

The *Essex* *County* **Smart Book**



A Resource Guide For Going Home

Revised 2011

**Drafted by
The New Jersey Department of Corrections
Office of Transitional Services**

Quick Reference: Useful Numbers and Hotlines

American Friends Service Committee Prisoner's Resource Center	1-973-643-2205
CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines	
Spanish:	1-800-344-7432
English:	1-800-227-8922
Addictions Hotline of NJ	1-800-238-2333
Alcoholics Anonymous	1-800-245-1377
Division of Disability Services (DDS)	1-888-285-3036
Division of Youth & Family Services	1-800-792-8610
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation	1-800-433-0254
Legal Services of New Jersey	1-888-576-5529
NJ Motor Vehicle Commission	
Driver's License Suspension Hotline	1-609-292-7500
Main Information	1-888-486-3339
Narcotics Anonymous of NJ	1-800-992-0401
National Suicide Crisis Hotline	1-800-784-2433
New Jersey AIDS STD Hotline (Beth Israel)	1-800-624-2377
2-1-1 First Call For Help	2-1-1/
Se habla español or toll free	1-800-331-7272
Essex County One Stop	
Union City	(201) 271-4529
Jersey City	(201) 795-8800
Social Security Office	1-800-772-1213
Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (Woman's Space, Inc.)	
Bilingual and TTY accessible	1-800-572-7233

The Essex County Smart Book

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The Start of a New Beginning:

How to use this book

This book is intended to prepare you for your arrival home and reintegration back into society. In order to make the transition smoother for you a list of resources have been compiled along with a list of necessary items you will find that are essential to your success. This book focuses on the first few weeks and months of your arrival home and assisting you on managing the transition. Although not every resource available to you will be found in here, there are many that will help to guide your journey.

Unless a fee or charge is listed, all of the services and resources listed here are free.

Each section of this book is categorized by items that you will need in order to find employment, return to school, and to obtain identification. It will also provide addresses, websites, phone numbers, and general tips on how to acquire that particular service. You can use the table of contents to easily identify what service you require, and follow instructions as to how to contact providers.

FYI: ***Please feel free to utilize your social services department for assistance in contacting an agency or inquiring information about a service found in this book. There are some services that may be free to you that you can contact through your social services department before making an out-of-pocket expense.*

There are things that can be completed prior to release from prison. Two things specifically are requesting a duplicate social security card for **FREE** and applying for a birth certificate for a **fee**. Please contact your social worker six months prior to release to apply for these items. By doing this while still in custody, you are taking a large step towards making your transition back into the community easier for you. Providing both documents are processed successfully, you will have two necessary forms of identification made available to you the day you are released. This will speed up the process of finding employment.

You will not find every service or organization in **Essex County** in this book, however there will be many to help you begin. Also, the organizations that are listed may be able to offer additional resources to you. For current information as services change procedure and or cost please visit www.njsuccess.org.

You may visit your local library for Free

Internet access listed on PAGE 45.

Getting Started: Identification (I.D.) and Other Documents

In order to apply for employment, rent an apartment, apply for general assistance, food stamps, or Medicaid, proper identification will be required. The more identification you have in your possession, the easier it will be for you to obtain these services. Certain items can be obtained while you are still incarcerated ask your social worker for assistance, and, for the remainder, this book will point you in the right direction.

FYI: In order to obtain identification, various agencies will require proof of address. It is smart to keep bills in your name or official documents that have your name and address for further verification of your address.



A. Social Security Card

If at all possible, apply for a duplicate social security card with your social worker six months prior to release. If for some reason this is not possible or your application has been denied, you will need to visit your closest Social Security Office to apply. The following offices are the local branches in Essex County. Please find which office is closest to your residence.

Social Security Administration local branch offices

970 Broad Street Newark NJ 07102

247 Springfield Avenue Newark NJ 07103

Office hours Monday- Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

Phone numbers:

Toll Free 1-800-772-1213

TTY- 1-800-325-0778

If you choose to visit your local office to apply you will need to fill out the application at the office. To save time you can download the application online:

(www.ssa.gov/replace_sscard.html). You will need to show proof of identification. **Prison release papers count as proof of identification. Also, use your NJDOC Temporary ID card.**



B. Birth Certificate

The office of Vital Statistics in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has all the New Jersey birth, marriage, and death records. The fee is **\$25.00**. However, depending upon where you were born in Essex County, you may be able to apply for a birth certificate for a lesser fee.

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration
P.O. Box 370 Trenton, NJ 08625-0370

Contact information for the NJ Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration:

1-609-292-4087
1-866-649-8726 (toll-free nationwide)

FYI: You are able to apply for a birth certificate while you are still in custody and have six months left prior to release. Please see your social worker to do so.

If you were born in the following towns you may go to your registrar's office and apply for a birth certificate at the cost listed below.

<u>Town/ Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Belleville Township Eileen Risoli Municipal Building 152 Washington Avenue Belleville, NJ 07109	Phone: (973) 450-3400 Ext 3401 Fax: (973) 450-5975	Birth - \$10
East Orange City Cynthia Sorey-Moore 143 New Street Room 100A East Orange, NJ 07017	Phone: (973) 266-5450 Fax: (973) 672-5063	Birth-\$10
Livingston Township Rose S. Virgadamo Township Hall 204 Hillside Avenue Livingston, NJ 07039	Phone: (973) 535-7961 x222 Fax: (973) 535-3234	Birth \$15
Montclair Township	Phone: (973)	Birth \$10

Anne Shields 205 Claremont Avenue Montclair, NJ 07042	509-4973 Fax: (973) 509-1479	
Newark City LaGuanda Frasier 920 Broad Street Room 111 Newark, NJ 07102	Phone: (973) 733-6511 Fax: (973) 424-4207	Birth \$ 25
Newark City (2) Robert P. Marasco City Clerk's Office 920 Broad St City Hall Room B9 Newark, NJ 07102-	Phone: (973) 733-6574 Fax: (973) 733-3725	Birth \$ 25
West Orange Township Denise M. Urso Department of Health 66 Main Street West Orange, NJ 07052	Phone: (973) 325-4124 Fax: (973) 325-4005	Birth \$ 10

C. County I.D.

The Essex County Clerk's Office is located at:

465 Martin Luther King Blvd Room 247
Newark New Jersey
973-621-4921
Cost for county I.D.: \$20

D. Driver's License



Once you are released from prison, you can go to the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to get a new driver's license, replace a lost one, or renew a card that has expired. If you believe that your license has been suspended, you should confirm this and figure out what you need to do to get it back. If you were convicted of any kind of drug offense, your license has been suspended.

Prior to your release, you can get a copy of your driver's license record, which is called an "abstract." Please contact your social worker if you are interested in obtaining an abstract. **The fee for an abstract is \$15.00**

Upon your release, you can go to the MVC offices in Essex County (listed below) or a Regional Service Center to request

a driver's abstract. If you have internet access, you can also request an abstract online at WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MVC. You will still have to pay **\$15.00**. If your license was suspended for six months or more because of a drug conviction, the period of the suspension will begin from the time of your release. Other kinds of suspension, such as failure to pay parking tickets, insurance surcharges, or child support, will last until you have paid the fine or worked out a payment plan. For questions about suspension, call the suspension hotline: **609-292-7500**.

Restoration Fees, Tickets, and Surcharges: If you found out that your license has been suspended, you will have to pay a restoration fee of **\$100.00** in order to have your license reinstated. This does not include any additional fines or surcharges you are required to pay. This fee can be paid at your local MVC Offices in Essex County or a Regional Service Center (see below). If you have internet access, this fee can be paid online at WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MVC. You can pay your surcharges and parking tickets on this website as well.

MVC LOCATIONS IN ESSEX COUNTY

For questions, please call 1 (888) 486-3339

East Orange

183 South 18th Street Suite B
(Corner Central Ave & S. 18th St.) East Orange, NJ 07018
Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Newark

228 Frelinghuysen Avenue Newark, NJ 07114
Monday- closed Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

FYI: There are 3 regional offices in New Jersey. The closest to Essex County is the Trenton Office

Regional Office: Trenton Agency

120 S. Stockton & Front St. Trenton, NJ 08611
Services: Driver conferences, driver records, (issuances and inquiries), points and surcharge (inquiries), suspensions and restorations.
Hours: Mon- Fri 8am-4:30pm; Sat 8am-12pm

To replace a lost or stolen license, you will have to bring identification to the MVC and pay an **\$11.00 fee**. The MVC now has very specific kinds of I.D. that are required under the new “Six Point” system:

Please use this guide to prepare yourself for your trip to MVC. Make sure you have the six points of identification necessary to obtain your drivers license or non drivers I.D.

SIX POINT SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION

Primary Documents:

(4 Points)

- Birth Certificate or Certified Copy from one of the 50 states.
- U.S. Dept. of State Birth Certificate
- US Passport-Current or Expired less than 3 years
- Current US Passport card
- Current NJ Digital Drivers License
- Valid Active Duty US Military Photo ID Card
- US Adoption papers
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship

Secondary Documents:

(3 Points)

- Civil Marriage/Domestic partnership/ Civil Union Certificate: Issued by the Municipality or State
- Order of Decree of Divorce
- Court Order for Legal Name Change: Signed by a judge or county clerk
- US Military Photo/Retiree Card

(2 Points)

- U.S. Military Discharge Papers (DD214)

(1 Point)

- Current/ Expired (Less than 1 year) Non-Digital NJ Photo Drivers License
- Social Security Card
- Bank statement or record
- ATM Card w/ pre-printed name and applicant signature
- NJ Public Assistance Card w/ Photo
- High School Diploma/GED/ College Diploma
- Veterans Affairs-Universal Access Photo ID Card

You can get a brochure on this new “Six Point” system from the MVC offices listed above or from the Motor Vehicle Commission website, www.state.nj.us/mvc. If your license has expired, you will have to go with your six points of I.D. to the

MVC to fill out a renewal application. You may have to take the written test again. License renewal costs **\$24.00**.

E. Non-driver's State I.D.

New Jersey provides state photo identification for non-drivers. **You can get this official state I.D. even if your driver's license is currently suspended.** This may be a good option for you if it is going to be some time before you get your license back. You will still need to bring the same type of identification documents described previously, under the new "Six Point" system.

F. Certificates of Naturalization or Citizenship

This certificate is necessary for employment upon your release. In general, if you need to replace lost forms, you can contact the US Citizenship & Immigration Service or Application Support Centers to find out about identification and fingerprint verifications. There is a fee to process an application for replacement documents. The National Customer Service Hotline is 1 (800) 375-5283.

Citizenship Locations

US Citizenship & Immigration Service
970 Broad Street Newark NJ 07101

G. Alien Registration Card "Green Card"

To replace a missing Green Card, you must go to the US Citizenship & Immigration Service Office (see above) to fill out an I-90 form. Please make sure that you bring I. D. with you.

You can also visit the website and download the forms at www.uscis.gov. It costs **\$450.00** for processing. **If you have any questions or concerns about your status as a result of your criminal conviction, call Legal Services of New Jersey at 1-888-576-5529 before going to immigration.**

H. Military Discharge Papers

FYI: You may have the opportunity to meet with the Veterans Administration (VA) liaison from the Veteran's Administration during your incarceration. The VA liaison can assist you in requesting a copy of your DD214 (discharge papers) by completing the SF-180 form. Please notify your

institution's [P.R.E.P.A.R.E](#) social worker for assistance with your requests and to obtain information on your veteran status. You can also obtain the SF-180 by writing the Veteran Benefit Administration in NJ or the NPRC, which is the main record depository.

Main records depository

NPRC, 9700 Page Ave St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Veterans Bureau

50 South Clinton Street Suite 3200 East Orange NJ 07018
973-395-8394

Your local Veterans Service Officer can assist in your obtaining benefits and acquiring services you may be eligible for.

Essex Veterans Administration Liaison

David Joost

20 Washington Place Room 431 Newark NJ 07102
973-297-3336
Fax 973-642-0830

Upon your release, you can also visit the following website to request military records; www.vetrecs.archives.gov
Once on the www.vetrecs.archives.gov website, follow the on screen instructions for requesting personnel records. You will be asked to print out a signature page which can either be mailed or faxed. Upon receiving the form, the records will be mailed directly to you.



I. Passport

Although a passport may not seem like an important item to have at this point, it can serve as a major form of identification because it is widely accepted. There are **fees** involved in obtaining your passport. To obtain your passport you may visit the Essex County Clerks Office at:

Essex County Clerk
465 Martin Luther King Blvd Room 247
Newark New Jersey
973-621-4921

You will need to bring:

- ✓ An original or certified copy of a birth certificate with a raised seal and file date issued by Vital Statistics
- ✓ A naturalization certificate
- ✓ Official military I.D.
- ✓ A previous US passport; photocopies are not accepted.
- ✓ Your social security card
- ✓ I.D., such as a valid driver's license, government identification or previous passport issued after your 16th birthday. The expired passport should not be more than 15 years old.
- ✓ 2 identical copies of a 2x2 face front regulation passport photo.

\$110 for regular service/passport total

\$25 check/money order – made payable to US Dept. of State of New Jersey

FYI: A passport will be valid for 10 years.

J. NJDOC Release Papers/Temporary I.D. Card

Make sure you keep your prison release papers and temporary I.D. card. Your release papers can serve as identification in some circumstances and your I.D. card is valid for 30 days.

First Steps After Release:

Where Do I Go to Find...

This section provides resources for food, shelter, clothing, money, and other emergency needs. We have provided some resource options in Essex County that you can utilize upon release.

FYI: Important paperwork will be needed repeatedly throughout your life. Make sure to invest in a folder or safe to keep important documents. **Never** carry your birth certificate or social security card with you. You will only need to produce these items upon request. It is smarter to keep them in a safe place. Leaving them with someone could also result in your documents getting lost so be very careful.

Also, make sure to keep a notebook and a pen with you to write down the names and phone numbers of the people you come in contact with at various agencies. Remember, nobody is going to care about your success as much as you do.

Provided for you are agencies and services that can assist you in finding your basic needs.

FYI: It is a good idea to call first to check that the hours of operation haven't changed. Please try to be patient with those that are attempting to assist you.

See the following pages for list of resources.

A. First Stops

The agencies below provide a range of services and/or, depending on what you need, can refer you to other places.

FIRST-STOP AGENCIES

2-1-1/First Call for Help – is a resource for Essex County residents, which offers comprehensive information and referrals for human services, health care, government and community resource assistance. Dial 211, which can be accessed from the internet, cell phone or landline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dial 800-331-7272 for the Homeless Hotline, which addresses emergencies and homeless calls.

FYI: 211 is multi-lingual and accepts TTY callers.

B. Shelter

Access to most of these shelters can be obtained through the Essex County Board of Social Services or through a general walk in.

Urban Renewal Corp.

224 Sussex Avenue Newark NJ 07103

973-483-2882

Open 7 days a week

Provides shelter and multi-services for men and women over the age of 18 without children. Must present identification.

United Community Corporation

31 Fulton Street Newark NJ

973-642-0181

Monday-Friday 9-5

Provides shelter for 18 women and 42 men. Essex county ID is required. Walks ins are accepted.

Missionaries of Charity

60 Jay St. Newark NJ

973-483-0165

Shelter is opened 7 days of week soup kitchen is open 9:30-10:30 everyday except Thursday

The shelter is for women only

Isaiah House

238 North Munn Ave East Orange

973-678-5882

Opened 7 days a week opens at 4:00pm

Services are provided for women with children

Apostles House

1618 Grant St. Newark NJ

973-482-8865

Opened 7 days a week. 42 beds available.

Services are provided for women and children

Project Solution

712 Springfield Avenue Newark NJ

973-371-5266

*This shelter is opened 7 days a week but has a lockout period between 9:00am-4:00pm. There are 60 beds available and **this shelter houses men only.***

Project Solution 2

353 South Sixth Street Newark NJ

973-353-0005

This shelter houses women only. Opened 7 days a week

C. Food/Clothing

Here are the food pantries and soup kitchens in Essex County. Although each agency has been verified, please call to check for most current hours of operation.

Food Pantries/Soup Kitchens

FYI: Please note that any food pantry that also sells or provides clothing will be indicated next to the address by the designated symbol.

Bethany Baptist Church 

275 West Market Newark NJ
973-623-8161

Mondays and Thursdays 11-1

Please note: Proof of identification and proof of income are necessary to obtain services.

First Hopewell Baptist Church 

525 Orange St. Newark NJ
973-485-8100

Opened Wednesday 9-11:30

Please note: One visit per 30 days must provide identification and proof of income.

Isaiah House 

238 North Munn Avenue East Orange NJ
973-678-5882

Monday- Friday 10:00- 4:00

Please note: Must have a referral each visit. One visit per month

Salvation Army 

699 Springfield Ave Newark NJ
973-375-5933

Please note: Food pantry is opened the Wednesday after the 15th of the month. Proof of address, income, and identification are required for services.

Salvation Army 

430 Main Street East Orange NJ
973-672-0262

Office hours Tuesday- Friday 9-4

Lunch is offered from 12-1

Missionaries of Charity 

60 Jay St Newark NJ
973-483-0165

Opened daily except Thursdays 9:30-10:30

Saint James Social Services Corp. 

604 MLK Blvd. Newark NJ
973-624-4007

Opened Monday-Friday 10-6 Food Pantry is opened 4-6

Irvington Neighborhood



Improvement Corp.
346 Irvington Ave Irvington NJ
973-416-0909
Monday-Friday 1-2

Saint John's RC



22 Mulberry St. Newark NJ
973-623-0822
Tuesday-Saturday 8-11

Free or Low Cost Clothing Resources

East Orange/ Orange Community Development Corp.

490 Main Street East Orange NJ
973-266-5315

Opened Monday-Friday 10:00-3:00

Provides free clothing and Thrift store. Must have a referral, proof of income, or release papers.

Showers and Laundry

Liberation in Truth

Open Door Drop in Center
47-49 New Street Newark NJ
973-424-9555

Monday-Friday 10:00am-6:00pm

Provides shower and laundry services on a first come first serve basis.



D: Transportation

There is no general program that will provide assistance paying for transportation. NJ Transit will no longer accept release papers in substitution for bus tickets. However, you may purchase transit tickets from NJDOC for \$2.50 prior to release, which will assist you with reaching your destination.

Some of the programs listed in this book will provide bus passes to help you participate in a particular program. If you are assigned to a community/social service or reporting program, you may want to ask if the program offers transportation assistance.

For specific bus, rail or train schedules and fares, you may call NJ Transit: (973) 275-5555, NJ Text Telephone: 800-772-2287 or visit the NJ Transit Website: <http://www.njtransit.com> For specific route information on the website, click on the “trip planner”. For your Essex County travel convenience, may want to purchase weekly, monthly or discounted transit passes (when applicable).

Medicaid recipients may obtain a list of approved Medicaid transportation providers from the Essex County Board of Social Services.

Medicaid recipients may be eligible for the “Dollar-A-Day Car Insurance Program”. If you intend to drive places, remember that you **must** have a valid driver’s license and valid auto insurance for any vehicle that you are driving. New Jersey now has a “Dollar-A-Day Car Insurance Program” for low-income individuals who receive Medicaid and want to insure a car registered in their name. It costs **\$360.00** per year if you pay all at once and **\$365.00** if you pay in installments. You cannot get this insurance if your license or registration is revoked or suspended. Other restrictions may apply. For more information contact: 800-652-2471;

<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/dollaradayqna.htm>.

Transportation for the Disabled

New Jersey Transits Access Link

1-800-955-2321

Please call between 8:30-5:00 Monday-Friday

This service is made available to those citizens that are specifically prevented from using the bus system due to their disability.

E. Money



Once you are released from custody, you will need a source of income until you can find a job. (see section on “Finding a Job” for job seeking information). **The DOC does not provide any “gate money,” except for the money you may have in your inmate account. If it is possible to save any money before you are released, you should try to do so.**

Based on need, Parole can give up to \$300.00 in emergency funds, but it is at their discretion. Ask your parole officer about this.

You may be eligible to get some sort of public assistance (welfare), not everyone qualifies for this. Listed below are some basics on seeking and applying for benefits.

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE (WFNJ-GA) AND
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY**

FAMILIES (WFNJ-TANF) provide cash benefits, GA for single people and TANF for people who have custody of their children. Both programs will require you to work or actively look for work and both have a five-year lifetime limit. Work First New Jersey also has an Emergency Assistance program that you may qualify for if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless: it can pay for things like food, clothing and transportation costs to look for housing, but also utility payments and temporary rental or mortgage payment assistance. Depending on the county you are returning to, you may be able to meet with the **P.R.E.P.A.R.E** social worker at your institution and complete a WFNJ-GA application prior to release. You can contact your social worker for more information.

WFNJ-GA AND WFNJ-TANF

Application sites in Essex County:

Essex County Dept of Citizen Services
Division of Welfare
18 Rector Street - 9th Floor Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 733-3000
Fax: (973) 643-3985

FYI: Please call your local office to verify what the eligibility requirements are for obtaining General Assistance

FOOD STAMPS

You may apply for food stamps while applying for GA/TANF.

If you were convicted after August 22, 1996 of a drug distribution or sales offense, you may still be able to get Food Stamps if you have completed or are enrolled in a licensed drug treatment program, or completed a program in prison and are drug free (**you will be tested**). Same goes for possession offenses. Please contact the welfare office in Essex County to inquire.

F: Veterans Benefits: If you were receiving veteran's benefits, either for disability or a pension, and you were incarcerated for more than 60 days, you will have to get reinstated after you are released. If you were not receiving benefits and you are a veteran, you may be eligible for benefits or for other programs and services, including health care. You can contact the **P.R.E.P.A.R.E** social worker in your institution located in the social services department for assistance. You can also contact the Veteran's Administration for questions about benefits at 800-827-1000; the health

benefit number is 877-222-VETS. The 24 hour veteran's mental health hotline is **1-866-VETS-NJ4U**.

The VA Benefit Administration is located at
20 Washington Pl., 3rd Floor Newark
973-645-1441 (regional office).



Visit this local VA office to reinstate benefits or apply for new programs and services.

The following are some websites that can assist you in looking for information about veteran services:

Federal Veterans Information:

www.va.gov

Info for NJ Veterans:

www.vetsinfo.com

New Jersey Dept of Veterans Affairs: www.state.nj.us/military

New Jersey Veterans Guide:

www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide

VA Home Loans:

www.homeloans.va.gov

Veterans Counseling Service Center:

www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html

Be aware that the VA takes considerable time to make decisions. On average, it can take 273 days to process a new application for benefits.

OTHER BENEFIT PROGRAMS: You may be eligible for other cash benefits, including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits (if you are seriously disabled and cannot work) call 1-800-772-1213 and the Women's, Infants, Children (WIC) program, which gives food vouchers to low-income parents. You can inquire about WIC at the city and county welfare offices.

Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support

The transition from prison back to society may take some time to get adjusted and we want to provide you with options to lessen the burden. Taking care of your mind and body will be important for your success. Below are a few places that may be of assistance.



Health Care Resources

It is very important that you pay close attention to your health after you are released from custody. Change in your daily routine can cause a certain level of stress. Stress along with any medical condition may worsen if routine monitoring and treatment are not available. Therefore the resources listed below provide information on paying for health care, clinic visits and other resources in Essex County.

A. Health Care Benefits: Am I eligible?

In New Jersey, the **Medicaid** program provides health care benefits for some low-income people. If you gain custody of children under 18 when you are released, you may qualify if you are; *single, head of house and unemployed, or existing earnings are not enough to support the household* Other eligibility requirements include low-income status, over age 65, blindness, or inability to work due to a disability.

If you are disabled and are applying for SSI, you will also be screened for Medicaid at that time. If you qualify for General Assistance benefits, you will get some very basic health care benefits through Medicaid (Plan G). **Medicaid is a separate program from GA or TANF, so you don't have to be eligible for those benefits to qualify for Medicaid.**

For questions about New Jersey Medicaid, call 1-800-356-1561 or contact Essex division of Welfare (973) 733-3000

If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for health care benefits through the **Veteran's Administration**, which provides a "Medical Benefits Package" for enrolled veterans. You may call 877-222-VETS for more information about eligibility and applying for benefits.

Easter Seals New Jersey provides information, referrals and loans of medical equipment (including wheelchairs) to people in need. For information call the number provided for the State of New Jersey 732-257-6662.

B. General HealthCare Providers

Even if you do not have Medicaid or other health insurance and benefits, Essex County has clinics that provide Primary health care at low cost, sliding scale or free service. They are listed below. Most hospitals have charity care, for which you can inquire about during a hospital emergency room visit.



Essex County Community Health Centers

Broadway Health Center

741 Broadway Newark NJ
973-483-1300
Hours: Monday-Friday 9-7

Dayton St. Health Center

101 Ludlow Street Newark, NJ 07114
973-565-0355 Phone
973-565-0461 Fax
Monday-Friday 9-7

St. James Hospital

155 Jefferson Street Newark, NJ 07105
973-465-2828 Phone
973-589-1272 Fax

East Orange Primary Care Center

444 William Street East Orange, NJ 07017
973-675-1900 Phone
973-675-4021 Fax
Monday-Friday 9-5

Irvington Community Health Center

1148-1150 Springfield Ave Irvington, NJ 07111
973-399-6292 Phone
973-372-4534 Fax
Monday-Friday 9-5

Orange Community Health Center

37 North Day Street, 3rd Floor Orange, NJ 07050
973-395-2611 Phone
973-395-2807 Fax
Monday-Friday 9-5

Homeless Health Care

110 Williams Street Newark NJ 07102
(973) 733-5300

Monday through Friday, 8:30 - 4:30

Provides primary medical care, mental health, substance abuse counseling, and case management to homeless individuals within the City of Newark.

FYI: All of these centers accept Medicaid and some insurance plans, but also provide services on a sliding scale basis, additional fees for x-rays and lab work. Primary and preventive care. Staff there may help you apply for Medicaid, charity care or other benefits if you may be eligible.

The Essex County Wellness Discount Program provides you with a free prescription drug discount card program. This program provides savings up to **10% - 75%** off your prescription drug costs. This Program was launched to help the uninsured residents of Essex County. However, the card can also be used by the insured with no prescription coverage or to discount medications which are not covered by an insurance provider.

For more information about coverage, network pharmacy locations, and medication pricing: Call the **Subscriber Help Line** at 1-877-321-6755.

Family Planning Centers in Essex County Area:

Essex County Planned Parenthood Locations

Chubb Center

151 Washington Street Newark, NJ 07102
P: 973.622.3900 F: 973.596.6307

Ironbound Center

70 Adams St, Suite 13 Newark, NJ 07105
P: 973-465-7707 F: 973-465-5779

Gale Center

560 Dr. MLK Blvd., Ste. 100 East Orange, NJ 07018
P: 973-674-4343 F: 973-674-5581

Montclair Center

29 N Fullerton Ave Montclair, NJ 07042
P: 973-746-7116 F: 973-746-8899

Services Offered

- ✓ Birth Control Services
- ✓ Emergency Contraception
- ✓ General Health Care
- ✓ HIV Testing
- ✓ HPV & Hepatitis Vaccines
- ✓ LGBT Services
- ✓ Men's Health Services
- ✓ Patient Education
- ✓ Pregnancy Testing, Options & Services
- ✓ STD Testing & Treatment
- ✓ Women's Health Services

***Some sites** offer various services as they relate to medical, community education and special services;*

- ✓ Comprehensive physical exams, health screening & referrals
- ✓ HIV & other Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), diagnosis, treatment for both you and your partner
- ✓ Birth control instruction & counseling
- ✓ Emergency contraception
- ✓ Prenatal care & delivery program
- ✓ Male services
- ✓ Mid-life services
- ✓ Prenatal substance abuse programs
- ✓ Parent education programs

Sliding scale fees based on income and family size, Medicaid and most insurance are accepted.

C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS

In addition to the clinics listed above, a number of places in Essex County offer care and support services specifically for those living with HIV and AIDS.

If you are HIV+ or have AIDS, you may also be eligible for the **AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP)**, which provides help paying for HIV/AIDS medication for people who do not have other ways of paying. **You can apply for this program before you are released.** Contact the **Aids Drug Distribution Program** at 609-588-7038 or toll free (877) 613-4533, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm to apply.

Hyacinth Aids Foundation (Regional Office)

408 Bloomfield Avenue 2nd Floor Newark NJ 07107
973-565-0300
Fax- 973-643-8661
info@hyacinth.org
Hotline 1-800-433-0254

Newark EMA HIV Health Services Planning Council
315 North 6th Street 2nd Floor Newark NJ07107
973-485-5220

National AIDS Hotline

1-800-342-AIDS

Spanish Services 1-800-344-7432

TTY Deaf services 1-800-281-AIDS

Offers anonymous, confidential HIV/AIDS information by trained specialists who are knowledgeable and available to assist with questions regarding the disease.

STD Screening

Communicable Disease Prevention and Treatment Center (CDPTC), which provides treatment and counseling services to individuals suspected of having sexually transmitted diseases and the contacts of those individuals. The program also provides confidential counseling/screening for HIV disease.

Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 - 4:30

Thursday, 4:30 - 7:00

(973) 648-2444

D. Services for People With Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C

In addition to the general medical care facilities listed above, there are a few services especially for people with tuberculosis and hepatitis C. Screening and treatment are available at no cost. Certain eligibility requirements apply.

Waymon C. Lattimore Practice is part of the Ambulatory

225 Warren Street in Newark

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday - 7am - 5pm

Wednesday - 7am - 7pm

973-972-6232 for appointments and information

Care Services at University Hospital - University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey.

Designated by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services as a Regional TB Clinic

Serving Essex County.

225 Warren Street in Newark

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday - 7am - 5pm

Wednesday - 7am - 7pm

To contact the Global TB Institute, call 973-972-6232 or 1-800-4TB-DOCS

Hepatitis C Support Group
HCV Anonymous- Alanon Association
973-483-7071
Call for times and location



E. Dental Care

The locations listed below don't provide free care, but do have a sliding scale for those without insurance. Waiting lists can be long.

ESSEX COUNTY WELLNESS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Essex County Wellness Discount Program was formed to reduce the medical costs for you and your family. This FREE program is open to ALL residents of Essex County and the State of New Jersey. There are no age or income requirements.

[The Choice Plus Dental Plan](http://choiceplusdentalplans.com) provides a 30% discount on the annual cost of purchasing a dental discount plan and 3 additional months FREE for you and your family, and you have more than 15 plans to choose from! Visit choiceplusdentalplans.com to search the variety of plans offered.

Newark Department of Health and Human Services

110 Williams Street Newark NJ 07102
(973) 733-7612

Monday-Friday, 8:30 - 4:30

Routine dental is provided in Newark NJ. Services provided are for adults and children and include cleaning, filling, extractions, and oral surgery.

Cost: \$15 per visit

Mountainside Hospital

Dental Clinic

Bay & Highland Ave Montclair NJ
973-429-6887

Hours: Monday-Friday 8-4 Closed for lunch 12-1

Fees on a sliding scale for those in need.

Newark Community Health Centers

741 Broadway 973-483-1300

101 Ludlow St. 973-565-0355

516 Bergen St. 973-648-0866

Monday-Friday 9-5

Sliding Scale offered \$20-\$60 per visit based on income.

Please call to make an appointment

University Hospital (UMDNJ)
150 Bergen Street Newark NJ
973-972-4300
Please call for an appointment

F. MENTAL HEALTH /SUBSTANCE ABUSE RESOURCES

FYI: Drug addiction can be fatal to your health, not to mention illegal and can result in jail time. In order to be successful in society seeking services for a drug or alcohol addiction will be necessary. Many of the health clinics, support centers and other resources listed in this guide can help refer you to treatment that most fit your needs. Listed below are some of Essex County's treatment resources and each of these will also help with referrals if they can not help you. If you want treatment, you should also ask your parole officer for help — beds in treatment facilities are hard to come by, and they can help get you in. There are Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support group meetings all over Essex County. To find a meeting near you, call 866-920-1212 (for AA) or 800-992-0401 (for NA). For other self-help group resources, call the New Jersey Self Help Clearinghouse at 800-367-6274. Also, you can call the Addictions Hotline of NJ at 800-238-2333.

FYI: Each county has a mental health administrator. When you call this person they will provide you with the names and phone numbers closest to your area to provide services that fit your needs.

The Mental Health Administrator Office for Essex County:
204 Grove Avenue Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
(973) 571-2821

Mental Health Association of Essex County
33 South Fullerton Avenue Montclair, NJ 07042
Tel: 973.509.9777
Fax: 973-509-9888

Mental Health Resource Center
60 South Fullerton Avenue, Suite 210 Montclair, NJ 07042
(973) 744-6522
Provides outpatient services

FYI: There are also residential facilities for mentally ill in Essex County. Please call for specific guidelines.

Mt. Carmel Guild Behavioral Healthcare

494 Broad Street Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 297-4750

Provides outpatient services

University Behavioral Healthcare

215 South Orange Avenue Newark, NJ 07103-2770
(973) 972-4348

Provides partial care services

Mt. Carmel Guild Behavioral Healthcare

1160 Raymond Boulevard Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 596-3971

Provides partial care services

Mt. Carmel Guide Behavioral Healthcare

273 Oliver Street Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 522-2100

Integrated Case Management Services

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center CMHC

201 Lyons Avenue Newark, NJ 07112
(973) 926-7026

Provides outpatient services

Irvington Counseling Center

21-29 Wagner Place Irvington, NJ 07111
(973) 399-3132

Provides outpatient services

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center CMHC

201 Lyons Avenue Newark, NJ 07112
(973) 926-7026

Provides partial care services

Northwest Essex Community Network

570 Belleville Avenue Belleville, NJ 07109
(973) 450-3100

Provides partial care services

Volunteers of America

158 Washington Street Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 642-0300

Residential Services

Pleasant Moments

465 Broadway Newark, NJ 07104
(973) 991-2773
Self-Help Center

Detoxification***Essex Co. Division of Community Health Services***

Ms. Jacqueline Yustein, Director
Office of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
50 South Clinton Avenue, Suite 4301 East Orange, NJ 07018
phone:(973) 395-8455
fax:(973) 395-8437
e-mail: jyustein@aol.com

St. Michaels Medical Center

268 Martin Luther King Blvd. Newark NJ
973-877-5000
Open daily call first

Habit OPCO

57-59 New Street Irvington NJ
973-373-2010
Methadone Maintenance Clinic
Hours Monday-Friday 6-11 Saturday 6:45-10:30 Closed on
Sunday

National Clearinghouse for Drug and Alcohol Information

11420 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland
800-729-6686
Hours: 24 hours/day
The nation's one-stop resource for substance abuse prevention
and treatment information.

FYI: While the medical care and drug treatment and or
detoxification facilities listed above may be able to assist you
with medication for mental health issues, and some counseling
as well, there are also places to go to get counseling and
therapy and other mental health services. Some of these
services require Medicaid or other insurance, but some will
also have sliding scale payments.

**Although the services below provide mental health
services, some may also offer substance abuse services, as
well.**

G. Emergency Mental Health Services

FYI: If at any time you may want to hurt yourself or someone
else, please call 911. If you feel like you may be a danger to
yourself or others. It is very important that you call someone

for help. Here are a few numbers of places that would be more than willing to come to your aid.

**Essex County Department of Health and Human Services
Mental Health Board**

609-645-7700, extension 4307

**Primary Screening Center for Essex County
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center**

201 Lyons Avenue Newark, NJ 07112
HOTLINE: (973) 926-7444

University Behavioral Healthcare

150 Bergen Street Newark, NJ 07101
HOTLINE: (973) 623-2323

East Orange General Hospital

300 Central Avenue East Orange, NJ 07019
HOTLINE: (973) 266-4478

Substance Abuse Treatment Centers

Integrity House

97-99 Lincoln Park Ave Newark NJ
973-623-0600

Provides outpatient and inpatient MICA services to various populations.

CURA Inc. Intake Center

47 Lincoln Park Newark NJ
Monday-Friday 8-3
973-645-4396

Please call for a referral to one of the various sites for substance abuse treatment

Newark Renaissance House

62-80 Norfolk St. Newark NJ
973-623-3386

*Outpatient Monday-Friday 8-4 substance abuse program.
Residential program is offered to adolescent males.*

East Orange Substance Abuse Treatment Program

160 Halstead St. 1st Floor East Orange NJ
973-266-5200

Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30

Provides outpatient alcohol and drug treatment, HIV testing, counseling and other services.

The Bridge Inc.

1065 Clinton Ave Irvington NJ
973-247-2624

Offers intensive outpatient counseling for alcohol and drug addiction.

Hours: Females only Monday, Tuesday, Friday 11-2, Evening hours are for male and female Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 6-9.

New Hope Behavioral Health Care

277 Coit Street Irvington NJ
973-373-5100

Monday-Friday 930-330

Offers MICA services Monday-Friday 9:30-3:30

H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses and Eye care



New Eyes for the Needy

549 Millburn Avenue Short Hills NJ 07078

973-376-4903

Fax: 973-376-3807

Monday-Thursday 9-4 Friday 9-12

American Council of the Blind of New Jersey

21 Island Drive

Old Bridge, NJ 08857

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

69 Prospect Place

Belleville, NJ 07109

(973) 450-3030

USEYEPLAN.COM is a Discount Preferred Provider Network (DPPN). Unlike vision insurance our plan has no waiting periods, no limitations or exclusions, no annual/lifetime maximums, and no claim forms. Simply visit a **USVISIONPLAN.COM** Provider, show your member card, and pay the adjusted bill.

Finding a Job: Employment Assistance and Training Programs



Getting a job is usually one of the most important necessities when released from prison. Not everyone can obtain employment immediately, sometimes things like getting drug treatment, dealing with your housing, health or family situation may come first. For most people, though, finding work is the first step to getting back on your feet. It will be very challenging to get a job once you have been in prison, but it is not impossible, and you need to be persistent and patient. Below are some pointers on job searching, and information about resources that can help you find a job or get training for the job you want.



A. Things to Know Before You Start Your Job Search

Be Prepared: It is essential that you are organized, and have all records of previous employment available when beginning a job search. A resume is the smartest thing you can create. If you are unsure of how to do so, you may go to your local one-stop career center and seek assistance. Not only will employers want to know your work history, they will inquire of accurate dates that you were employed with the company. Knowing this information is vital to ensuring employment. Employers will not be interested in hearing that you do not remember dates or addresses for your work history. If an employer decides to hire you he will also need your identification so make sure that is readily available.

Presentation: Look as neat, clean and organized as possible, no matter what the job is. Be polite and respectful, even when people are not polite and respectful to you, and many won't be. Making the person you want to help you or hire you mad won't get you the job you want.

Talking About Your Criminal Record:

Never omit or falsify a document that asks you specifically if you have a criminal record. The application may ask you to give details to the nature of your crime and it may not. Chances are a criminal background check will be administered prior to employment and lying will cost you the job.

**IT'S A JOB FOR RIGHT NOW,
IT'S NOT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE**

When you are first starting out, especially if you've been out of the job market for a while, or have never had a job, you need to build a work history, and, of course, you need to make some money. Take whatever job you can get for now — it doesn't have to be the exact job you want, or what you eventually want to be doing. Do this job well—even if it's not a great job — and it can help you get a better one in the future. **One year of good job performance will make your criminal record matter less.**

**B. Help with Job Search and Job Training:
Resources**

The following are good places to start in looking for a job
Essex County One Stops

Workforce Learning Links

Locations:

50 S. Clinton Street - 5th Floor,
East Orange, NJ

990 Broad Street,
Newark, NJ

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

990 Broad Street 2nd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973-648-3494

**C. Legal Restrictions on Employment and
Protections Against Discrimination**

If you are interested in getting a job and building a career in a particular area, you should make sure that it isn't one that is forbidden to someone with the kind of criminal conviction that you have on your record. There are about 22 categories of jobs in New Jersey that exclude people with convictions (which conviction it is varies by job). These include: aircraft/airport employees; paid public school employees, school bus drivers and school crossing guards; bank employees; bartenders and waiters in establishments where liquor is served; housing authority and municipal police and parking enforcement officers; New Jersey Turnpike Authority employees; liquor retail, wholesale, manufacturing or distributing employees; paid firefighters; child care center employees; community residences for individuals with developmental disabilities. A much larger number of jobs require that you disclose your

criminal record, and that employers perform background checks; some of these, however, also require that employers consider evidence of rehabilitation. These include most jobs in the health care and counseling fields (including drug and alcohol counseling) and social workers.

FYI: If you are going to begin training in a particular field, make sure you find out from the training course whether there are any restrictions that will keep you from getting a job.

Protections for Licensed Occupations: If you are not absolutely barred from a position because of your conviction, New Jersey law says that you cannot be denied a professional license simply because of your conviction unless the crime for which you were convicted relates to the occupation you want to enter. If the licensing board or agency wants to deny you a license because the crime is related to the occupation, they have to explain, in writing, that they have considered certain factors like the seriousness of the crime, the circumstances of the crime, the date and your age when convicted, whether the crime was an isolated or repeated event, social conditions, and evidence of rehabilitation. You can ask your parole officer about applying for a “certificate of rehabilitation,” which can be used in your license application.

D. Benefits for Employers Who Hire People With Criminal Records

As you look for a job you can tell employers that the federal government has programs to support employers who hire people coming out of prison.

FYI: Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC): With the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, your employer may be able to save up to \$4800 the first year you are hired. Make sure to inform your potential employer of this benefit.

For questions regarding WOTC, please call 609-292-5525 or 1-800-792-8881

Federal Bonding Program: Provides bonding “or insurance coverage” for employers who hire individuals with criminal histories who are otherwise qualified but cannot gain employment due to their criminal backgrounds. Please contact your local one stop for more information. 50 S. Clinton Street 5th Floor, East Orange, NJ 07018 973-395-5839, 990 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102 973-648-3370 and toll free 1-800-233-2258.



E. Opening a Checking or Savings Account

After you've gotten a source of income, you may want to open a checking or savings account. A checking account is a great idea because many jobs provide direct deposit, and your check is automatically deposited into your account on payday. Using checks to pay for your bills is also cheaper than using money orders. To open a checking account you usually need a picture I.D. (driver's license or non-driver state I.D.), proof of address, birth certificate, and a social security card. You can also request a debit card with your account, which you can use just like a credit card (as long as you have the money in your account already). You can get a debit card for either a checking account, or a savings account, but with a savings account you can earn interest on the money you've saved. Fees for these accounts will vary depending on the type of account and bank. Many banks now offer free checking.



F. Public Libraries

Your local public library can be a good resource for your job search. Public computers provide internet access (and help using the computer), job and course listings, and other local directories. Libraries also often carry the government forms mentioned in this guide, and librarians can help you find other information that you need.

LIBRARIES

Belleville Public Library

221 Washington Avenue Belleville, NJ 71093

Phone: (973) 450-3434

Winter: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Summer: Mon. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m./Tues. - Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Bloomfield Public Library

90 Broad Street Bloomfield, NJ 70032

Phone: (973) 566-6200

Monday-Wednesday 9:30-9:00

Thursday-Saturday 9:30-5:00 (Summer Closed)

Sunday 1:00-5:00 (Summer Closed)

Caldwell Free Public Library

268 Bloomfield Avenue Caldwell, NJ 70065

Phone: (973) 226-2837

Monday & Friday 9:00-5:00

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00-8:00

Saturday 9:00-1:00

Cedar Grove Free Public Library

One Municipal Plaza Cedar Grove, NJ 70091
Phone: (973) 239-1447
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 AM - 8 PM
Friday 9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM (except July & August)

East Orange Public Library

21 S. Arlington Avenue East Orange, NJ 70183
Phone: (973) 266-5607
Monday-Thursday 9:00-9:00
Saturday 9:00-5:00

Anthony Pio Costa Memorial Library

261 Hollywood Avenue Fairfield, NJ 70041
Phone: (973) 227-3575
Monday-Thursday 10:00-9:00pm
Friday 10:00-5:00pm
Saturday 10:00-4:00 (Closed July 4 through Labor Day)

Glen Ridge Free Public Library

240 Ridgewood Avenue Glen Ridge, NJ 07028
Phone: (973) 748-5482
Mon and Wed 12:00 -8:00
Tues, Thurs, and Fri 9:00 – 5:00
Saturday 9:00 – 5:00

Irvington Public Library

Civic Square Irvington, NJ 71112
Phone: (973) 372-6400
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00-9:00, Wednesday, Friday
9:00-5:30, Saturday 9:00-5:00

Ruth L. Rockwood Memorial Library

10 Robert H. Harp Drive Livingston, NJ 70393
Phone: (973) 992-4600
Monday-Thursday 10:00-9:00
Friday 10:00-6:00
Saturday 10:00-5:00
Sunday 1:00-5:00

Maplewood Memorial Library

51 Baker Street Maplewood, NJ 70402
Phone: (973) 762-1622
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00-9:00
Tuesday 10:00-6:00
Friday 10:00-5:00
Saturday 10:00-5:00 Closed July and August
Sunday Closed

Millburn Free Public Library

200 Glen Avenue Millburn, NJ 70411

Phone: (973) 376-1006

Monday- Thursday 9:30-8:46

Friday-Saturday 9:30-5:15

Sunday 1:00-4:45

Closed Saturdays in August

Montclair Public Library

50 S. Fullerton Avenue Montclair, NJ 70422

Phone: (973) 744-0500

Monday, Friday 10:00-6:00, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

10:00-8:00, Saturday 1:00-5:00

Newark Public Library

5 Washington Street Newark, NJ 07101

Phone: (973) 733-7780

Hours change according to season. Please call to verify the hours.

**Reconnecting with Family**

As you prepare to come home, you may be thinking about reuniting with family members, including those you may not have seen for a long time. You may be excited to see your kids, your spouse, your parents, and others who are part of your family, and while most will be glad to see you home, others may be reluctant. All kinds of issues can come up, and you may need some help solving some of the problems that arise. This section provides some information and resources to help solve these issues.

Hotlines For Family Services Resources**NJ Child Abuse/ Neglect Hotline:**

1(877)NJABUSE (652-2873)

Child Care Hotline:

1(800) 332-9227

NJ Child Support Hotline:

1 (877) NJKIDS- 1 (655-4371)

Division of Family Development:

1(800) 792-9773

NJ Division of Youth and Family Services:
1 (800) 331-DYFS (3937)

Family Health Line:
1 (800) 328-3838

Family Help Line (for stressed parents):
1 (800) THE KIDS (843-2537)

National Domestic Violence Hotline:
1(800) 799-7233

NJ Domestic Violence Hotline:
1(800) 572-7223

Parents Anonymous:
1(800) 843-5437

A. Family Counseling Resources

The following places can provide support, marital and family counseling and parenting classes to help you reunite with your family.

Newark Family Success Centers

The purpose of each Family Success Center is to strengthen families by providing family services that assist in preventing child abuse and neglect.

Against All Odds Foundation

Seth Boyden Family Success Center

Address: 755 Frelinghuysen Avenue

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 5:00 PM

(evening appointments also available)

Phone Number: 973-424-0300

Contact Person: Christine Carter-Davis

Website Address: theagainstalldds.org

Against All Odds Foundation Exists To Provide Essential Educational & Social Service Programs To At-Risk Children And Underserved Families By Empowering, Equipping And Engaging Those In Need.

Babyland Family Services

Address: 200 South Orange Avenue

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM

(evening appointments also available on Wednesday)

Phone Number: 973-623-8016

Contact Person: Genieva Broadus

FOCUS

Hispanic Center for Community Development

Address: 441-443 Broad Street

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

(late night and weekend appointments also available)

Phone Number: 973-624-2528

Contact Persons: Alexa Baez (ext. 131)

Website Address: www.focus411.org

Provides adult education and employment training, senior citizen programs, adult protective services and many more.

Ironbound Community Corporation (Two Locations)

(1) Family Success Center

Address: 2931 Cortland Street

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(evening appointments also available on Thursday)

Phone Number: 973-344-5949

Contact Person: Petra Chavez

(2) Family Success Center

Address: 317 Elm Street

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(evening appointments also available on Wednesday)

Phone Number: 973-465-0555

Contact Person: Petra Chavez

Website Address: www.ironboundcc.org

Assists in affordable housing and economic development, and educational opportunities for adults and children.

La Casa de Don Pedro (Two Locations)

Family Success Center I

Address: 23 Broadway

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Phone Number: 973-483-2703 ext. 2218

Contact Person: Diana Rojas

Family Success Center II

Address: 595 North 6th Street

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Phone Number: 973-482-9002

Contact Person: Nila Rouiller

Website Address: www.lacasanwk.org

Newark Emergency Services for Families

Address: 982 Broad Street

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(and Saturdays as scheduled)

Phone Number: 973-639-2100 ext. 258

Contact Person: Mykelle Warren

Website Address: www.nesfnj.org

Newark Now (Two Locations)

Georgia King Village Family Success Center

Address: 250 West Market Street

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(evening appointments also available)

Phone Number: 973-621-2221

Contact: Aliya Myrie

Bradley Court Family Success Center

Address: 48 North Munn Avenue, Suite 12

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

(evening appointments also available)

Phone Number: 973-991-1290

Contact Person: Theresa Ellis

Website Address: www.newarknow.org

New Community Corporation

Address: 131-185 Bergen Street

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

(evening appointments also available on Thursday)

Phone Number: 973-565-9500

Contact Person: Joann Williams-Swiney

Website Address: www.newcommunity.org

North Ward Center

Address: 286 Mt. Prospect Avenue

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone Number: 973-485-5723

Contact Person: Vanessa Bohler

Website Address: www.northwardcenter.org

Salvation Army Grand Family Success Center

Address: 699 Springfield Avenue

Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 5:00 PM

Phone Number: 973-373-5045 ext. 220

Contact Person: Michael Tillsley

Family Service Bureau of Newark

274 South Orange Avenue Newark

973-412-2056

Monday-Thursday 9:00-9:00, Friday 9:00-5:00

Provides mental health, substance abuse and crisis intervention services

The Leaguers

405-425 University Avenue Newark NJ 07102

973-643-0300

Monday-Friday 7:30-5:30

Offers various workshops and activities to enhance the skills of parents and provides specific programs that enable fathers to take an active role in the lives of their children and family.

Youth Consultation Services

284 Broadway Newark New Jersey

973-482-8411

Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30

Provides short term family crisis intervention and counseling.

Family Connections

395 So. Center Street Orange

973-675-3817

Monday-Thursday 9:00-8:00 Friday 9:00-5:00

Provides therapeutic services for youth and their families.

Family Service League has strengthened and supported families in need in Essex County through counseling, education and social services.

Family Service League Main Office

204 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042 973-746-0800

Family Service League Bloomfield Office

29 Park Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 973-743-3737

Family Day Nursery School

224 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 973-743-6688

FYI: Essex County offers a children and family initiative that will link families with services that provide:

- Case Management
- Education Services
- Employment Services
- Mental Health
- Recreation
- Parenting Skills
- General Services
- Substance Abuse Services
- Health Services
- Economic Assistance
- Special Programs that address Teen Pregnancy Prevention, and Lowering the Rate of Juvenile Arrests

Newark

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc
35 Halsey Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102
1-800-654-SPAN (7726)

E-mail: span@spannj.org

Contact: Patricia Muhammad

(patriciamuhammad@spannj.org)

Geraldine Moore (geraldinemooore@spannj.org)

Area Served: Essex

Abbott Districts: East Orange, Irvington, Orange, and Newark



Parents Anonymous of New Jersey, Inc.

1-800-843-5437 (24 hour hotline)

Hours: Call to confirm group times at different locations Self-help for parents who are under stress and who want to improve their relationship with their children. Groups meet weekly and are facilitated by a volunteer professional; many groups provide child care. Groups meet in most counties throughout the state with some bilingual groups available. Parents Anonymous also offers an on-line support group as well.

B. Child Custody and Visitation

Establishing visitation and gaining custody of your children once you are released is not an overnight procedure. If you had custody of your kids at the time you were incarcerated, and no family was able to take care of them, they may have been placed in foster care. If this is the case, and you do not know your child's case manager's name or number, contact the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), at 800-531-1091. You will have to make an appointment with the case manager for an interview. They may not be willing to give you information over the phone. You'll be asked a series of questions in order to assess when and if you will be given visitation rights, so that you may reestablish your relationship with the child and hopefully gain custody again. This is just a quick overview of what to do and what you can expect.

FYI: *If you were convicted of any violent or sexual offenses against children, you may be unable to live with or regain custody of your children.*

Listed below are the different offices for DYFS in your area. Please contact the office that applies to your location.

Newark Center City LO - #560

153 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor Newark, NJ 07101
973-648-4200
800-392-9532
Fax: 973-648-7326
Manager - Lori Sanders

Newark South LO - #562

153 Halsey Street, 4th Floor Newark, NJ 07101
973-648-2400
800-847-1751
Fax: 973-648-8473
Managers - Wendy Griffin
50 Burnett Avenue Maplewood, NJ 07040-2968
(973) 763-9205

Western Essex Central LO - #565

240 South Harrison Street East Orange, NJ 07018
973-677-1480
800-392-9535
Fax: 973-414-4264
Manager - Pamela Davis

Western Essex South LO - #567

50-58 Burnett Avenue Maplewood, NJ 07040
973-763-9205
888-670-6407
Fax: 973-762-8965
Manager - Mary Bossack

Newark Northeast LO - #564

153 Halsey Street, 4th Floor Newark, NJ 07101
973-648-2960
800-392-9531
Fax: 973-648-7229
Fax: 973-877-1078
Manager - Reginald Dickerson

Newark Adoption Office - #563

153 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor Newark, NJ 07101
973-648-7490
800-392-2843
Fax: 973-648-7274
Manager - Barbara Williams Reyes

Western Essex North LO - #569

650 Bloomfield Ave., 3rd floor Bloomfield, NJ 07003
973-680-3587
800-392-9536
Fax: 973-680-3552
Manager - Patricia Bruce El

C. Getting and Paying Child Support

Whether you have custody of your children on your own when you get out, and need help from an absent “non-custodial” parent, or you do not have custody of kids who need your support, child support payments will be an important part of your life after you are released. Some basic information is included below, as far as enforcing a child support order.

Child support, custody and visitation issues are very complicated, and if you can get a lawyer, you should. Contact the Legal Services of New Jersey hotline, from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, at 888-576-5529, or you can also contact Essex County Legal Services, at 5 Commerce Street, 2nd Floor Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 624-4500. From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner’s Self Help Legal Clinic, P.O. Box 768 Newark, NJ 07101.

Getting and Enforcing a Child Support Order

If you have custody of your children, and want financial support from the non-custodial parent, you can apply for child support at 212 Washington Street 11th Floor Newark NJ 07102 (973) 693-5660. There is a possible fee. You can also call 1-877 NJKIDS1 for more information about this.

Paying Child Support

If you have kids that you did not have custody of before you went to prison, there may be a child support order requiring you to pay a certain amount every month for their support. Even if you did not go to court — if, for example, the parent with custody filed for the order while you were incarcerated — the court can still order you to pay child support. The amount you pay in child support is tied to your income, and if the court does not know your income, they will assume you are working 40 hours a week at minimum wage. Child support payments are usually taken out of your paycheck. If you have not paid at all or missed payments, you will owe “arrear.” Unless you got a modification of your child support order when you went into prison (see below), the amount of arrears that you owe will have continued to grow while you were inside. When you come out, and get a job, they can begin to

take out not just the monthly amount you owe for child support, but more money to pay back the arrears (up to 65% of your pay in total). They may also suspend your driver's license. Here are some things you can do:

D. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Resources

The following places provide counseling, support and shelter or referrals to shelter in domestic violence situations. You can also call these 24 hour hotlines:

Essex County Rape Care Center

24-Hour Toll-Free Rape Care HOTLINE 877-733-CARE
(2273)

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women:

(800)-572-SAFE.

Domestic Abuse Hotline for Men and Women:

(888) 7HELPLINE (1-888-743-5754)

Getting More Education

Although getting more education may not be part of your short term plans, it certainly should be something to think about for the future, especially if you do not have a high school diploma or a GED.



A. High School Diploma/GED Certificate/High School Equivalency Degree (HSED)/Vocational School Certificates

It is very important to keep records of any degrees and certificates of completion and work-related licenses that have earned. Before you are released, you can write to the school or agency where you earned your degree or certificate to obtain a copy. Once you have a copy in your possession, this should be kept in your strong box.

FYI: If you earned your GED while incarcerated please call the Education Department of the institution you were in to obtain a copy.

You can also request your GED transcript or diploma verification from the New Jersey Department of Education

providing you completed your diploma in a traditional setting. You will have to fill out a GED Information Request Form. Please call 609-777-1050 for further assistance.

You may ask that it be sent to you; or you may pick up the form at a local testing center (which you can do after you are released); by downloading the form from the website <http://www.state.nj.us/njded/students/ged/ged7.htm>; or by writing to: GED Testing Program, Bureau of Adult Education and Family Literacy, New Jersey Department of Education, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625.

Your chances of getting a job that pays a living wage, and of moving forward in a career will improve with more education, and not having the high school diploma or GED will simply lock you out from a lot of opportunities.



B. GED Classes

The places in Essex County below offer classes to help you prepare for the GED exam. Call for exact times and procedures. Many locations offer classes at low cost or no cost. For more information, contact the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Workforce Readiness & Literacy at (609) 943-5921. Call individual programs for information on classes offered, fees and/or time schedules.

GED Testing Center

Essex County Community College
303 University Avenue Newark NJ 07102
973-877-3093

Essex County One Stop
50 South Clinton Avenue East Orange NJ 07018
973-395-8422

Spanish Speaking Testing Center Only

La Casa De Don Pedro
33 Broadway Avenue Newark NJ 07107
973-481-4568

Test Preparation Classes

These classes are offered for a FEE. Please call and inquire of times, and cost.

New Community Corporation
Workforce Development Center
563 Orange Street, Newark, NJ 07107
Phone: (973) 268-1236

North Ward/ Newark Business Training Institute
341 Roseville Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: (973) 481-0415

Jewish Vocational Service
111 Prospect Street, East Orange, NJ 07017
Phone: (973) 674-6330, Ext. 284

East Orange Board of Education
74 Halstead Street, East Orange, NJ 07017
Phone: (973) 266-5640 or 5645

Essex County Voc–Tech Schools
50 So. Clinton St., E. Orange, NJ 07017
Phone: (973) 395-8555

South Orange – Maplewood Adult School
176 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, NJ 07040
Phone: (973) 378-7620

**FOCUS Hispanic Center for Community Development,
Inc.**
441-443 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: (973) 624-2528, Ext. 109

1199 SEIU Education Fund
117 Irvington Avenue, East Orange, NJ 07018
Phone: (973) 275-6340

C. Higher Education



If you already have a high school diploma or a GED certificate, you may want to move forward and get your associate's degree, bachelor's degree or graduate degree. Below are phone numbers for Essex County.

Local Area Colleges

Bloomfield College
467 Franklin Street
Bloomfield NJ 07003
973-748-9000

Caldwell College
120 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell NJ 07006
973-619-3000

Essex County College
303 University Avenue
Newark NJ 07102
973-877-3000

New Jersey Institute of Technology
University Heights
Newark NJ 07102
973-596-3300

Montclair State University
Montclair NJ 07043
973-655-4000

Seton Hall University
400 Seton Hall Avenue
South Orange NJ 07079
973-761-9000

Can I Get Financial Aid?

To pay for this, you will probably try to get some financial aid. If you are applying for any federal financial aid programs after release (such as Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Federal Family Education Loans, etc.), you are not restricted unless you have a drug-related offense. For possession offenses, a first offense means one year of ineligibility (after your conviction), a second offense, two years, and third offense means you are “indefinitely” ineligible, which to the government means permanently ineligible. For a sales or distribution crime, a first offense has two years of ineligibility, a second offense makes it permanent. Private financial aid or loan programs may not have any restrictions.

Other Things You Need to Know

A. Getting Legal Assistance

To get assistance with civil (not criminal) cases, you can contact the toll free hotline for **Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ)**, which provides information and referrals, **888-576-5529**. For local Essex County legal services please contact the office located nearest to you.

Essex County Legal Services
5 Commerce Street, 2nd Floor Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 624-4500

B. Checking and Correcting Your Criminal Record (“rap sheet”)

Since employers, landlords and others will be performing criminal background checks and getting copies of your criminal record, it is important that you know what is on it, and that it is accurate. You should also be prepared to answer any questions about your background.

FYI: Background checks are now only done electronically. You may contact State Police Headquarters to inquire how to correct your criminal record. The address is listed below.

State Section of Identification
Records and Identification Bureau
New Jersey State Police
P.O. Box 7068
West Trenton, NJ 08628
1-609-882-2000 ext 6425
1-609-530-4856 fax

C. Expungement: Cleaning Up Your Criminal Record

You may have heard about expungement as one way to clean up your criminal record as you get some distance from your old arrests and convictions. Unfortunately, expungement is fairly limited in New Jersey. You can expunge any arrest that did not lead to a conviction at any point. You can expunge “disorderly persons offenses,” which are low level offenses in New Jersey, after 5 years, and most municipal ordinance offenses after 2 years. Convictions for “indictable offenses” (felonies), can be expunged 10 years from the date of conviction, payment of any fine, satisfactory completion of probation or parole or release from incarceration, but whichever is latest. The most serious of these offenses, such as murder, kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, robbery, arson, perjury and distribution, sale or possession with intent to distribute of controlled dangerous substances (drugs), **can never be expunged.** Expungement is a broader remedy for offenses committed as a juvenile. Legal Services of New Jersey has published a guide to cleaning up your record through expungement.

To obtain a copy of the book, call 888-576-5529, or go to the LSNJ website, where you can download it for free: <http://www.lsnj.org/english/crime/municipalcourt/clearingyourrecord.cfm>.

D. Checking and Correcting Your Credit Record



While New Jersey allows employers to look at your criminal record, many employers — and others like landlords and mortgage companies — will use a credit report instead of or in addition to the state's records. Credit records are maintained by private companies and generally have information about your debts, your history of paying bills and other financial matters, but may also have information about your criminal record. The information may not be correct, and the law does offer you some protections. For example, if an employer uses a credit record to deny you a job, they have to tell you this, and give you the name, address and phone number of the agency that provided the report, and the agency must give you a copy of that information on your request. They cannot charge you money for that request if the employer used the report to deny you a job. If the records of the credit agency contain incorrect information, they must investigate and correct inaccurate information.

You can get ahead of the curve by getting a copy of your credit record and making sure there isn't any incorrect information on it. New Jersey residents are allowed one free credit report each year. Three companies that provide this service are:

Equifax Information Systems, LLC.:

Write to them at P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA, 30374, or call 800-685-1111. By mail, be sure to include your full name, current address, Social Security number, and most recent former address for file-matching purposes.

Transunion Personal Credit Report:

PO Box 1000, Chester PA 19022
Call 800-888-4213.

Experian:

PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013
Call 800-397-3742.

E. Voting Rights

New Jersey law does not allow you to vote while you are in prison, or while you are on probation or parole for an indictable offense (disorderly persons offenses don't disqualify you). **Once you have completed your parole or probation term, you may register to vote.** Make sure that you are registered in the county in which you reside. **Applications for registration can be obtained from Social Services prior to release.** Also you may apply with the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live or from your Municipal Clerk once you are released. Registration forms are also available in various State agencies and at Division of Motor Vehicle offices and can be obtained while transacting agency business. If you are not sure, you can visit http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/vote_doe.html. You will be able to download a voter's registration form and mail it in. This site also explains who can register to vote and where you can register.

F. Registration of Sexual Offenders (Megan's Law)

Sex offenders are required to register with the police under Megan's Law. Offenses include: aggravated sexual assault; sexual assault; aggravated criminal sexual contact; endangering the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of the child; luring or enticing and, if the victim were a minor and the offender not a parent, kidnapping; criminal restraint and false imprisonment and promoting prostitution of a child under 18. **You will be registered prior to release, but must re-register your home address at least 10 days prior to any move with the law enforcement agency with which you were registered when released.** You will also need to verify your address annually or every 90 days if you are a repetitive and compulsive offender.

The Game Plan

Your first weeks out after leaving prison can be overwhelming. This section is set up to help you get organized and keep yourself on track towards your goals. First, think about what those goals are — what do you want or need to get done in your first week out? In your first month out? Where do you want to be in six months? There are lots of things that other people need you to do — your parole officer, for example, and your family — but you also need to think about what you expect from yourself.

Places to stay

Appointments to make? Doctors? Job help? Employers? Applying for Benefits?

People I need to see or call:

Who? _____
Who? _____
Who? _____

NOTES:

Your First Weeks Out

Here is a basic calendar to use to plan your first days out of prison. Below it, there are some questions to ask yourself about what you plan to do. You can mark appointments and tasks on the calendar, and write in dates in the small boxes.

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>

For how long? _____
For how long? _____
For how long? _____

When? _____

When? _____

When? _____

Where/phone number?

Where/phone number?

Where/phone number?

Other things I need to do (get I.D., get prescriptions, go to a support group, etc.):

Notes: _____

I.D. Checklist

Documents	Have?	Need?
Strong Box	_____	_____
Social Security Card	_____	_____
Birth Certificate	_____	_____
County I.D.	_____	_____
Driver's License	_____	_____
Non-driver's I.D.	_____	_____
Certificate of Naturalization	_____	_____
Green Card	_____	_____
Military Discharge Papers	_____	_____
Passport	_____	_____
High School Diploma	_____	_____
Or GED Certificate	_____	_____
Prison Release Papers	_____	_____

Notes: _____

My Contacts:
Important Names and Phone Numbers

Parole Officer: _____

Parole Number: _____

Parole Office: _____

Address: _____

Smart Book Topics



**Getting Started:
I.D. and Other Documents**



**First Steps After Release:
Where Do I Go to Find...**



**Taking Care of You:
Getting Support**



**Taking Care of You:
Health Care Resources**



**Finding a Job:
Employment Assistance
and Training Programs**



Reconnecting With Family



Getting More Education



Other Things You Need to Know



The Game Plan