

NEWS REVIEW

february '21 newsletter digest | ri coalition for the homeless

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House of Hope creating temporary shelters

House of Hope is working out final details of the new development ECHO Village. ECHO being an acronym for Emergency Covid Housing Opportunities, will provide temporary shelter for Pawtucket residents currently experiencing homelessness. A lack of shelter beds due to COVID-19 restrictions has pushed many more homeless people to the streets.

The agency is currently building 30 personal shelters to be used as temporary emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness. The goal is to be able to house 100 people. House of Hope is currently looking for an indoor warehouse-type setting to place the structures.

ECHO Village will "give people a more dignified, safe place to sleep, but one that also manages COVID-19, where they're really in their own small sleeping space and they're not exposed," said Laura Jaworski, House of Hopes executive director.

The structures provide a place to store important possessions, keep warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and most importantly a private and safe space.

[Read the full story here](#)

House of Hope named champion for COVID-19 relief

House of Hope was named the as the first [NBC 10 Citizens Bank Champion in Action](#) of 2021 in COVID-19 relief--Congratulations House of Hope!

'Hidden homeless crisis': More people living in cars & RVs

[USA Today](#) reported that the number of persons living in their cars are likely to grow because of the COVID-19 economic downturn and as evictions and foreclosures rise.

By some estimates 1 in 500 Americans are homeless, though we know that this number is chronically under-counted, and those living in their cars are even harder to account for because of their mobility.

Many zones restrict or outright ban people sleeping overnight in their cars, and being towed or ticketed only serve to exacerbate the problem. Some business owners have opened "safe parking lots" creating a secure place for those without shelter to park their cars overnight without fear of a police encounter.

Providence councilors vote to protect housing voucher recipients

[A source of income win in Providence!](#) The Providence City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting landlords from discriminating against renters based on their lawful source of income.

The legislation would bar landlords in Providence from turning away a prospective tenant solely because they are paying with a Section 8 housing choice voucher or any other legal income, such as SSI disability benefits or veterans benefits.