

Aging Matters – February 2025 Advocacy Update

The work of NH Alliance for Healthy Aging Advocacy (NHAHA Advocacy) and New Futures includes monitoring state legislation and identifying bills that could impact the lives of older adults in New Hampshire. Two of the bills we formally opposed through written and oral testimony could adversely impact older adults who are renters and those who are experiencing financial hardship.

House Bill 60 would eliminate longstanding tenant protections by allowing landlords to evict tenants at the end of a lease term without providing a reason for the eviction. If lawmakers adopt the bill, tenant safeguards that have been in place for over 40 years would be replaced with “no cause evictions” at the end of a lease term.

This bill comes at a time when older adults are experiencing higher levels of homelessness. Adults 50 and older represent that fastest growing age group experiencing homelessness in the United States. Here in New Hampshire, service providers report an increase in the number of homeless older adults. The 2024 report on the state of homelessness by the New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness has verified what service providers reported: homelessness increased by 23.4% from 2019 to 2023 for individuals age 55 and older.¹

The second bill, House Bill 348, would restrict eligibility for local assistance, which is the last resort safety net available through New Hampshire towns and cities. Local assistance is available to pay for urgent needs such as food, housing and medication. As drafted, the legislation would establish barriers for individuals in a financial crisis by allowing municipalities to deny assistance if applicants have not resided in the municipality for up to 90 days.

This bill would eliminate a critical resource when more older adults are experiencing economic hardship. National data from 2022 shows that approximately 1 in 10 older adults age 65+ have incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$14,036 in 2022).² Poverty among individuals 65 and older is increasing here in New Hampshire. Two of the standard measures of poverty show increases in poverty among New Hampshire residents 65 and older from 2019 to 2022.³

New Futures and NHAHA Advocacy will continue to follow HB 60 and HB 348 as the session moves forward. You can sign up for email updates about all the bills we are monitoring through the following link: new-futures.org/sign-up.

¹ The State of Homelessness 2024 Edition, [New Hampshire Coalition to End Homelessness](https://www.nhceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-Edition-State-of-Homelessness-in-NH-Annual-Report-online-version.pdf), December 2024. <https://www.nhceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-Edition-State-of-Homelessness-in-NH-Annual-Report-online-version.pdf>.

² The U.S. Administration on Community Living, [2023 Profile of Older Americans](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/Profile%20of%20OA/ACL_ProfileOlderAmericans2023_508.pdf), May 2024. https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/Profile%20of%20OA/ACL_ProfileOlderAmericans2023_508.pdf

³ New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute, [Poverty Among Older Adults](https://nhfpi.org/blog/poverty-among-older-adults-rose-significantly-and-rebounded-for-children-in-2022/), June 10, 2024. <https://nhfpi.org/blog/poverty-among-older-adults-rose-significantly-and-rebounded-for-children-in-2022/>.