The Essex County Smart Book

A Resource Guide for Returning Home

2022 Edition
by
The New Jersey Department of Corrections
Office of Programming & Supportive 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. Please visit www.essexcountynj.org for further county information. The local libraries located on page 43 can assist you with obtaining internet access.

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

East Orange Office
7 Glenwood Ave. Ste. 100
East Orange, NJ 07018

Newark Offices
247 Springfield Avenue
Newark, NJ 07103

970 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Office hours Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri 9:00am-4:00pm

Wed 9:00am-12:00pm
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.

Belleville Township

Municipal Building
152 Washington Avenue
Belleville, NJ 07109

Phone: (973) 450-3400 Ext 3401
Fax: (973) 450-5975

Bloomfield Township
Room #111
1 Municipal Plaza #2
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
Phone: 973-680-4078

Caldwell Borough
1 Provost Square
Caldwell, NJ 07006
Phone: (973) 403-4623
Fax: (973) 403-4625

Cedar Grove Township
Municipal Building
525 Pompton Avenue
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
Phone: (973) 239-1410 x224
Fax: (973) 239-4187

East Orange City
44 City Hall Plz
East Orange, NJ 07017
Phone: (973) 266-5100
Fax: (973) 672-5063

Essex Fells Borough
Borough Hall
P.O. Box 38
255 Roseland Ave
Essex Fells, NJ 07021
Phone: (973) 226-3400
Fax: (973) 228-4439

Fairfield Township
230 Fairfield Road
Fairfield, NJ 07004
Phone: (973) 882-2701
Fax: (973) 882-0365

Glen Ridge Borough

Municipal Building
825 Bloomfield Avenue
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028
Phone: 973-748-8400

Irvington Township
Municipal Building
Civic Square
Irvington, NJ 07111
Phone: (973) 399-6644
Fax: (973) 371-1489

Livingston Township
Township Hall
357 Livingston Ave.
Livingston, NJ 07039
Phone: (973) 535-7961 x222/ 973-992-5000
Fax: (973) 535-3234

Maplewood Township
Municipal Building
574 Valley Street
Maplewood, NJ 07040
Phone: 973-762-8120
Fax: 973-762-2805

Millburn Township
Township Hall
375 Millburn Avenue
Millburn, NJ 07041
Phone: (973) 564-7000
Fax: (973) 564-7569

Montclair Township
647 Bloomfield Ave. Ste. 2
Montclair, NJ 07042
Phone: 973-509-4774

Newark City
31 Green St. Rm 312
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973-733-6520
Fax: (973) 424-4207

North Caldwell Borough
Borough Hall
136 Gould Avenue
North Caldwell, NJ 07006
Phone: 973-228-6410
Fax: 973-228-2914

Nutley Township
Town Hall
228 Chestnut St. 2nd floor
Nutley, NJ 07110
Phone: 973-284-4940 Ext. 2158

Orange City
City Hall
29 North Day Street
Orange, NJ 07050
Phone: (973) 266-4068 or 4072
Fax: (973) 676-7244

Roseland Borough
Borough Hall
19 Harrison Ave
Roseland, NJ 07068
Phone: (973) 226-8080
Fax: (973) 403-7683

South Orange Village Towns
76 South Orange Avenue
Suite 302
South Orange, NJ 07079
Phone: (973) 378-7715 X7722
Fax: 973-761-4357

Verona Township
880 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, NJ 07044
Phone: (973) 857-4800/ 1-973-857-4772
Fax: (973) 857-4828

West Caldwell Township
Municipal Building
30 Clinton Road
West Caldwell, NJ 07006

Phone: (973) 226-2300
Fax: (973) 226-2396

West Orange Township

Department of Health
66 Main Street
West Orange, NJ 07052
Phone: (973) 325-4121
Fax: (973) 325-4005

C. County I.D.

The Essex's County Clerk's Office no longer provide county issued photo identification cards since 2012, however you may obtain a state issued photo identification card from your local motor vehicle agency. Motor Vehicle Commission locations are listed below.

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
Agency Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm
Sat 8:00-3:00pm

Newark
228 Frelinghuysen Avenue
Newark, NJ 07114
Agency, Driver Testing Hours: M, W, Th, F 8:00-5:30pm
Tu 8:00-7:30pm
Sat 8:00-1:00pm
Suspension/Restoration Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm
Inspection Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30pm
Sat 7:00-12:00pm

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 8:00am-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 driver's 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 Driver's 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 Driver's 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
Peter Rodino Federal Building
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 the processing filing fee associated with requesting a replacement green card, plus a biometric services fee of **$85**. **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 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

Veterans Benefit Administration in New Jersey
20 Washington Pl., 3rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Essex County Veterans Service Office
20 Washington Place Room 431
Newark NJ 07102
973-297-3336

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 Clerk's Office at:

Essex County Clerk
Essex County Hall of Records
495 Martin Luther King Blvd Room 247
Newark, NJ 07102
973-621-4921
Email: info@essexclerk.com

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. **Photos can be taken at the Clerk's Office for an additional $10.00 charge.

$130 for regular service/passport total payable by personal check or US Postal money order
$35 processing fee payable by cash or US Postal money order only.
ALL County Identification Cards are by APPOINTMENT ONLY https://essex.civicscheduler.com

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. These items along with several others will all be included in your *Fair Release and Re-entry Act* **(FRARA)** folder given to you on the day of release.

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: 211is multi-lingual and accepts TTY callers.

B. Shelter

Here are some shelters in Essex County. Access to most of these shelters can be obtained through the Essex County Board of Social Services or through a general walk in. Although each agency has been verified, please call to check for most current hours of operation. Please call the agency listed below for further information.

Newark homeless services - Dial 211 or
(800) 696-7063 / (973)733-5300
110 Williams St. Newark, NJ 07102

Urban Renewal Corp.
689 S. 16th St or 224 Sussex Ave or 521 Washington St
Newark, NJ 07103
973-522-0544
Open 7 days a week
Provides emergency, transitional and permanent housing for men and women over the age of 18 without children. Must present identification. (Please call. Some locations require referrals and some do not.)

United Community Corporation
31 Fulton Street Newark NJ
Phone: 973-621-8295
Fax: 973-621-5453
Provides shelter for men and women for up to 30 days. Also provides counseling services and employment and healthcare referral services. Must have identification and former residency

Salvation Army Cornerstone House
13 Trinity Pl.
Montclair, NJ 07042
973-744-3312
Provides shelter for men, women and children.

Isaiah House
238 North Munn Ave.
East Orange, NJ 07108
973-678-5882
Services are provided for women with children

Apostles House
24 Grant St.
Newark NJ 07104
973-482-6609/ 973-482-0625
Services are provided for women and children

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

Bethany Baptist Church
Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
58 Hartford St.
Newark NJ 07103
973-623-8161
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00am-1:00pm
*Referrals only for the food pantry. Clients may draw food from the Pantry only **once** a month. No referral is necessary for the Clothes Closet. All clients must have a picture ID each time they come.*

First Hopewell Baptist Church
525 Orange St. Newark NJ
973-485-8100
Food Pantry: Wednesday 9-11:30

Isaiah House
238 North Munn Avenue East Orange NJ
973-678-5882
Monday & Friday10:30am-12:30pm, Wed CLOSED Tues & Thur 10:30-3:30 except holidays
Please note: Must have a referral each visit; referrals may be obtained from a social service agency, hospital, clinic, income source, church, etc. Individuals may receive a good package ***once*** *per month. With Essex county ID. Please contact Latoya Anderson x3021 for any questions before making the trip!*

Salvation Army
699 Springfield Ave.
Newark, NJ 07103
973-375-5933
Food Pantry: Wednesday-Friday10:00am-2:00pm
Appointment only!

Salvation Army
430 Main Street
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-672-0262
Food Pantry: Tu-Wed 10:00am-2:00pm
ID required

Saint James Social Services Corp.
604 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Newark NJ 07102
973-624-4007
Soup kitchen is open Monday-Friday 12:00-2:00pm. Food Pantry is open Monday-Friday 3:00 pm begins registration. Clothing distribution occurs once a month. Call for dates

Irvington Neighborhood Improvement Corp
346 16th Ave.
Irvington, NJ 07111
973-416-0909
Soup Kitchen: M-F 1:00-2:00pm
**Provides referrals for emergency food assistance.*

Saint John's RC
22 Mulberry St. Newark NJ
973-623-0822
Meals served Tues-Sat 10:30am-12:30pm

East Orange/ Orange Community Development Corp.
490 Main Street
East Orange, NJ 07107
973-266-5315
Opened Monday-Friday 9:00am- 5:00pm
Provides free clothing and Thrift store. Must have a referral, proof of income, or release papers.

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.

***Welfare/General Assistance recipients in Essex County may be eligible for transportation services through EZ Ride. Services include:**

Essex County WAVE Shuttle-free shuttle service to agencies in the Greater Newark Area that provide work training and work assistance. Shuttles operate Mon-Fri 7:40am-4:35pm. EZride.org/wave Shuttle

Essex Night Owl-free shuttle service between Newark Penn Station and resident's homes in Newark, Orange, East Orange and Irvington. Service operates between 1:00am-5:00am, seven days a week. To make a reservation call 1-866-208-1307 at least 24 hours in advance. Ezride.org/ 827 Wayne/Fairfield/West Caldwell

Fairfield-West Caldwell Shuttle-free shuttle service for people who work along Route 46 in the townships of Fairfield and West Caldwell. The shuttle runs on weekdays from 6:00am-9:00am and again from 3:00pm-7:00pm. To make a reservation call 1-866-208-1307 at least 24 hours in advance.

Route 10 Shuttle-free shuttle service for individuals to access employment along the Route 10 corridor in East Hanover. To make a reservation call 1-866-208-1307 at least 24 hours in advance call 2-1-1

**For more information, please call 973-961-6941*

Transportation for Senior Citizens & 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.

Essex County Paratransit
Office on Aging
973-618-1280

Office of Amtrak Access 800-872-7245

Greyhound Customers with Disabilities Travel Line
800-752-4841

E. Money/Public Assistance 

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.

Work First New Jersey Program (WFNJ) provide cash benefits (General Assistance) for single people and Temporary Aid for Needy Families 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. You can contact your social worker for more information.

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

SN Snap (formerly Food Stamps)
You may apply for NJ SNAP 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.

Application sites in Essex County:

Essex County Dept. of Citizen Services Division of Welfare

Newark Office
18 Rector Street - 9th Floor, Suite 3100
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 733-3325 or (973) 733-3000
Fax: (973) 504-9316

East Orange Office
50 South Clinton Ave.
East Orange, NJ 07018 Suite 5400
(973) 395-8400
Fax: (973) 395-8493

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).

Veterans Service Offices
Essex County
20 Washington Pl., Room 431
Newark, NJ 07102
973-297-3230

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 Department 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.

Taking Care of Yourself: LGBTQ+ Resources



Garden State Equality

Garden State Equality lifts up the diverse voices of LGBTQ+ communities through education and advocacy to advance the movement for equality in New Jersey and nationally.

Are you a Trans person who needs help changing your name in New Jersey? Garden State Equality is here to help! Learn more about **updating identification documents** at GSE's website:
https://www.gardenstateequality.org/take-action/update-id/

1408 Main Street
Asbury Park, New Jersey 07712
https://www.gardenstateequality.org/
(973) 509-5428

Equality Federation
Equality Federation is an advocacy accelerator rooted in social justice, building power in our network of state-based lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) advocacy organizations.
equalityfederation.org

The Pride Center of New Jersey

The mission of Pride Center of New Jersey is to provide a safe and welcoming space for all individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ to find support, educational tools, health and education resources, and social opportunities within a community of acceptance. Free HIV testing.

85 Raritan Avenue, Suite 100
Highland Park NJ, 08904-2430
(732) 846-2232
info@pridecenter.org

NJ Gay Life
Lists events throughout New Jersey to connect the LGBTQI+ community. Online directory of New Jersey businesses and a support group calendar organized by issues and geographic locations.
NJGayLife.com
PO Box 224, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
The PFLAG mission is to build on a foundation of loving families united with LGBTQI+ people and allies who support one another, and to educate ourselves and our communities to speak up as advocates until all hearts and minds respect, value and affirm LGBTQI+ people. To find a local chapter visit: https://pflag.org/find-a-chapter

Main Phone: (202) 467-8180
Fax: (202) 467-8194

Human Rights Campaign
Advocates for LGBTQI+ Americans, mobilizes grassroots action, and educates the public about LGBTQI+ issues.
www.hrc.org

SAMHSA Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration
Resources on the LGBTQI+ population include national survey reports, agency and federal initiatives, and related behavioral health resources from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Find Help and Treatment
The National Helpline provides 24-hour free and confidential referrals and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, treatment, and recovery in English and Spanish.
SAMHSA's National Helpline
800-662-HELP (4357)
TTY: 800-487-4889
For additional information on finding help and treatment options, visit www.samhsa.gov/find-treatment.
For general questions about SAMHSA, including information about mental and substance use disorders:
SAMHSAInfo@samhsa.hhs.gov
877-SAMHSA-7 (726-4727)
TTY: 800-487-4889

Edge New Jersey
The mission of EDGE New Jersey is to respond compassionately and responsibly to the HIV+ and LGBTQI+ communities by providing supportive services, housing opportunities, prevention strategies and education to enhance the community we serve. The vision of EDGE is to empower those we serve to achieve a healthy, safe and self-sufficient life, providing the resources to positively influence their community.

CAN Clinic (Temporary)
3155 NJ State Route 10, Suite 204
Denville, NJ 07834
973-370-3130

EDGE CAN Wellness Center
295 East Main St
Denville, NJ 07834
973-285-0006

Hudson Pride Center Hudson Pride serves as an advocate and social service provider for both the LGBTQI+ and HIV/AIDS communities in Hudson County.

205 Brunswick St
Jersey City, NJ 07302

NHCAC Health Center
2nd Floor, 714 31st St
Union City, NJ 07087

(201) 963-4779
info@hudsonpride.org

PROUD Gender Center of New Jersey
At Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) New Brunswick it is a top priority to optimize health and well-being for every patient. The **LGBTQIA Program** is firmly rooted with that purpose in mind.
In full support of the transgender community, RWJUH provides a full suite of specialized services designed to bring you to the best "you" you can be.
At the Center, a multidisciplinary team of family medicine physicians, gynecologists, urologists, endocrinologists, plastic surgeons and otolaryngologists provides specialized care for LGBTQ patients. Hormone therapy and surgical procedures are offered to support the transition of transgender patients.

181 Somerset St., 2nd Floor
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
1-833-BH-PROUD (1-833-247-7683)

Lambda Legal
Founded in 1973, Lambda Legal is the oldest and largest national legal organization whose mission is to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals,

transgender people and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.
As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we do not charge our clients for legal representation or advocacy, and we receive no government funding.

National Headquarters
120 Wall Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10005-3919
212-809-8585

QSpot LGBT Community Center
QSpot fosters the health, well-being and pride of NJ's LGBT and allied community by providing resources, referrals, education, and outreach. QSpot works tirelessly to fulfill its mission while operating a safe and welcoming LGBT community center.

1601 Asbury Ave, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
(732) 455-3373

HOTLINES /CRISIS INTERVENTION

The National Helpline provides 24-hour free and confidential referrals and information about mental and/or substance use disorders, prevention, treatment, and recovery in English and Spanish.
SAMHSA's National Helpline
800-662-HELP (4357)
TTY: 800-487-4889

Crisis Intervention/Suicide Prevention
The Trevor Project: (866) 488-7386
The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255 (online chat available)
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741
Crisis Text Line is free, 24/7 support for those in crisis. Text from anywhere in the USA to text with a trained Crisis Counselor.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender National Hotline: (888) 843-4564
The GLBT National Youth Talkline (youth serving youth through age 25): (800) 246-7743
Both provide telephone, online private one-to-one chat and email peer-support, as well as factual information and local resources for cities and towns across the United States.

Trans Lifeline: (877) 565-8860
Trans Lifeline is a trans-led organization that connects Trans people to the community, support, and resources they need to survive and thrive.

National AIDS Hotline (800) 342-AIDS / (800) 344-7432 (Spanish) / (800) 243-7889 (TDD)
Other Hotlines

U.S. National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233 (English and Spanish) (800) 787-3224 (TTY)
They also have an online chat feature available. Operating around the clock, seven days a week, confidential and free of cost, the National Domestic Violence Hotline provides lifesaving tools and immediate support to enable victims to find safety and live lives free of abuse. Highly trained, experienced advocates offer compassionate support, crisis intervention information and referral services in over 170 languages.

Pride Institute: (800) 547-7433 24/7
Chemical dependency/mental health referral and information hotline for the LGBTQ community.

Rape Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN): (800) 656-HOPE / (800) 810-7440 (TTY)

The nation's largest organization fighting sexual violence, RAINN also carries out programs to prevent sexual violence, help victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice.

Support for victims and survivors of sexual violence
Hotline: 1-866-295-SERV (7378)

Taking Care of Yourself: COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine

Call 211 for General COVID-19 Questions and information on how to stay safe, test sites, financial assistance, unemployment, donations, food, and other non-medical needs. (24/7)

Call 1-800-962-1253 (24/7) to speak to a healthcare professional at the NJ Poison Control Center about symptoms, when to seek medical attention and proper steps to take if exposed to COVID-19.

Call (COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing): **1-855-568-0545 (10a-6p, M-F; 10a-4p, Sa)**

Call (Medical COVID-19 Questions): **1-800-962-1253 (24/7)**

There are multiple ways to get a COVID-19 vaccine including:

1. Use the NJ Vaccine Appointment Finder to find available vaccination appointments near you or sites with walk-in vaccinations (no appointment needed).
2. Register with the NJ Vaccine Scheduling System to be notified when an appointment is

available to you at vaccination locations that use the State's Vaccine Scheduling System.

3. Seniors 65+ can call the senior-specific hotline at **855-429-1168** from 8am to 8pm to schedule dedicated vaccine appointments

4. Many **VA** facilities and clinics are offering vaccines to veterans, their spouses, and their caregivers.

Taking Care of Yourself: 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.

Prior to your release, you will be given the opportunity to apply for Medicaid through the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA). ACA allows those with little or no income to be eligible for Medicaid under the new law. New Jersey residents completed an application for New Jersey Family Care and out of state residents complete an application for the Healthcare Marketplace. Applying for healthcare while at NJDOC allows enough time for processing to be completed and a health insurance card to be mailed to your residence with coverage beginning the day of your release. For more information regarding the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, please contact your social worker or visit www.njfamilycare.org or www.healthcare.gov. Below is some information regarding traditional Medicaid.

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 Medicaid eligibility, or to apply for Medicaid in Essex County, contact Essex Division of Welfare:

18 Rector Street - 9th Floor, Suite 3100
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 733-3325
Fax: (973) 504-9316

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.

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 the program before you are released**. Contact the **Aids Drug Distribution Program** at 609-588-7038 or toll free 977-613-4533, Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm to apply.

Easter Seals New Jersey provides information, referrals and loans of medical equipment (including wheelchairs) to people in need. For information call 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

Newark Community Health Centers
Corporate Office
741 Broadway
Newark, NJ 07104
Phone: 973-483-1300
Fax: 973-483-3787
Services: Adult medicine, pediatrics, dental, OB/GYN, and podiatry.

101 Ludlow Street
Newark, NJ 07114
Phone: 973-565-0355
Fax: 973-565-0461
Monday-Friday 9-7
Saturday 9-5
Services: Adult medicine, pediatrics, dental, OB/GYN, podiatry and HIV testing.

St. James Health
228 Lafayette Street, 2nd Floor or 332 South 8th Street
Newark, NJ
Phone: 973-789-8111, 973-245-0060
Services: Medical

East Orange Primary Care Center
444 William Street
East Orange, NJ 07017
Phone: 973-675-1900
Fax: 973-675-4021
Services: Adult medicine, pediatrics, dental, OB/GYN, Optometry, Podiatry, Ear, Nose & Throat and HIV testing.

Irvington Community Health Center
1148-1150 Springfield Ave.
Irvington, NJ 07111
Phone: 973-399-6292
Fax: 973-372-4534

Services: Adult medicine, pediatrics, dental, OB/GYN, podiatry, and HIV testing.

Orange Community Health Center
37 North Day Street, 3rd Floor
Orange, NJ 07050
Phone: 973-395-2611
Fax: 973-395-2807
Services: Adult medicine, pediatrics, nutrition and podiatry.

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

Mulberry Health Center
240 Mulberry Street
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone: 973.622.3900
Fax: 973.596.6307

Ironbound Center
70 Adams St, Suite 13
Newark, NJ 07105
Phone: 973-465-7707
Fax: 973-465-5779

East Orange Health Center
560 Dr. MLK Blvd., Suite 100
East Orange, NJ 07018
Phone: 973-674-4343
Fax: 973-674-5581

Montclair Center
29 N Fullerton Ave.
Montclair, NJ 07042
Phone: 973-746-7116
Fax: 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.

Hospitals in Essex County

Clara Maass Medical Center
1 Clara Maass Dr.
Belleville, NJ 07109
973-450-2000

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
201 Lyons Ave. at Osborne Terrace
Newark, NJ 07112
973-926-7000

Essex County Hospital Center (Behavioral Health)
204 Grove Ave.
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
973-571-2801

East Orange General Hospital
300 Central Ave.
East Orange, NJ 07019
973-672-8400

St. Barnabas Medical Center
94 Old Short Hills Rd.
Livingston, NJ 07039
973-322-5000

Hackensack Meridian Mountainside Medical Center
1 Bay Ave.
Montclair, NJ 07042
973-429-6000

St. Michael's Medical Center
111 Central Ave
Newark, NJ 07102
973-877-5000

University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ
150 Bergen St.
Newark, NJ 07107
(973) 972-4300

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.

North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI)
393 Central Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103-2842
973-483-3444
www.njcri.org

Hyacinth Aids Foundation
194 Clinton Ave
Newark NJ 07108
862-240-1461
info@hyacinth.org
Hotline 1-800-433-0254

Newark EMA HIV Health Services Planning Council
33 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ
973-485-5220

NJ AIDS/STD Hotline
UMDMJ/65 Bergen St., Newark
1-800-624-2377-24 hours/day
The hotline gives referrals, general information, counseling, testing locations and treatment information.

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.

Rapid Testing Centers in Essex County

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan NJ-Montclair
29 North Fullerton Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042
973-746-7116

East Orange Health Dept. & East Orange STD Clinic
143 New St., East Orange, NJ 07017
973-266-5454

Newark Comm. Health Center-Orange Primary Care Center
444 William St., East Orange, NJ 07017
973-675-1900

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan NJ-East Orange
560 Martin Luther King Plaza, Suite 100
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-674-4343
Newark Comm. Health Center-Irvington Health Center
148-50 Springfield Ave., Irvington, NJ 07111
973-399-6292

Newark Comm. Health Center-Broadway Clinic
741 Broadway, Newark NJ 07104
973-483-1300

Lennard Clinic
461 Frelinghuysen Ave., Newark, NJ 07105
973-596-2850

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center-Family Treatment Center
166 Lyons Ave. 2nd Floor, Newark, NJ 07112
973-926-5197

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center-Emergency Dept.
201 Lyons Ave. 2nd Floor, Newark, NJ 07112
973-926-5197

Newark Dept. of Health and Human Services-STD Clinic
110 William St., Newark, NJ 07102
973-733-7600

North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI)
393 Central Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103-2842
973-483-3444
www.njcri.org

Planned Parenthood of Mulberry Health Center
240 Mulberry St., Newark, NJ 07105
973-622-3900

St. Michael's Medical Center
111 Central Ave. 5th Floor, Building D, Newark, NJ 07102
973-877-5525

UMDNJ-HIV Testing Center
150 Bergen St., Newark, NJ 07102
973-972-9827

UMDNJ-STOP Program (Spend Time on Prevention)
30 Bergen St., Newark, NJ 07101
973-972-8216 or 973-972-8217

Township of West Orange
10 Gaston St., West Orange, NJ 07052
973-266-5454

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 Clinic is part of the Ambulatory
225 Warren St., Newark, NJ 07103
973-972-6232

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, Newark, NJ 07103
973-972-3270

To contact the Global TB Institute, call 973-972-6232 or
Or the toll free hotline: 1-800-482-3627

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 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 or call the Customer Care Line at 1-888-632-5353.

East Orange Health and Human Services Department
143 New Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07017
973-266-5477
*Limited to East Orange residents
Mon-Fri 8:30 am-4:30pm
Ages served: 5-18 years
Payment method(s): No charge
Services: preventative, restorative, periodontics, oral surgery and endodontics.

Mountainside Hospital Dental Clinic
1 Bay Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey 07042
973-429-6887
Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00pm
Ages served: All ages

Payment method(s): Charity Care, Medicaid, NJ Family Care, private insurance, sliding scale and self-pay.
Services: preventative, restorative, prosthodontics, pedodontics, oral surgery, endodontics.

Jewish Renaissance Medical Center (various locations)
Central High School
246 18th Avenue
Newark, NJ 07108
973-679-7709 press 5
Mon-Weds 8:00-5:00pm
Ages served: All ages
Payment method(s): Charity Care, Medicaid, NJ Family Care, private insurance, sliding scale and self-pay.
Services: Preventative, restorative, simple oral surgery and endodontics.

Newark Community Health Centers
741 Broadway, Newark NJ 07104, 973-483-1300
101 Ludlow St. Newark, NJ 07104, 973-565-0355
444 William St., Newark, NJ 07107, 973-483-1300
1150 Springfield Ave., Irvington, NJ 07111, 973-399-6292
Monday-Friday 9:00-7:00pm. Sat 9:00-5:00pm
Ages served: All ages
Payment method(s): Charity Care, Medicaid, NJ Family Care, private insurance, self-pay, sliding scale.
Services: preventative, restorative, prosthodontics, pedodontics, and simple oral surgery.

Newark Dept. of Health & Human Services
110 Williams Street, Room 111
Newark, NJ 07102
973-733-7613
Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30pm
Ages served: All ages
Payment method(s): Medicaid, NJ Family Care, private insurance, self-pay and sliding scale.

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 cannot 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.

*****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:
Joseph Scarpelli, D.C.
204 Grove Avenue
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
(973) 571-2821/2822

Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Direction for Essex County:
Roberto Nelson Alvarez
50 South Clinton Street, Suite 4301
East Orange, NJ 07018
(973) 395-8417

Detoxification Centers in NJ

Aldie Counseling Center
2291 Cabot Boulevard West
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-642-3230

Behavioral Crossroads Recovery, LLC
509 South Blackhorse Pike (Rt 168)
Blackwood, NJ 08012
856-302-1811

Burlington Comp Counseling Inc.
75 Washington Street
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
609-267-3610

Carrier Clinic
252 County Route 601
Belle Mead, NJ 08502
800-933-3579

Hunterdon Med Center/Addictions Treatment Services
2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822
908-788-6100

Jersey City Medical Center
355 Grand Street
Jersey City, NJ 07302
201-915-2000

Kaleidoscope Health Care, INC
75 Harrison Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07304
201-451-5425

Livengrin Foundation Inc
4833 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem, PA 19020
215-638-5200

New Horizon Treatment Services Inc
132 Perry Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-394-8988

New Pathway Counseling Services
995 Broadway
Bayonne, NJ 07002
201-436-1022

Princeton House Behavioral Health
905 Herrontown Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-497-3300

Somerset Treatment Services
118 West End Avenue
Somerville, NJ 08876
908-722-1232

Spectrum Health Care, INC
74-80 Pacific Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07304
201-860-6100

Summit Behavior Health
2780 Morris Ave
Union, NJ 07083
908-688-2502

Today Inc
1990 North Woodbourne Road
Newtown, PA 18940
215-968-4713

Turning Point, INC.
595 County Avenue
Secaucus, NJ 07096
201-863-20

Outpatient and Residential Treatment

Mt. Carmel Guild Behavioral Healthcare
47 Miller Street, Newark, NJ 07114
973-522-2100 or 973-722-7889
Provides outpatient and partial care services.

Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)
Mt. Carmel Guild Behavioral Healthcare
269 Oliver Street
Newark, NJ 07105
973-466-1300

University Behavioral Healthcare
183 South Orange Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103-2770
(973) 972-1431
Provides outpatient, partial care and residential services.

Project Live, Inc.
465-475 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104
973-481-0195
Provides residential services

Newark Renaissance House
50-56 Norfolk St. Newark NJ
973-623-3386 ext. 325 or 326
Provides residential and outpatient addictions services for women only.*

Easter Seals Society of NJ
515 Valley St., Suite 206, Maplewood, NJ 07040
(855) 215-4541
Provides residential 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
(800) 843-2384
Provides partial care services

Northwest Essex Community Network
570 Belleville Avenue Belleville, NJ 07109
(973) 450-3100 or (973) 450-3119
Provides partial care and outpatient services.

Family Connections
395 South Center St., Orange, NJ 07050
973-675-3817
Provides outpatient services

New Hope Behavioral Health Care
277-285 Coit Street
Irvington, NJ 07111
973-373-5100
Offers partial care and intensive outpatient mental health services.

Integrity House
Newark Campus
103 Lincoln Park
Newark, NJ 07102
973-623-0600
Provides residential, partial care and outpatient addictions services

Mental Health Association of Essex
(Prospect House)
424 Main St., East Orange, NJ 07018
973-674-8067
Provides partial care services
Assisted Outpatient Treatment Services
60 South Fullerton Ave., Suite 206
Montclair, NJ 07042
973-842-4141

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 or you feel like you may be a danger to yourself or others, please call 911. 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.

New Jersey Mental Health Cares Helpline
866-202-4357
TTY: 877-294-4356

Essex County Department of Health and Rehabilitation
50 South Clinton St., Suite 4301
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-395-8417

Essex County Mental Health Board
204 Grove Ave.
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009
973-571-2821/2822

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

H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses and Eye care

New Eyes for the Needy

549 Millburn Avenue Short Hills NJ 07078
973-376-4903
Monday-Thursday 9:00-4:00pm; 9:00-12:00pm
Friday (Closed during July/August): 9:00-12:00pm

New Jersey Council of the Blind
242 Clay St.
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-375-6682

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey
254 Spruce Street
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 743-0075

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

50 S. Clinton Street – 2nd Floor,
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-395-5839
Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

990 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102
973-648-3370
Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

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.

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 – 2nd Floor, East Orange, NJ 07018 (973-395-5839) or 990 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102 (973-648-3370)



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 & Information Center
221 Washington Ave
Belleville, NJ 07109-3152
973-450-3434

Mrs. Richard Shafter Branch Library
221 Washington Ave 221
Belleville, NJ 07109-3152
973-450-3438

Bloomfield Free Public Library
90 Broad St
Bloomfield, NJ 07003-2585
973-566-6200

Caldwell West Public Library
30 Clinton Rd
Caldwell, NJ 07006-6704
973-226-5441

Caldwell Public Library Inc.
268 Bloomfield Ave
Caldwell, NJ 07006-5198
973-226-2837

Cedar Grove Free Public Library
1 Municipal Plaza
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009-1740
973-239-1447

Ampere Branch Library Inc.
39 Ampere Plaza
East Orange, NJ 07017-5317
973-266-5610

East Orange Public Library
21 S Arlington Ave
East Orange, NJ 07018-3804
973-266-5600

Franklin Branch Library
192 Dodd St
East Orange, NJ 07017-2107
973-266-5630

Garry Branch
110 Hollywood Ave
East Orange, NJ 07018-4104
973-673-0329

Learning Resource Center
New Jersey Department of Education
240 S Harrison St FL 6
East Orange, NJ 07018-1411
973-414-4493

Anthony Pio Costa Memorial Library
Township of Fairfield
261 Hollywood Ave.
Fairfield, NJ 07004-1360
973-227-3575

Glen Ridge Free Public Library
240 Ridgewood Ave.
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028-1306
973-748-5482

Irvington Public Library
67 Civic Square
Irvington, NJ 07111-2412
973-372-6400

Ruth L Rockwood Memorial Library
10 Robert H Harp Dr.
Livingston, NJ 07039-3930
973-992-4600

Hilton Branch Library
1688 Springfield Ave
Maplewood, NJ 07040-2923
973-762-1688

Maplewood Memorial Library
51 Baker St
Maplewood, NJ 07040-2618
973-762-1622

Millburn Free Public Library
200 Glen Ave
Millburn, NJ 07041-1620
973-376-1006

Bellevue Avenue Branch Library
185 Bellevue Ave
Montclair, NJ 07043-1820
973-744-2468

Montclair Free Public Library
50 S Fullerton Ave
Montclair, NJ 07042-2629
973-744-0500

Branch Brook Library
235 Clifton Ave
Newark, NJ 07104-1908
973-733-7760

Criminal Justice NCCD Library
123 Washington St FL 3
Newark, NJ 07102-3026
973-353-5522

Inter Library Loan
185 University Ave
Newark, NJ 07102-1814
973-353-5902

Main Library
5 Washington St
Newark, NJ 07102-3105
973-733-7800

New Jersey Dept. Public Advocate Library
NJ Department of Treasury
31 Clinton St. Suite 10
Newark, NJ 07102-3729
973-877-1264

Newark Library
282 1st Ave
Newark, NJ 07107-1823
973-733-8091

Newark Public Library
Weequahic Branch
335 Osborne Terrace
Newark, NJ 07112-2084
973-733-7751

New Jersey Institute of Technology Library
200 Central Ave
Newark, NJ 07103-3918
973-596-3206

North End Branch Library
722 Summer Ave
Newark, NJ 07104-3425
973-733-7766

Springfield Branch Library
50 Hayes St
Newark, NJ 07103-3026
973-733-7736

Trustees of Free Public Library
P O Box 630
Newark, NJ 07101-0630
973-733-7780

Vailsburg Branch Library
75 Alexander St
Newark, NJ 07106-1904
973-733-7755

Van Buren Branch Library
140 Van Buren St
Newark, NJ 07105-2721
973-733-7750

Nutley Free Public Library
Nutley Town
93 Booth Dr.
Nutley, NJ 07110-2706
973-667-0405

Trustees of the Free Public Library
348 Main St
Orange, NJ 07050-2708
973-673-0153

Roseland Free Public Library
20 Roseland Ave
Roseland, NJ 07068-1235
973-226-8636

South Orange Public Library
65 Scotland Rd
South Orange, NJ 07079-2069
973-762-0230

Free Public Library of Verona
17 Gould St
Verona, NJ 07044-1924
973-857-4848

Edison National Site Friends Library
342 Main St
West Orange, NJ 07052-5726
973-736-2916

Orange Free Library
13 Dogwood Rd
West Orange, NJ 07052-1003

973-731-4570

Tory Corner Branch Library
242 Main St
West Orange, NJ 07052-5616
973-736-0452

West Orange Public Library
46 Mount Pleasant Ave
West Orange, NJ 07052-4903
973-736-0198



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 Department of Children and Families:
1 (800) INFO-DCF 1-855-463-6323

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
Newark, NJ 07114
Phone Number: 973-424-0300
Website Address: theagainstallodds.org
Provides social services to at-risk children and underserved families

Babyland Family Services
Address: 200 South Orange Avenue
Newark, NJ 07106
Phone Number: 973-399-3400
Provides child, family and community development services.

FOCUS
Hispanic Center for Community Development
Address: 441-443 Broad Street
Phone Number: 973-624-2528
Website Address: www.focus411.org
Provides youth and family development programs.

Ironbound Community Corporation (Two Locations)
(1) Family Success Center East
Address: 2931 Cortland Street
Newark, NJ 07105
Phone Number: 973-344-5949

(2) Family Success Center West
Address: 317 Elm Street
Newark, NJ 07105
Phone Number: 973-465-0555
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
Newark, NJ 07104
Phone Number: 973-483-2703

Family Success Center II
Address: 282 First Avenue
Phone Number: 973-482-9002
Website Address: www.lacasanwk.org

Newark Emergency Services for Families
Address: 982 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone Number: 973-639-2100
Website Address: www.nesfnj.org

Newark Now
Bradley Court Family Success Center
Address: 48 North Munn Avenue, Suite 12
Newark, NJ 07106
Phone Number: 973-991-1290

New Community Corporation
Address: 131-185 Bergen St.
Newark, NJ 07103
Phone Number: 973-565-9500
Email: elee@newcommunity.org

Website Address: www.newcommunity.org

North Ward Center
Address: 286 Mt. Prospect Avenue
Newark, NJ 07104
Phone Number: 973-485-5723
Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am-5:00pm
Late nights are Monday and Thursday from 6:00-8:00pm by appointment only.
Website Address: www.northwardcenter.org

Family Service Bureau of Newark
274 South Orange Avenue Newark
973-412-2056
Provides mental health, substance abuse, crisis intervention and family services.

Youth Consultation Services
284 Broadway
Newark, NJ 07104
973-482-8411
Provides short term family crisis intervention and counseling.

Family Connections
395 South Center Street
Orange, NJ 07050
973-675-3817
Provides therapeutic services for youth and their families.

The Bridge
50 Union Ave
Irvington, NJ 07111
973-371-3771
Provides family preservation services.

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

Family Service League Main Office
60 South Fullerton Ave., Suite 109, Montclair, NJ 07042
973-746-0800

Family Service League Bloomfield Office
440 Franklin Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
973-746-0800

Family Day Nursery School
224 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
973-743-7700

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network, Inc.
35 Halsey Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102
1-800-654-SPAN (7726) or 973-642-8100



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 Child Protection and Permanency (formerly 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 DCP&P (formerly 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 – Belinda Craighead-Coleman

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 - Monica Chavez

Newark South LO - #562
153 Halsey Street, 4th Floor Newark, NJ 07101
973-648-2400
800-847-1751
Fax: 973-648-8473
Manager- Teddy Ojibe

Essex Central LO - #565
33 Evergreen Place
East Orange, NJ 07018
973-395-5300
800-392-9535
Fax: 973-266-1803

Essex Central LO - #569
50-58 Burnett Avenue
Maplewood, NJ 07040

973-763-3427
800-392-9535
Fax: 973-763-6247
Covering Manager - Carl Rollins

Essex South LO - #567
21 Bleeker Street
Millburn, NJ 07041
973-218-7400
888-670-6407
Fax: 973-467-2810
Manager - Dorsey Ash

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 (1-877-655-4371) 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 "arrears." 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.

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:

SAVE of Essex County
24/7 Hotline 1-877-733-2273

New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women:
(800)-572-SAFE.

Domestic Abuse Hotline for Men and Women:
(888) 7HELPLINE (1-888-743-5754)

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE

Center for Family Services-Services Empowering the Rights of Victims (SERV)
24 Hr. Hotline: 856-881-3335

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
973-877-3481

Essex County One Stop
50 South Clinton Ave., 4th Fl. East Orange NJ 07018
973-395-8422

East Orange School District-Fresh Start H.S. Academy
74 Halstead St. East Orange NJ 07018
973-266-5640 ext, 49100

Eastwick College-HoHoKus Schools
103 Park Ave., Nutley, NJ 07110
973-661-0600

Essex Regional Educational Services Commission
369 Passaic Ave., Fairfield, NJ 07004
973-405-6262 ext, 236

Spanish Speaking Testing Center Only
La Casa De Don Pedro
33 Broadway 2nd Fl., Newark NJ 07104
973-481-4568

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
150 Bleeker St.
Newark NJ 07102
973-596-3000

Montclair State University
1 Normal Ave.
Montclair NJ 07043
973-655-4000

Rutgers University-Newark
190 University Ave.
Newark, NJ 07102
973-353-5205

Seton Hall University
400 South Orange Ave.
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 Aid Association
465 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Room 118
Newark, NJ 07102
973-622-0063

Essex County Legal Services
5 Commerce St. 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:
P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA,
30374, or call 800-685-1111.

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.

FYI: By mail, be sure to include your full name, current address, Social Security number, and most recent former address for file-matching purposes.

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.

Here are a few pages to use to plan your first days out of prison. There are some questions to ask yourself about what you 0plan to do. It's best to write things down and plan ahead. ***You should also refer to your discharge plan created by your social worker that outlines your needs. Have a wonderful and successful reentry!

DO I have my Basic Needs?

Shelter: _____

Food: _____

Health Care: _____

Clothing: _____

Transportation: _____

DO I have support?

Family: _____

_____

Friends: _____

_____

DO I have Identification?

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	____	____

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

Notes: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Important Names and Phone Numbers
(Parole, Mentor, Emergency Contact)

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

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**