



**THE**  
**UNION**  
**COUNTY**  
**SMART**  
**BOOK**

A Resource Guide for Going Home

Drafted 2007

Revised 2015

By

The New Jersey Department of Corrections  
Office of Transitional Services

## 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 of Central NJ..... 1-609-298-7785

Division of Disability Services (DDS) ..... 1-888-285-3036

Division of Youth & Family Services..... 1-800-792-8610

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation Hotline..... 1-800-433-0254

Legal Services of New Jersey..... 1-888-576-5529

### NJ Motor Vehicle Commission

Driver's License Suspension & Restoration ... 1-609-292-7500

Main Information ..... 1-888-486-3339

Narcotics Anonymous of NJ Helpline ..... 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

### Union County One Stop

Elizabeth ..... 908-558-8000

Plainfield..... 908-757-9090

Satellite Center, Union County College..... 908-659-5214

Social Security Office ..... 1-800-772-1213

### Service Empowering Rape Victims

(SERV)..... 1-866-295-SERV

### Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline

(Womanspace, Inc.)

Bilingual and TTY accessible ..... 1-800-572-7233

# The Union County Smart Book

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## First Things First: How to Use this Book

The purpose of this book is to help you get ready to leave prison, return home, and find what you need to get back on your feet. It is specifically focused on what you'll need to know during the first weeks and months that you're back, which can be a time of difficult adjustment. 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 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; however, please note that the fees and charges listed in this guide are subject to change.**

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 particular services. 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 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 a few 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 won't find here every service or organization in **Union County**, but again, this book should give you a place to start. The organizations that are listed can help refer you to other places in the area that can be of help to you. For current information as services change procedure and or cost please visit [www.njsuccess.org](http://www.njsuccess.org). . Please visit [www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org) for further county information. **The local libraries listed on page 41 can assist you in 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 office is local branch in Union County

#### Social Security Administration

855 Lehigh Avenue  
Union, NJ 07083

Union Office: 1-877-803-6306  
Toll-free: 1-800-772-1213  
TTY: 1-800-325-0778

Hours: Mon, Tu, Thu, Fri 9:00am-3:00pm  
Wed 9:00am-12:00pm

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](http://www.ssa.gov/replace_sscard.html). You will need to show proof of identification. **Prison release papers count as proof of address. 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 keeps all New Jersey birth records. The fee for a copy is **\$25.00**. However, depending upon where you were born in Union 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 your 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. Please call the respective offices regarding office hours and fees.

### **Berkeley Heights Township**

Patricia Donahue

29 Park Avenue

Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

### **Clark Township**

Nancy Raymond

Municipal Building

430 Westfield Avenue

Clark, NJ 07066

Phone: (732) 428-8405

Fax: (732) 388-3839

### **Cranford Township**

Joan Holler

Municipal Building

8 Springfield Avenue

Cranford, NJ 07016

Phone: 908-709-7238

### **Elizabeth City**

Gail Dippolito

City Hall Room G-12

50 Winfield Scott Plaza

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

Phone: (908) 820-4082

Fax: (908) 820-4290

### **Fanwood Borough**

Colleen M. Huehn

Municipal Building

75 No. Martine Ave.

Fanwood, NJ 07023

Phone: (908) 322-8236

Fax: (908) 322-7178

### **Garwood Borough**

Kathleen Wierzbinski

Municipal Building

403 South Ave

Garwood, NJ 07027

Phone: (908) 789-0710

Fax: (908) 789-7978

**Hillside Township**

Elizabeth Geminder  
Municipal Building  
1409 Liberty Avenue  
Hillside, NJ 07205  
Phone: 973-926-4535  
Fax: 973-926-5589

**Kenilworth Borough**

Eileen Egan  
Board of Health  
575 Boulevard  
Kenilworth, NJ 07033  
Phone: 908-276-2740

**Linden City**

Joseph Bodek  
City Hall  
301 North Wood Avenue  
Linden, NJ 07036  
Phone: 908-474-8452  
Fax: 908-474-8452

**Mountainside Borough**

Martha Lopez  
1385 Route #22 East  
Mountainside, NJ 07092  
Phone: (908) 232-2400  
Fax: (908) 232-6831

**New Providence Borough**

Wendi Barry  
Boro Hall  
360 Elkwood Avenue  
New Providence, NJ 07974  
Phone: (908) 665-1400  
Fax: (980) 665-9272

**Plainfield City**

Barbara Wynn  
City Hall- Vital Stat  
510 Watchung Avenue  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
Phone: (908) 753-3093  
Fax: (908) 753-3540

**Rahway City**

Debora Allen  
Health Department  
1 City Hall Plaza  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
Phone: (732) 827-2172  
Fax: (732) 381-7668



**Roselle Borough**

Milka W. DeJesus-Quevedo  
210 Chestnut Street 2nd Floor  
Roselle, NJ 07203  
Phone: (908) 259-3032

**Roselle Park Borough**

Nancy Caliendo  
110 E. Westfield Avenue  
Roselle Park, NJ 07204-2083  
Phone: (908) 245- 8466  
Fax: (908) 245-5598

**Scotch Plains Township**

Bozena Lacina  
Municipal Building  
430 Park Avenue  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
Phone: 908-322-6700 x212

**Springfield Township**

Jasmine Mathis  
100 Mountain Avenue  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
Phone: 973-912-2200  
Fax: 973-912-2277

**Summit City**

N. Gayle Mauro  
Health Department  
City Hall  
512 Springfield Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901  
Phone: 908-277-6464

**Union Township**

Nancy Rodriguez  
1976 Morris Avenue  
P.O. Box 3609  
Union, NJ 07083  
Phone: (908) 851-8507  
Fax: (908) 851-4673

**Westfield Town**

Loray Kozar  
Municipal Building  
425 E. Broad Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
Phone: 908-789-4070  
Fax: 908-789-4076

## Winfield Township

Laura Reinertsen

12 Gulfstream Avenue

Winfield, NJ 07036

Phone: (908) 925-3850

Fax: (908) 925-4526

## C. County Identification

The Union County Clerk's Office no longer provides county issued photo identification cards, 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.

**PRE-RELEASE:** You can request a copy of your driver's license record, which is called a "driver history abstract." Please contact your social worker if you are interested in obtaining an abstract. **The fee for an abstract is \$15.00.**

**POST-RELEASE:** Once you are out, you can go to the MVC offices in Union County (see below) to request a driver history abstract. If you have internet access, you can also request an abstract online at [www.state.nj.us.mvc](http://www.state.nj.us.mvc). You will still have to pay **\$15.00**. If your license was suspended for 6 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 for 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: **1-609-292-7500**.

**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 Union 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](http://www.state.nj.us/mvc). You can pay your surcharges and parking tickets on this website as well.

## **MVC LOCATIONS IN UNION COUNTY**

For questions, please call 609-292-6500

**Plainfield:** 1600 South 2nd St

Plainfield, NJ 07063

Mon-Fri 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Sat. 7:00 am – 12:00 pm

\*Inspection only

**Rahway:** 1140 Woodbridge Rd. & East Hazelwood Avenue

Rahway, NJ 07065

Agency, Driver Testing:

M,W,Th,F 8:00am-5:30pm

Tu 8:00am-7:30pm

Sat 8:00am-1:00pm

Inspection:

M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

Sat 7:00am-12:00pm

Road Testing:

Tu-F 8:00am-4:00pm

**Springfield:** 34 Center St.

Springfield, NJ 07081

Agency

M, W, Th, F 8:00am-5:30pm

Tu 8:00am-7:30pm

Sat 8:00am-1:00pm

**Westfield:** 410 South Avenue East

Westfield, NJ 07090

Inspection (appointment only)

M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

## **Motor Vehicle Commission Regional Service Center**

### **The Trenton Site**

120 S. Stockton and Front Street

Trenton, NJ 08611

Services: Driver conferences, driver records, insurance and inquiries, points and surcharge inquiries, suspensions and restorations.

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm; Sat 8:00am-12:00pm

## **E. Non-driver's State Identification**

New Jersey (NJVMC) provides Non-Driver photo ID cards.

**You can get this official state ID even if your driver's license is currently suspended**, so this may be a good option for you if it looks like it will take you a long time to get your license back. You will still need to bring the kinds of identification documents described above, under the new Six-Point system to the MVC.

**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 Drivers License
- Valid Active Duty US Military Photo ID Card
- US Adoption papers
- Certificate of Naturalization
- Certificate of Citizenship

### **Secondary Documents:**

(3 Points)

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

(2 Points)

- U.S. Military Discharge Papers (DD214)

(1 Point)

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

You can get a brochure on this new "Six Point" system from the MVC offices listed above or from the Motor Vehicle Commission website, [www.state.nj.us/mvc](http://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**.

## **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 and Immigration Services**

National Customer Service Center  
425 I Street, Washington, DC  
1-800-375-5283

### **Mount Laurel Field Office**

530 Fellowship Road  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

### **Peter Rodino, Jr. Federal Building**

970 Broad St.  
Newark, NJ 07102

### **Application Support Centers**

USCIS Application Support Center  
285 North Broad St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208

116 Kansas St., Main Floor  
Hackensack, NJ 07601-4044

## **G. Alien Registration Card (“Green Card”)**

To replace a missing Green Card, you must go to the US Citizenship & Immigration Services Office (see above), bring identification, and fill out USCIS Form 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](http://www.uscis.gov). It costs **\$290** for processing. **If you have any questions or concerns about your status as a result of your criminal conviction, call Central Jersey Legal Services – Elizabeth Office at 1-908-354-4340 before going to immigration.**

### **Central Jersey Legal Services – Office Listings**

60 Prince Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
Phone: (908) 354-4340  
Fax: (908) 354-4361  
Telephone for the Hearing Impaired: (908) 558-1642

### **New Brunswick**

317 George Street, Suite 201  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Phone: (732) 249-7600  
Fax: (732) 249-7966

## **Trenton**

198 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
Phone: (609) 695-6249  
Fax: (609) 392-7952

## **Perth Amboy**

313 State St., Suite 308  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
Phone: (732) 324-1613  
Fax: (732) 324-6253

## **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.

## **Veterans Benefit Administration in New Jersey**

20 Washington Pl., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

## **Main records depository**

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

## **Union County Office of Veteran Affairs**

Director: Richard Thompson  
10 Elizabeth Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Administration Bldg.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07207  
908-659-7407  
Toll-free Veterans Hotline: 866-640-7115  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Upon your release, you can also visit the following website to request military records: [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov). Once on the 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 important at this point, it can serve you well as a form of widely accepted identification. There are fees involved in obtaining your passport. To obtain your passport you may visit the Union County Clerks Office at:

**Union County Clerk's Office**  
**Elizabeth-Union County Courthouse**

2 Broad St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07207  
908-527-4787  
Business and Passport Office: M-F 7:30am-4:30pm

**Westfield-Union County Colleen Fraser Building**

300 North Avenue East  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
(908) 654-9859  
M,W,F 8:00am-4:00pm  
Tu and Th 8:00am-7:30pm  
Sat 9:00am-1:00pm

**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, if applicable
- ✓ Official military I.D., if applicable
- ✓ A previous US passport; photocopies are not accepted.
- ✓ A valid driver's license or three types of identification and a witness.
- ✓ One passport photo 2x2 inches in size

**\$110** passport fee-Check or money order **ONLY** payable to the "U.S. Department of State"

**\$25** execution fee-Cash, check, money order payable to the "Union County Clerk", Mastercard or Visa.

**\$10** photo-Cash, check, money order, Mastercard or Visa

**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 Union 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 either a range of services and/or can refer you to other agencies, depending on what you need.

### **FIRST-STOP AGENCIES**

#### **2-1-1/First Call for Help**

211 provides 24-hour, comprehensive, human service information and referral for residents of Union County. 211 can help access information and locate services/programs that connect residents to the resources that are available to them in the community. Dial 211, which can be accessed from the internet, cell phone or landline, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 211 is equipped for TTY callers and has a language line to connect to 140 different languages. Dial 800-331-7272 for the Homeless Hotline, which addresses emergencies and homeless calls.

#### **United Way of Greater Union County**

33 W. Grand Street  
Elizabeth, N.J. 07202  
(908) 353-7171  
Email: [info@uwguc.org](mailto:info@uwguc.org)

#### **Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless**

118 Division Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-355-2060  
[www.theelizabethcoalition.org](http://www.theelizabethcoalition.org)

## **B. Shelter**

These are some of the places providing temporary places to stay.

#### **Family Promise of Union County**

First Baptist Church  
402 Union Ave.



Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
908-289-7300 ext. 11  
\*Family shelter

**HomeFirst Interfaith Housing and Family Services**

1009 Park Ave.  
Plainfield, N.J. 07060  
(908) 753-4001

**Proceed, Inc.**

*Administration*  
1126 Dickinson St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-351-7727

*Satellite Office I*

1122 East Grand St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-351-7727

*Satellite Office II*

120 West 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-351-7727

**Salvation Army of Elizabeth**

1005 E. Jersey St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
(908) 352-2886

\*For men and women; open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**YMCA of Plainfield**

518 Watchung Avenue  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
Hotline: 908-756-6061  
Director of Housing Services: 908-756-6060 ext. 103

**Bridgeway Rehabilitative Services**

265 West Grand St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
908-289-7330

**Raphael's Life House**

231 Court Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206  
(908) 354-4750  
*\*For pregnant women only*

**St Rita/Queen Mary (Residential Care Facility)**

520 Central Avenue/ 602 Central Avenue  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
(908) 756 6029  
(requires medical history and a social worker referral)

## **FOOD PANTRIES/ SOUP KITCHENS**



### **C. Food**

There are three ways to get help with food: 1) public benefits to help purchase food, 2) food pantries that provide groceries, and 3) soup kitchens that provide hot or prepared food. Food stamps and other public benefits are discussed under "Money." Food pantries and soup kitchens are below.

#### **FOOD PANTRIES/SOUP KITCHENS:**

##### **Elizabethport Presbyterian Center**

184 First Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206  
908-351-4850  
Fax: 908-351-8082  
[info@eportcenter.org](mailto:info@eportcenter.org)

\*Food pantry is open the last week of every month on Wednesdays and Fridays.

##### **FISH Inc.**

Dunnellen Area  
P.O. Box 8565  
Piscataway, NJ 08855  
24 Hour Hotline: (732) 356-0081  
[admin@fishdunellenarea.org](mailto:admin@fishdunellenarea.org)

##### **St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Food for friends)**

1221 New Brunswick Ave.  
P.O. Box 1882  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
(732) 381-7201

\*Emergency food pantry on the Monday and Tuesday of the last full week of the month.

##### **Heard AME Church**

310 Rev. TR Goyins Plaza  
Roselle, N.J. 07203  
PH-908-241-5588  
FX-908-241-7383  
[Heard.Church@verizon.net](mailto:Heard.Church@verizon.net)

\*Food pantry is open every Saturday from 10:00-12:00pm (except the first Saturday of the month). *Applications to receive food (accompanied by proper identification) are not accepted after 11:30am.*

##### **Jefferson Park Ministries**

65 Jefferson Avenue  
P.O. Box 163  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-469-9508 or 908-469-1519  
Pantry open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month: 10:00am-12:00pm and 4:00pm-6:00pm

**Rahway Food for Friends**

First Presbyterian Church  
1731 Church St.  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
Soup kitchen: Every Saturday of the month

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**

1221 Bew Brunswick Ave.  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
Food pantry: Every last Monday and Tuesday of the month  
(free clothing is available to all patrons on distribution dates)

**Jewish Family Services of Central Jersey**

655 Westfield Ave.,  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
908-352-8375  
Office: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-5:00pm  
Fri 9:00-4:00pm  
Monthly non-perishable food packages

**SALVATION ARMY-ELIZABETH**

1005 E. Jersey St. 07202  
908- 352-7057  
\*Food pantry: help with groceries by appointment.  
\*Soup kitchen: Lunched served 12:00pm-2:00pm, Mon-Fri  
during the last two weeks of each month.

**Salvation Army-Plainfield**

615 Watching Avenue,  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
(908) 756-2595  
Must call for appointment  
Soup kitchen: M, W, Th, F 11:45am-1:00pm

**Westfield Food Pantry At Holy Trinity**

336 1<sup>ST</sup> Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-233-0484  
Food pantry open five mornings per week, call for an  
appointment

**Loves and Fishes Food Pantry at Saint Teresa**

306 Morris Ave.  
Summit, NJ 07901  
908-277-3700  
Pantry open Wednesday from 8:30am-10:30am

**Helping Hands-Church of Saint Joseph the Carpenter**

157 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Roselle, NJ 07203  
908-241-1250  
Food pantry open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Call for  
hours.

**Grace's Kitchen**

600 Cleveland Ave.

Plainfield, NJ 07060

908-765-1520

Soup kitchen open last five days of every month (except Sundays) 11:30am-1:00pm

**St. John the Apostle Pantry**

1805 Penbrook Terrace

Linden, NJ 07036

732-388-1216 or 908-486-6363

Pantry open the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month except for holidays and special events. Call for hours.

**St. Joseph Social Service Center**

118 Division Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

908-352-2989

\*Food pantry: M, Tu, Th 9:00-12:00pm, 1:00-4:00pm

\*Soup kitchen: Saturday 11:30am-1:00pm

**D. Free Or Low Cost Clothing Sources****Goodwill Stores**

126 Route 22 West

Springfield, NJ 07081

(973) 912-0156

Mon-Wed 9:00am-8:00pm

Thu-Sat 9:00am-9:00pm

Sun-10:00am-8:00pm

**Holy Cross Thrift Shop**

40 Mercer Ave

North Plainfield, NJ 07060

(908) 753-2888

Tue 2:00-4:00pm. Fri 6:30pm-8:30pm

Sat 9:00am-12:00pm

**Jumble Store Thrift & Consignment Shop**

110 Walnut Ave

Cranford, NJ 07016

(908) 276-0222

**Unique Thrift Store**

116 Broad St

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 994-0600

**The Salvation Army**

615 Watchung Ave

Plainfield, NJ 07060

(908) 756-2595



## E. Transportation

There is no general program to provide assistance paying for transportation. Though NJ Transit no longer accepts release papers in substitute for bus tickets. However, you may purchase transit tickets from NJDOC for \$2.00 prior to your 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 Union County travel convenience, you may want to purchase weekly, monthly or discounted transit passes (when applicable).

If you are going to drive places, remember that you **must** have a valid driver's license, and you **must** have insurance for any vehicle that you are driving.

Transportation for senior citizens and people with disabilities:

Union County Paratransit  
908-241-8300  
[www.ucnj.org](http://www.ucnj.org)

Office of Amtrak Access  
800-872-7245

Greyhound Customers with Disabilities Travel Assistance Line  
800-752-4841



## F. Money: FS/GA

Once you are released from custody, you will need a source of income, at least temporarily, until you can find a job. (See section under "Finding a Job" for information about looking for work). **The DOC does not provide "gate money," except for any money you may have in your inmate account. If it is possible to save any money before you get out; you should try to do so.** Parole may give emergency funds,

based on need, but it's at their discretion – ask your parole officer about this.

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

### **Work First New Jersey Program (WFNJ)**

**WFNJ** provides cash benefits (General Assistance) for single people and Temporary Assistance 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.

### **NJ 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 NJ SNAP 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 Division of Welfare in Hudson County to inquire.

### **Union County Division of Social Services**

#### **Elizabeth Location**

343 Westminster Ave.

Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Phone: 908-965-3706

Fax: 908-965-2752

#### **Plainfield Location**

200 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

Plainfield, NJ 07063

Phone: 908-791-7000

Fax: 908-791-7098

### **G. Veterans Benefits:**

If you were receiving veteran's benefits (disability or 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 some of their other programs and services, including healthcare. You can contact the VA for questions about benefits at 800-827-1000; the health benefit number is 877-222-VETS. The 24 hour veterans mental health hotline is 1-866-VETS-NJFU.

## **VA Benefit Administration (Regional Office)**

20 Washington Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102  
973-645-1441

## **Union County Office of Veterans Affairs**

10 Elizabeth Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Administration Building  
Elizabeth, NJ 07207  
Phone: 908-659-4707  
Fax: 908-527-4172  
Veterans' Interment: 908-527-4717  
Toll-Free Veterans Hotline: 866-640-7115  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

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](http://www.va.gov)

Info for NJ Veterans:

[www.vetsinfo.com](http://www.vetsinfo.com)

New Jersey Dept. of Veterans Affairs: [www.state.nj.us/military](http://www.state.nj.us/military)

New Jersey Veterans Guide:

[www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide](http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide)

VA Home Loans:

[www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov)

Veterans Counseling Service Center:

[www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html](http://www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html)

**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. Inquire about WIC at the city or county welfare offices.

## **Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support**

The transition from prison back to society may take some time to get used to 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: Health Care Resources

It is very important that you pay attention to your health during the period after you are released, to make sure you have a plan to get prescriptions that you need filled and to see a doctor if you have health conditions that need care. Also, stress and changes in routine can make many health conditions worse. Below, you'll find information on paying for healthcare and clinics and other resources in Union 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](http://www.njfamilycare.org) or [www.healthcare.gov](http://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 Union County go to:

#### **Union County Division of Social Services**

##### **Elizabeth Location**

343 Westminster Ave.

Elizabeth, NJ 07207

Phone: 908-965-3706

Fax: 908-965-2752

##### **Plainfield Location**

200 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

Plainfield, NJ 07063



If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for healthcare benefits through the **Veteran's Administration**, which provides a "Medical Benefits Package" for enrolled veterans. You can 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 AIDS medication for people who don't have any other means of paying. **You can apply for this program before you are released.** Contact the **Aids Drug Distribution Program** at 609-588-7038 or toll free at 877-613-4533, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm 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 or benefits, Union County has clinics that provide primary health care at low cost, sliding scale or for free. They are listed below. Most hospitals have charity care and you should ask about this if you go to a hospital emergency room for treatment.

### **UNION COUNTY HEALTHCARE LOCATIONS**

#### **Neighborhood Health Center Cardinal**

Location: 950 Park Ave., Plainfield, NJ - 07060

Contact Phone: 908-754-5840

Services: adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, school-based services, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, dentistry, health education, social services, and after-hours care.

#### **Neighborhood Health Center Elizabeth**

Location: 184 1<sup>st</sup> St., Elizabeth, NJ - 07206

Contact Phone: 908-355-4459

Services: adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, school-based services, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, dentistry, health education, social services, and after-hours care.

#### **Neighborhood Health Center Plainfield**

Location: 1700-58 Myrtle Ave., Plainfield, NJ - 07063

Contact Phone: 908-753-6401

Services: adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, school-based services, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, dentistry, health education, social services, and after-hours care

### **Neighborhood Health Center, The Healthy Place**

Location: 427 Darrow Ave., Plainfield, NJ - 07060

Contact Phone: 908-731-4288

Services: adult medicine, adolescent medicine, pediatrics, school-based services, obstetrics and gynecology, family planning, dentistry, health education, social services, and after-hours care.

### **Overlook at Union Hospital**

1000 Galloping Hill Road

Union, NJ 07083

908-522-6300

ACUTE medical care only

### **Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway**

865 Stone Street

Rahway, NJ 07065

(732) 381-4200

ACUTE Medical Care only

### **PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF CENTRAL NJ**

Planned Parenthood Health Centers provide a variety of reproductive health services such as gynecological care, birth control services, pregnancy testing, STD testing and treatment, pre-natal care, primary care and cancer screenings. Not all centers provide the same services, so it's important to check before scheduling an appointment.

### **Health Centers**

#### **Elizabeth**

Medical Services

1150 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 351-5384

Services: Abortion services, birth control, general health care, HIV testing, LGBT services, men's health care, morning-after pill (emergency contraception), pregnancy testing and services, STD testing, treatment and vaccines and women's health care.

#### **Plainfield**

Medical Services

123 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060

(908) 756-3736

Services: Abortion services, birth control, general health care, HIV testing, LGBT services, men's health care, morning-after pill (emergency contraception), pregnancy testing and services, STD testing, treatment and vaccines and women's health care.

### **Hospitals in Union County**

#### **Elizabeth General Hospital**

225 Williamson St.

Elizabeth, NJ 07202

908-558-7043

**Children's Specialized Hospital**

150 New Providence Rd.  
Mountainside, NJ 07092  
445-373-5496

**Kindred Hospital New Jersey-Rahway**

865 Stone Street  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
732-453-2950

**Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center**

1200 Randolph Road  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-668-2200

**Overlook Medical Center**

99 Beauvoir Ave.  
Summit, NJ 07901  
908-522-2000

**Cornerstone Behavioral Health Hospital of Union County**

40 Watchung Way  
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922  
908-771-5700

**Summit Oaks Hospital**

19 Prospect Street  
Summit, New Jersey 07902  
908-522-7000

**Trinitas Regional Medical Center**

225 Williams St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
908-994-5000

**Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway**

865 Stone Street  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
732-381-4200

**C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS**

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

**Union County HIV & AIDS Services**

10 Elizabethtown Plaza  
Elizabeth, NJ 07207  
908-558-2572

**Proceed, Inc.**

Administration-1126 Dickinson Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
Satellite Office-1122 East Grand Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
(908) 351-7727

(908) 353-5185 (Fax)  
Multi Service HIV/AIDS Service Agency

**Catholic Charities**

271 Smith Street  
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861  
732-826-9160

**Hyacinth Foundation**

107 Park Ave., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
(908) 755-0021  
Hotline: 800-433-0254  
[info@hyacinth.org](mailto:info@hyacinth.org)

**Medical Diagnostic Associates**

525 Central Ave., Suite C  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-233-0895

**American Red Cross**

321 Elm Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-232-4452

**NJ AIDS/STD Hotline**

1-800-624-2377 – 24 hours/day

The hotlines provide referrals, general information, counseling, testing locations and treatment information.

**Rapid Testing Centers**

**Elizabeth**

Lennard Clinic  
850 Woodruff Lane, Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-352-0850

Planned Parenthood –Elizabeth  
1150 Dickenson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-351-5384

PROCEED, Inc.  
1126 Dickinson Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-351-7727

Trinitas Hospital  
654 East Jersey Street, Suite 161, Elizabeth, NJ 07026  
908-994-7300

Trinitas Hospital-Emergency Department  
25 Williamson Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07026  
908-994-7300

## **Plainfield**

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation  
25 Craig Place, Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-755-0021

Planned Parenthood of Plainfield  
123 Park Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07063  
908-756-3736

## **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.

### **TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM, UNION COUNTY**

#### **Rutgers Global TB Institute NJ Medical School**

Clinical Services  
225 Warren St.  
Newark, NJ 07103  
973-672-6232

#### **Tuberculosis Program**

50 East Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
PO Box 363  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-826-4878



## **E. Dental Care**

Most of the locations listed below don't provide free care, but do have a sliding scale for those with or without insurance.

#### **Overlook Hospital Dental Care Center**

99 Beauvoir Ave.  
Summit, NJ 07902  
908-522-2901

#### **Neighborhood Health Services**

1700-58 Myrtle Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07063  
908-753-6401

184 First Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206  
908-355-4459

## **UMDNJ-School of Health Related Professions Scotch Plains**

1776 Raritan Road  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
908-889-2410

## **Hackensack University Medical Center - Dental Clinic**

St. John Building: 30 Prospect Avenue  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
551-996-2111

Hillcrest Building: 60 Second St.  
Hackensack, NJ 07601  
551-996-3519

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm

## **Elizabeth Department of Health & Human Services**

City Hall of Elizabeth G-12  
50 Winfield Scott Plaza  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-820-4049

## **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 Union 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.

### **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)  
Turnersville, NJ 08012  
609-964-4061 ext. 2

**Burlington Comp Counseling Inc.**

75 Washington Street  
Mount Holly, NJ 08060  
609-267-3610

**Carrier Clinic**

252 County Route 601  
Belle Mead, NJ 08502  
908-281-1000

**Hunterdon Med Center/Addictions Treatment Services**

2100 Wescott Drive  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
908-788-6401

**Jersey City Medical Center**

355 Grand Street  
Jersey City, NJ 07302  
201-915-2281

**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  
Bayone, 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**

4065 Quakerbridge Road  
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550  
609-651-4001

**Today Inc.**

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

**Turning Point, INC.**

595 County Avenue  
Secaucus, NJ 07096  
973-239-9400

**OUTPATIENT AND RESIDENTIAL MENTAL  
HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT****Addiction Services UCPC Behavioral Healthcare**

117-119 Roosevelt Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
(908) 756-6870

Drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatments - outpatient drug rehab center and partial hospitalization/day treatment for persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, women and men

**Intervention Specialist LLC**

583 Cherry Street  
Cranford, NJ 07208  
(908) 289-0700

Drug and alcohol rehabilitation treatments - outpatient drug rehab centers for persons with co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders, persons with HIV/AIDS, Gay and lesbian, seniors/older adults, women and men including criminal justice.

**Overlook Hospital Atlantic Health Systems**

99 Beauvoir Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901  
1-888-247-1400

Intensive outpatient and acute partial care behavioral health programs.

**Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services**

615 North Broad Street  
Elizabeth, N.J. 07208  
(908) 355-7200

Offers partial care mental health services.

**Summit Hospital**

19 Prospect St.  
Summit, NJ 07902  
800-753-5223

Services: intensive outpatient and/or residential psychiatric, co-occurring and/or drug & alcohol treatment programs



**Counseling Care Associates**

186 Paterson Avenue

East Rutherford, NJ 07073

(201) 896-4840

Limited drug and alcohol counseling for Union County residents.

**Jewish Families Services of Central Jersey**

655 Westfield Avenue

Elizabeth, NJ 07208

908-352-8375

Individual, family and group counseling services. Fees may be charged on a sliding scale.

**Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark**

Mount Carmel Guild Behavioral Healthcare (2 locations):

108 Alden Street

Cranford, NJ 07016

908-497-3925

2201 Bergenline Ave.

Union City, NJ 07087

201-558-3700

Services: outpatient and partial care services for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness and substance abuse/dependence.

**Carrier Clinic**

252 Route 601

Belle Mead, NJ

24/7 Access Center: 1-800-933-3579

Offers inpatient, residential and outpatient psychiatric services.

Also offers residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services.

**Flynn House of NJ**

1089-1091 East Jersey Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

908-351-2265

908-351-5042 (Fax)

Half-way house for alcohol & drug addicted. Provides behavior modification, stress management, individual counseling, outside A.A. & N.A. meetings.

**Resolve Community Counseling Center**

1830 Front Street

Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

908-322-9180

Outpatient counseling services.

**High Focus Centers**

16 Commerce Drive

Cranford, NJ 07016

908-272-2474

908-272-8996 (Fax)

Outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment services offered to adults.

### **Trinitas Regional Medical Center**

225 Williams Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07202

1-908-994-7250 (Inpatient)

1-908-994-7556 (Outpatient)

Offers adult psychiatric inpatient and outpatient services.

### **Proceed, Inc.**

1126 Dickinson Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

908-351-7727 or 908-351-727 ext. 232

908-353-5185 (Fax)

Out-patient treatment for drug and alcohol abuse.

### **Pride Institute, Summit Hospital**

19 Prospect Street

Summit, NJ 07901

908-277-9192

908-522-7098 (Fax)

Offers both inpatient and intensive outpatient treatment in psychiatry and substance abuse for LGBTQ population.

### **United Family and Children's Society**

305 West 7th Street

Plainfield, NJ 07060

info@unitedfamily.org

908-755-4848

Individual, family, group and couples counseling; insurance, fee for service, slide

## **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**

### **Mobile Community Outreach (24 Hour Emergency Psychiatric Services)**

908-994-7131

### **Union County Mental Health Services**

908-527-4846

Sara Thode, Director of Behavioral Health/Mental Health Administrator

## **Primary Screening Centers for Union County**

### **Trinitas Regional Medical Center**

655 East Jersey Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206  
Hotline: 908-994-7131

### **Overlook Hospital (CIP)**

99 Beavior at Silvan Road  
Summit, NJ 07901  
Hotline: 908-522-2232

### **RWJ University Hospital Rahway**

865 Stone Street  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
Hotline: 732-381-4949 or 732-499-616

## **H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses/Eye care**

### **Union County Resident Eye Care Associates**

201-797-2747

### **New Jersey Council of the Blind**

153 Franklin Corner Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
609-882-2446

### **National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey**

69 Prospect Place  
Belleville, NJ 07107  
973-450-3030

# Finding a Job: Employment Assistance and Training Programs

Getting a job is usually one of the most important things people need to do when they are released from prison. Not everyone can obtain employment immediately, sometimes things like getting drug treatment, dealing with your housing, health or family situations come first. For most people though, finding working 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.

### **Union County One Stop Career Centers**

Elizabeth Location:  
921 Elizabeth Ave.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-558-8000  
908-558-8005 (fax)  
Hours: 8:30-4:30pm

Plainfield Location  
200 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07063  
(908) 757-9090  
908-757-9094 (fax)  
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

### **Center for Educational Advancement**

11 Minneakoning Road  
Flemington, NJ 08822  
908-782-1480  
Computer Training, Job Placement, Job Training, Jobs,  
Vocational training

### **NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

438 Summit Avenue, Suite 604  
Jersey City, NJ 07306  
201-217-7180

### **Occupational Center of Union County, Inc.**

301 Cox Street  
Roselle, NJ 07203  
908-241-7200  
Email: [ocuc@inroadsto.com](mailto:ocuc@inroadsto.com)  
Vocational, rehabilitative, and mental health services to  
residents with a disability living in Union County community.

## **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 “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.

### **WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT**

An employer who hires people with criminal records may be able to save up to \$4,800 the first year you are hired. Make sure to inform your potential employer of this benefit. **For questions regarding WOTC, please call 609-292-5525 or 1-800-792-8881**

### **FEDERAL BONDING PROGRAM**

The Federal Bonding program provides bonding or “insurance coverage” for employers who hire individuals with criminal histories who are otherwise qualified but cannot get jobs due to their backgrounds. You can get information about this program from the New Jersey Department of Labor, Workforce Division or the local One-stop Career Center (listed above).

## 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 identification (driver's license or non-driver state identification), 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 from a librarian in using the computer), job and course listings, and other local directories. In addition, libraries often carry the government forms mentioned in this guide, and librarians can help you find information beyond the scope of this book.

### LIBRARIES

Berkley Heights Free Public Library  
290 Plainfield Ave.  
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922  
908-464-9333

Clark Public Library  
303 Westfield Ave.  
Clark, NJ 07066  
732-388-5999

Friend of Library Service  
27 Stemmer Drive  
Clark, NJ 07066  
908-709-7272

City of Elizabeth Library  
102 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206  
908-289-9032

Free Public Library of Elizabeth  
11 South Broad Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Elmora Brand Library  
740 West Grand Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
908-353-4820

Garwood Free Public Library  
223 Walnut Street  
Garwood, NJ 07027  
908-789-1670

K 6 Law Library  
2000 Galloping Street  
Kennilworth, NJ 07033  
908-298-4858

Kenilworth Free Public Library  
584 Boulevard  
Kenilworth, NJ 07033  
908-276-2451

Linden Free Public Library  
31 East Henry Street  
Linden, NJ 07036  
908-298-3830

East Branch Library  
1425 Dill Drive  
Linden, NJ 07036  
908-289-3829

New Providence Memorial Library  
377 Elkwood Ave.  
New Providence, NJ 07974  
908-665-0311

Board of Trustees Free Library  
850 Park Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-757-1111

North Plainfield Public Library  
6 Rockview Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-755-7909

Rahway Library  
75 East Cherry Street, Suite 9b  
Rahway, NJ 07065  
732-388-0761



Roselle Free Public Library  
104 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Roselle, NJ 07203  
908-245-5809

Roselle Park Veterans Memorial Library  
404 Chestnut Street  
Roselle Park, NJ 07204  
908-245-7171

Scotch Plains Public Library  
1927 Bartle Ave.  
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076  
908-322-5007

Springfield Free Public Library  
65 Mountain Ave.  
Springfield, NJ 07081  
973-376-4930

Summit Free Public Library  
75 Maple Street  
Summit, NJ 07901  
908-273-0350

Nancy Thompson Library  
PO Box 411  
Union, NJ 07083  
908-527-2017

Union Twp. Free Public Library  
Friberger Park  
Union, NJ  
908-851-5450

Westfield Memorial Library  
550 East Broad Street  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
908-789-4090



## **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 they may be glad to see you home, but your return can be stressful for you and for them. 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.

### **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark**

505 South Avenue East

Cranford, NJ 07016

(908) 497-3902

Adult Services, children & family services, child protective services in-Home Hispanic Family Services, family and adoption services, emergency food and nutrition network, immigration assistance. Fee for service, some insurance accepted, slide scale available.

### **Family and Children's Services**

Main Office: 40 North Avenue

Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 352-7474

Midtown Office: 16 Jefferson Avenue

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

908-372-1007

Individual, family and group counseling services Fees may be charged on a sliding scale.

### **Jewish Families Services of Central Jersey**

655 Westfield Avenue,

Elizabeth, NJ 07208

908-352-8375

Individual, family and group counseling services Fees may be charged on a sliding scale.

### **Proceed, Inc.**

1126 Dickinson Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07201

908-351-7727

908-353-5185 (Fax)

Individual, family, group and couples counseling; insurance, fee for service, Slide, Bi-Lingual Services

### **United Family and Children's Society**

305 West 7th Street

Plainfield, NJ 07060

info@unitedfamily.org

908-755-4848

Individual, family, group and couples counseling; insurance, fee for service, sliding scale

### **Resolve Community Counseling Center**

1830 Front Street

Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

908-322-9180

Individual, couples and family counseling services and parent education programs.



## **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 DCPD in your area. Please contact the office that applies to your location.**

**Union Central #571**

570 South Avenue East  
Cranford, NJ 07016  
908-497-1488 or 866-224-1914

**Union East #566**

80 West Grand Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
908-820-3000 or 800-847-1738

**Union West #568**

Park Madison Building  
200 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-754-0952 or 800-847-1750

## **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 the Union County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at 908-353-4715. You can also contact Central Jersey Legal Services at 60 Prince Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208 at 908-354-4340. From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner’s Self-Help Legal Clinic, PO 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 the Union County Family Court Building, 2 Broad Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Annex, Elizabeth, NJ 07207, 908-659-4600. There is a possible fee. You can also call 1-877-NJKIDS1 for more information about this.

### **PAYING CHILD SUPPORT**

If you have kids that you did not have custody of before you went to prison, there may be a child support order requiring you to pay a certain amount every month for their support. Even if you did not go to court — if, for example, the parent

with custody filed for the order while you were incarcerated — the court can still order you to pay child support. The amount you pay in child support is tied to your income, and if the court does not know your income, they will assume you are working 40 hours a week at minimum wage. Child support payments are usually taken out of your paycheck. If you have not paid at all or missed payments, you will owe “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 only if there is a warrant. If the warrant is cleared the client must pay \$100 restoration fee to DMV unless waived by court order. Here are some things you can do:

### **Union County Child Support**

1143-1145 E. Jersey Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
1-877-655-4371

**To enforce an existing order**

### **Union County Courthouse Annex**

New Annex Building, 2 Elizabeth Plaza, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Elizabeth, NJ 07205  
1-877-655-4371

**To establish or change an order**

### **Union County Division of Social Services**

342 Westminster Ave.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
1-877-655-4371

**To locate a parent prior to an order**

## **D. Domestic Violence 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:

### **New Jersey Coalition for Battered Women:**

(800)-572-SAFE.

### **Domestic Abuse Hotline for Men and Women:**

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

### **Center for Family Services-Services Empowering the Rights of Victims (SERV)**

24 Hr. Hotline: 856-881-3335

### **NJ Coalition for Battered Women**

800-572-7233

## **Project Protect**

Hotline: 908-355-4357

## **YWCA Union County**

Hotline: 908-355-4357 (24/7)



## **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 you 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 Union 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 Centers**

#### **Plainfield Public Library**

800 Park Ave.  
Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-757-1111 ext. 122  
[literacy@plfdpl.info](mailto:literacy@plfdpl.info)  
[www.plainfieldlibrary.info/](http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info/)  
Test offered in English and Spanish

#### **Union County College**

40 West Jersey St.  
Elizabeth, NJ 07202  
908-659-5154  
Test offered in English and Spanish

### **GED Classes**

#### **Urban Workforce Advantage**

Elizabeth Center  
49 Broad Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Elizabeth, NJ 07201  
908-355-2288

#### Union City Center

3608 Bergenline Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Union City, NJ 07087  
201-865-1199

#### **Linden Adult Education School**

Linden High School  
121 W. St. Georges Avenue  
Linden, NJ 07036  
908-486-5432 ext. 8348

## **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 resources for Union County area.

## **Local Area Colleges**

### **New Jersey Institute of Technology**

150 Bleeker St.  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(973) 596-3000

### **Montclair State University**

1 Normal Ave.  
Montclair, NJ 07043  
973-655-4000

### **Seton Hall University.**

400 South Orange Avenue  
South Orange, NJ 07079  
973-761-9000

### **Union County College**

Cranford Campus: 908-709-7000

1033 Springfield Avenue

Cranford, NJ 07016

Elizabeth Campus: 908-965-6000

40 West Jersey Street

Elizabeth, NJ 07202

Plainfield Campus: 908-412-3599

232 East Second Street

Plainfield, NJ 07060

Scotch Plains Campus: 908-412-3599

1700 Raritan Road

Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

### **University of Northern New Jersey**

25 Commerce Drive

Cranford, NJ 07016

908-300-5600

### **Kean University**

1000 Morris Ave.

Union, NJ 07083

(908) 737-5326

[www.kean.edu](http://www.kean.edu)

### **Rutgers University -- Newark**

190 University Ave.

Newark, NJ 07102

973-353-1766

### **DeVry University**

630 US Highway 1

North Brunswick, NJ 08902

(732) 729-3960

### **Lincoln Technical School**

2299 Vauxhall Road

Union, NJ 07083

908-964-7800



## **CAN I GET FINANCIAL AID?**

To pay for school, 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 at **888-576-5529** for **Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ)**, which provides both information and referrals. The Central Jersey Legal Services, 198 W State Street, Trenton, at 609-695-6249 also serves Union County.

#### **Central Jersey Legal Services**

Union County Office  
60 Prince Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
(908) 354-4340

From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner’s Self-Help Legal Clinic, PO Box 768, Newark, NJ 07101.

### **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  
PO 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 1-888-576-5529, or go to the LSNJ website, where you can download it for free at: <http://www.lsnj.org/english/crime/municipalcourt/clearingyourrecord.cfm>.

### **Central Jersey Legal Services**

Union County Office  
60 Prince Street  
Elizabeth, NJ 07208  
(908) 354-4340

## **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](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 toward 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 pages to use to plan your first days out of prison. There are some questions to ask yourself about what you plan 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION Checklist

Documents	Have	Need
Social Security Card	_____	_____
Birth Certificate	_____	_____
County Identification	_____	_____
Driver's License	_____	_____
Non-driver's Identification	_____	_____
Certificate of Naturalization	_____	_____
Green Card	_____	_____
Military Discharge Papers	_____	_____
Passport	_____	_____
High School or General Education Diploma	_____	_____
Prison Release Papers	_____	_____

**Other things I need to do  
(job leads, appointments, prescriptions, etc.):**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Important Names and Phones Numbers  
(Parole, Mentor, Emergency Contact)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_