained through the creation of a homeless trust fund.

A homeless trust fund will help the community prevent homelessness by ensuring that at-risk households remain stably housed by:

- providing rental assistance
- tenant-landlord mediation,
- increasing the availability of emergency housing
- offering financial counseling and other supportive services

Twelve counties in New Jersey have established homeless trust funds which are developed by placing a surcharge on county recorded documents and not funded by county taxes. Numerous agencies have provided the Commission with extensive data on the process of adopting a trust.

The Morris County Commissioners have activated a Homeless Trust Subcommittee to study steps needed to create a fund. A simple majority vote by the Commissioners can make this homeless trust fund a reality for Morris County. The League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area urges them to approve this much needed fund.

Sincerely,

Nancy Hedinger, President

League of Women Voters of the Morristown Area