

The Mercer 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

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
Mercer County One Stop	609-292-0682
Social Security Office	1-800-772-1213
Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (Woman's Space, Inc.)	
Bilingual and TTY accessible	1-800-572-7233

The Mercer 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.

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. Provided 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 **Mercer 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. **You can also visit your local library to get free internet access, (see page 43) or www.mercercounty.org** for more county information.

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 at:

Social Security Administration

635 S. Clinton Ave. 2nd floor
Trenton, NJ 08611

**Office hours M, Tu, Th, F 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. You will need to show proof of identification. **Prison release papers count as proof of identification. Also, use your NJDOC Temporary ID card.**

To save time you can download the application online (www.ssa.gov/replace_sscard.html).



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 Mercer 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 and 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. You will need to call for the fee amounts.

East Windsor Township

East Windsor Health Dept.

16 Lanning Boulevard

East Windsor, NJ 08520

Phone: (609) 443-4000

Fax: (609) 443-8303

Ewing Township

Municipal Building

2 Jake Garzio Drive

Ewing, NJ 08628

Phone: 609-883-2900 x7658

Hamilton Township

PO Box 00150

2100 Greenwood Avenue

Hamilton Twsp Health Dept.

Hamilton, NJ 08609

Phone: 609-890-3820

Hightstown Borough

Municipal Building

156 Bank Street

Hightstown, NJ 08520

Phone: (609) 490-5100

Fax: (609) 371-0267

Hopewell Borough

88 East Broad Street

Hopewell, NJ 08525

Phone: (609) 466-2636 x13
Fax: (609) 466-8511

Hopewell Township

Municipal Building
201 Washington Crossing-
Pennington Road
Titusville, NJ 08560-1410
Phone: 609-737-0120 x636
Fax:

Lawrence Township

2207 Lawrenceville Road
P.O. Box 6006
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Phone: (609) 844-7089
Fax: (609) 896-0412

Pennington Borough

30 North Main Street
Pennington, NJ 08534
Phone: (609) 737-0276
Fax: (609) 737-9780

Princeton

1 Monument Drive
Princeton, NJ 08540-
Phone: (609) 497-7608
Fax: (609) 924-7627

Robbinsville Township

1 Washington Blvd, Suite 6
Robbinsville, NJ 08691
Phone: (609) 918-0002
Fax: (609) 259-6032

Trenton City

City Hall
319 E. State St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone: (609) 989-4117
Fax: (609) 989-4252

West Windsor Township

271 Clarksville Road
PO Box 38
West Windsor, NJ 08550
Phone: (609) 936-8400
Fax: (609) 799-2044

C. County Identification

You can obtain a county identification card by going to the Mercer County Clerk's office (listed below). You will need a valid birth certificate OR naturalization certificate OR resident alien card and a valid NJ Motor Vehicle License OR a voter registration card OR lease agreement. **If you are unable to produce proof of residency, you must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or blood relative. That person must meet the identification requirements as well as sign on your behalf, with a valid New Jersey ID or driver's license.** There is a \$20.00 fee for the County ID.

County Clerk's Office

240 West State Street-6th Floor
(Old Capital Plaza Hotel)
Trenton, NJ 08068
609-989-6465

MERCER COUNTY CONNECTION

Mercer County's innovative, new outreach center provides a wide range of information and services to the citizens of Mercer County, at one convenient location:

Hamilton Square Shopping Center
Highway 33 at Paxson Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08690
609-890-9800

Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10 AM - 6:00 PM
Tuesday & Thursday 10 AM - 8:00 PM
Saturday 10 AM - 3:00 PM

Services Provided:

Passport Applications/Photos
Notary Services
Voter Registration
Absentee Ballots
Recycling Buckets
County Maps
Government & Community Program Information

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 Mercer 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 <http://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 the Regional Service Center (see below).

If you have internet access, this fee can be paid online at <http://www.state.nj.us/mvc>. You can pay your surcharges and parking tickets on this web site as well.

MVC LOCATIONS IN MERCER COUNTY
For questions, please call 1 (888) 486-3339

Location	Bakers Basin 3200 Brunswick Pike Route 1 North Lawrenceville, NJ 08648	Trenton 120 S. Stockton & Front Street Trenton, NJ 08611
Types of Facilities & Hours	Agency, Driver Testing Mon 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tu 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. W/Th/F 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sat 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Inspection M-F 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sa 7 a.m.-12 p.m.	Agency Mon 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tu 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. W/Th/F 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sat 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Suspension/Restoration Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sat- no Susp/Rest service;

	Road Testing M-F 8 a.m.-4 p.m.	M-F only
Late closing	Agency, Driver Testing Tu 7:30 p.m.	Agency Tu 7:30 p.m.

Regional Office: Trenton Agency
120 S. Stockton & Front St.
Trenton, NJ 08611

Services: Driver conferences, driver records, (issuances and inquiries), points and surcharge (inquiries), suspensions and restorations.

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

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

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

SIX POINT SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION

Primary Documents:

(4 Points)

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

Secondary Documents:

(3 Points)

- Civil Marriage/Domestic partnership/ Civil Union Certificate: Issued by the Municipality or State
- Order of Decree of Divorce
- Court Order for Legal Name Change: Signed by a judge or county clerk
- US Military Photo/Retiree Card
- (2 Points)
- U.S. Military Discharge Papers (DD214)

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

You can get a brochure on this new “Six Point” system from the MVC offices listed above or from the Motor Vehicle Commission web site, 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

Closest field office to Mercer County

Peter Rodino Jr. Federal Building
970 Broad Street, Newark NJ 07102

Application Support Center

24 Commerce Ave.
Newark, NJ 07102

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 **\$290.00** for processing. **If you have any questions or concerns about your status as a result of your criminal conviction, call Legal Services of New Jersey at 1-888-576-5529 before going to immigration.**
\$450.00 for a renewal
\$1140.00 for a new

H. Military Discharge Papers

FYI: You may have the opportunity to meet with the Veterans Administration (VA) liaison from the Veterans Administration during your incarceration. The VA liaison can assist you in requesting a copy of your DD214 (discharge papers) by completing the SF-180 form. Please notify your institution's **P.R.E.P.A.R.E** social worker for assistance with your requests and to obtain information on your veteran status. You can also obtain the SF-180 by writing the Veteran Benefit Administration in NJ or the NPRC, which is the main record depository.

Veterans Benefit Administration in New Jersey

20 Washington Pl., 3rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Main records depository

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

Mercer County Veterans Affairs

2280 Hamilton Ave.
Hamilton, NJ 08619
609-989-6120
Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Upon your release, you can also visit the following web site 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 Mercer County Clerks Office at:

Mercer County Clerk's Office

209 South Broad St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
(Old Capital Plaza Hotel)
609-989-6464
Passport desk: 609-989-6473

Mercer County Connection

957 Highway 3 Ste. 13
Hamilton, NJ 08690
609-890-9800

(Passport Hours)
M, W, F: 10:00am-5:30pm
Tu & Thu: 10:00am-7:30pm
Sat 10:00am-2:30pm

You will need to bring:

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

\$110.00 Passport Services fee (must be in the form of check or money order)

\$35.00 Mercer County Clerk processing fee (payable either by cash or check)

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 your 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 Mercer 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.

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 Mercer 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. 211 is multi-lingual and accepts TTY callers



B. Shelter

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

Catholic Charities – Diocese of Trenton

383 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08607-1423
609-394-5181 (Central Administrative Services)
800-360-7711 (Access, Help and Information Center)
Rapid re-housing and housing services

Arm and Arm/ Better Together

Princeton Location

61 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

Trenton Location

123 E. Hanover St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-9355

Rental Assistance, Emergency Financial Assistance, Housing stability services and homelessness resources. No referral required.

Home Front

1880 Princeton Ave.
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-989-9417

Shelter, Food & Clothing for Homeless Families; Short Term Shelter; Housing Search for families who are taking care of children. No referral required.

YWCA of Trenton

Main Office:

140 East Hanover St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-8291

Dunham Hall Residence (housing):

127 Academy St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-396-2413

Housing/Rooms, Rental Assistance for **women**

ADULTS ONLY

Rescue Mission of Trenton

98 Carroll Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609.695.1436 (main office)
609.695.6479 (emergency shelter)

Shelter Location

89 Ewing Street
Trenton, NJ 08609

Shelter Hours: 4 pm – 8 am daily
Shelter, Food, Clothing, Addiction Services for adult men and women, transitional housing is available on a limited basis.

C. Food/Clothing

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

Food Pantries/Soup Kitchens

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



FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

Site: 211 Kuser Rd.

Hamilton, NJ 08690

Phone: 609-585-9186

Hours: Pantry distributes food on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00am-1:00pm. Call for an appointment.

RISE (FORMERLY COMMUNITY ACTION SERVICE

CENTER, INC.)

Site: 116 N. Main St.

Hightstown, NJ 08520

Phone: (609) 443-4464

Website: info@rise-community-services.org

Hours: Monday-Wed 9:00am-12:00pm and the first and third Wednesday of every month from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

This site provides families and individuals with a food pantry, emergency shelter assistance, help finding a job, finding affordable childcare, summer program for children and domestic violence prevention for adults and youths.

LAWRENCE COMMUNITY CENTER

Site: 295 Eggerts Crossing Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Phone: 609-883-3379

Email: lawrencecomctr@homefrontnj.org

Website: www.homefrontnj.org

Hours: 1st and 3rd Thursday from 12:00pm-4:00pm

This site provides a pantry, social services, and a summer camp.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES-DIOCESE OF TRENTON



Site: 132 N. Warren Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Phone: 609-394-8847

Hours: Call for hours

Website: www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org

This site provides pre-packaged food bags that provide 3 meals per day for 3 days of each household member. Residents in need can also “shop” for gently-used clothing and household items at the free store.

CRISIS MINISTRY OF MERCER COUNTY

Site 1: 123 E. Hanover Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Hours: M-F 9:30am-12:00pm

Site 2: 61 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08542

M, W, & Th 1:30pm-4:00pm; Tu 1:30pm-7:00pm

Mail: 123 E. Hanover Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Phone: 609-396-9355

Website: www.thecrisisministry.org.

Contact: Director of Food Service, Mark Smith

This site provides groceries to low income people

TURNING POINT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Site: 15 South Broad Street

Trenton, NJ 08608

Phone: 609-393-9574

Website: www.turningpointumc.net

Hours: Food pantry distribution- 3rd Saturdays from 1:30pm-3:00pm

This site provides a monthly food pantry.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Site: 601 North Clinton Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08638

Phone: 609-393-8009

Email: leonard.hthta@gmail.com

Contact: Liz Leonard

Hours: Pantry-Mon, Tues, Wed 10:00a,-1:00pm

This site provides a food pantry and an after school learning lab.



JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Site: 150 North Clinton Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08609

Phone: 609-394-9816

Hours: 3rd Saturday of a five-Saturday month and 1st Saturday of a four Saturday month. Lunch is served 11:30-1:00pm.

This site provides a monthly meal program for the community, free clothing and Thanksgiving baskets.

MOUNT CARMEL GUILD EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Site: 73 North Clinton Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08609

Phone: 609-392-3402

Email: information@mtcarmelguild.org

Website: www.mtcarmelguild.org

Hours: Contact for hours

This site provides a three to five day supply of groceries, utility assistance (funds permitted), limited financial assistance to those who have no prescription coverage, basic supplies for babies, personal hygiene items and clothing (as available) and referrals to additional services within the community.

RESCUE MISSION OF TRENTON



Site: 98 Carroll Street, Trenton, NJ 08609

Mailing address: P.O. Box 790, Trenton, NJ 08605

Phone: 609-695-1436 ext. 139

Email: See website.

Website: www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org

Hours: *Soup Kitchen* – Every Sun: 11am-12pm; 1st Saturday of a five-Saturday month 11:00-12:00pm

This site provides an emergency shelter, food and clothing to homeless individuals.

TRENTON AREA SOUP KITCHEN (TASK)



Escher Street Site: 72 1/2 Escher Street, Trenton, NJ 08605

Mail: P.O. Box 872, Trenton, NJ 08605

Phone: 609-695-5456 ext. 114

Contact: Charlie Orth

Hours: Mid-day meal is served Mon-Fri 11:00-1:00pm (doors open at 10:30am); late trays are available at the side door from

1:00pm-2:00pm; evening meal is served Mon-Thu 3:30pm-4:50pm; late trays are available at the side door from 5:00-5:30pm. **Children receive breakfast bags in addition to a hot meal**

South Trenton Sites: First Baptist Church, 128 Centre Street

Phone: 609-393-8810

Contact: Rev. Liz Congdon

Hours: Dinner is served Mon-Wed from 4:00-5:30pm

Site 2: St. Stanislaus Church, 60 Randall Avenue

Phone: 609-393-4826 or 609-216-2314

Contact: Frank Zelinski

Hours: Dinner is served Thursdays from 4:30pm-6:00pm

West Trenton Site: Trinity Cathedral Church, 801 West State Street

Phone: 609-902-0427

Contact: Rev. Christopher Cox

Hours: Dinner is served Thursdays from 5:00pm-6:30pm

Hamilton Site: Medallion Care, 1 Electronics Drive

Phone: 609-586-0766

Contact: Amy Posner

Hours: Mid-day meal is served Monday through Friday from 12:00pm-1:00pm

Hightstown Sites: First Presbyterian Church of Hightstown, 320 North Main Street

Phone: 609-558-0055

Contact: Mark Dahlinger

Hours: Dinner is served Mondays from 4:00pm-5:30pm

Site 2: First United Methodist Church of Hightstown, 187 Stockton Street

Phone: 609-448-0041

Contact: Pastor Hedi Bak

Hours: Dinner is served Thursdays from 4:30pm-6:00pm

Princeton Sites: Princeton United Methodist Church, 7 Vandeventer Ave. & Nassau St.

Phone: 609-924-2613

Contact: Larry Apperson

Hours: Dinner is served Wednesdays from 5:00pm-6:30pm

Site 2: First Baptist Church of Princeton, John Street and Paul Robeson Place

Phone: 609-924-0877

Contact: Carlton Branscomb

Hours: Dinner is served Tuesdays from 5:00pm-7:00pm

TRINITY CATHEDRAL FOOD PANTRY



Site: 801 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618

Phone: 609-392-3805

Website: www.TrinityCathedralNJ.org

Hours: Friday Community Luncheon (every Friday) from 12:00pm-1:00pm and a food pantry is also on site.



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 \$2.00 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 web site, click on the “trip planner”. For your Mercer County travel convenience, 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 THE DISABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS

Transportation is generally geared toward seniors, disabled, individuals with AIDS or HIV and others with significant needs. Some agencies provide transportation for their program participants only. Contact the agencies below to determine eligibility requirements.

Interfaith Caregivers-Greater Mercer County

3635 Quakerbridge Road, Suite 16

Hamilton, NJ 08619

609-393-9922

Email: info@icgmc.org

Mercer County Board of Social Services

200 Woolverton St.
P.O. Box 1450
Trenton, NJ 08650
609-989-4320 or 609-989-4491
Hours: M, W, Th, F 8:30am-4:30pm
Tues 8:30am-8:30pm

Trade Transportation

300 Scotch Road
Trenton, NJ 08638
609-530-1971

Office of Amtrak Access

800-872-7245

Greyhound Customers with Disabilities Travel Assistance Line

800-752-4841



E. Money

Once you are released from custody, you will need a source of income until you can find a job. (see section on “Finding a Job” for job seeking information).

The DOC does not provide any “gate money,” except for the money you may have in your inmate account. If it is possible to save any money before you are released, you should try to do so. Parole may give emergency funds, based on needs, but it’s at their discretion—as 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)

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.

Mercer County Board of Social Services

200 Woolverton St.

P.O. Box 1450

Trenton, NJ 08650

800-564-1595 (toll free information)

609-989-6248 (Work First NJ Case Management Unit)

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Tuesday, 8:30 am – 8:30 pm



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 Veterans Administration 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-NJ4U**.

The closest VA Benefit Administration is located at:

110A Meadowlands Parkway, Suite 102

Secaucus NJ 07094

201-223-7787

Regional Office

20 Washington Pl., 3rd Floor

Newark, NJ 07102

973-645-1441

The nearest Veterans Services Office is located at:

2280 Hamilton Avenue, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Phone: (609) 989-6120

Edward Mazzeo, Veteran Service Officer
Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Each office can assist you with your Veterans service needs.

- Transportation to and from VA medical facilities
- Employment
- Vocational Rehab
- Mercer County One Stop Career Center
- Social Services
- War Veterans Re-Adjustment Counseling
- Affordable Housing Emergency and Transitional Housing
- Vet Center Clinic

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

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

Federal Veterans Information:

www.va.gov

Info for NJ Veterans:

www.vetsinfo.com

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

New Jersey Veterans Guide:

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

VA Home Loans:

www.homeloans.va.gov

Veterans Counseling Service Center:

www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html

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

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

parents. You can inquire about WIC at the city and county welfare offices.

Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support

The transition from prison back to society may take some time to get adjusted and we want to provide you with options to lessen the burden. Taking care of your mind and body will be important for your success. Below are a few places to 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](tel:1-855-568-0545) (10a-6p, M-F; 10a-4p, Sa)

Call (Medical COVID-19 Questions): [1-800-962-1253](tel: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 aftercare once you are released from custody. Change in your daily routine 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 Mercer 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 complete 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 Mercer County go to:

Mercer County Board of Social Services
200 Woolverton St.

P.O. Box 1450
Trenton, NJ 08650
609.989.4320 or 1-800-564-1595
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday, 8:30 am – 8:30 pm

If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for health care benefits through the **Veterans 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 this program before you are released.** Contact the **Aids Drug Distribution Program** at 609-588-7038 or toll free 877-613-4533, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm to apply.

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, here are some facilities 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.

MERCER COUNTY HEALTHCARE LOCATIONS

Capital Health Regional Medical Center

750 Brunswick Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08638
609-394-6000
Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

Capital Health Medical Center-Hopewell

1 Capital Way
Pennington, NJ 08534
609-303-4000
Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

Capital Health- Hamilton

1445 Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd.
Hamilton, NJ 08619

609-588-5050

Clinic, outpatient services, primary care

Henry J. Austin Health Center

Site 1: 321 N Warren Street

Trenton, NJ 08608

Site 2: 317 Chambers Street (Chambers Manor Family Practice)

Trenton, NJ 08609

Site 3: 112 Ewing Street

Trenton, NJ 08609

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm and Sat 9:00am-1:00pm

(weekend hours only at Warren Street site)

Main Phone Number: 609-278-5900

Clinics, Dental Care, Medicaid, Medical Care, Women's health care

Mercer County HIV Consortium/Resource Center

1080 Hamilton Ave.

Trenton, NJ 08629

Contact: Joe Sirak, Coordinator

Telephone: 609-278-9555

Fax: 609-278-0553

Robert Wood Johnson Hospital at Hamilton

1 Hamilton Health Place

Hamilton, NJ 08690

609-586-7900

Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

St. Francis Medical Center

601 Hamilton Avenue

Trenton, NJ 08629

609-599-5000

Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

University Medical Center at Princeton

1 Plainsboro Road

Plainsboro, NJ 08536

609-853-7000

Clinics, Medicaid, Medical Care, General Acute Medical Care

Hospitals in Mercer County

Capital Health Medical Center Hopewell

1 Capital Way

Pennington, NJ 08534

609-303-4000

Capital Health Regional Medical Center

750 Brunswick Ave.

Trenton, NJ 08638
609-394-6000

Robert Wood Johnson Hospital at Hamilton

1 Hamilton Health Place
Hamilton, NJ 08690
609-586-7900
St. Francis Medical Center

St. Francis Medical Center

601 Hamilton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08629
609-599-5000

University Medical Center at Princeton

1 Plainsboro Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536
609-853-7000

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 preventative care. Staff there may help you apply for Medicaid, charity care or other benefits if you are eligible.

MERCER COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES

640 S Broad Street
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650
609.989.6526

Dept. of Public Health

609/278-7165

**Family Planning Centers in Mercer County Area:
Planned Parenthood**

Administrative Offices

69 E Newman Springs Road
Shrewsbury, NJ 07702
732-842-9300 or 1-800-230-PLAN

Trenton Health Center

437 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-599-4881

Services offered: abortion services, birth control, HIV testing, Morning-After Pill (emergency contraception), pregnancy testing & services, STD testing, treatment & vaccines and women's health care.

**Hamilton Square
Golden Crest Corporate Center**

2279 Route 33
Golden Crest Corporate Center, Suite 510
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690
609-599-4881

Services offered: abortion services, birth control, HIV testing,
men's health care, Morning-After Pill (emergency
contraception), pregnancy testing & services, STD testing,
treatment & vaccines and women's health care.

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

C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS

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

Hamilton Township Division of Health

2100 Greenwood Avenue
Telephone #: (609) 890-3647
Fax #: (609) 890-3647 or 609-890-3884
Clinic Session: Tuesdays 9:00am-12:00pm
Walk-in Clinic (Free and Confidential)
STD – Counseling Testing and Treatment available
HIV – Counseling & Testing available

Chambers Manor Family Practice

317 Chambers Street
Trenton, NJ 08611
609.392.2635

Henry J. Austin Health Center

112 Ewing Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609.396.9600

Henry J. Austin Health Center

321 N Warren St
Trenton, NJ 08608
609.989.3599

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation

4 North Broad Street, 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608
609.396.8322
Hotline: 800-433-0254
Email: info@hyacinth.org

Case management, support groups, buddy services and treatment advocacy

Mercer County HIV Consortium/Resource Center

1080 Hamilton Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08629
Contact: Joe Sirak, Coordinator
Telephone: 609-278-9555
Fax: 609-278-0553

NJ AIDS/STD Hotline

1-800-624-2377 – 24 hours/day
1.800.433.0254
Live Text: Send a text message to 8006242377@njpies.org
Live Chat: visit the webpage www.njhivstdline.org
The hotlines provide referrals, general information, counseling, testing locations and treatment information.

Rapid Testing Centers

Capital Health-Regional Campus, Emergency Department
(for Emergency Department patients only)
705 Brunswick Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-278-5946

City of Trenton STD Clinic
218 North Broad St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-3242 ext. 4

Henry J. Austin Health Center
321 North Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-278-5946

New Horizon Treatment Center
4 132 Perry Street
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-394-8988

Planned Parenthood of Mercer-Trenton
437 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-964-7952

St. Francis Medical Center-Emergency Department
(for Emergency Department patients only)
601 Hamilton Ave.

Trenton, NJ 08629
609-599-5263

St. Francis Medical Center-Infectious Disease Center (EIP Site)
601 Hamilton, Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08629
609-599-5560

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.

Rutgers Global TB Institute
NJ Medical School
Clinical Services
225 Warren St.
Newark, NJ 07103
973-672-6232

Tuberculosis Program
50 East Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 363
Trenton, NJ 08625-0363
609-826-4878

Princeton Regional Health Department
1 Monument Drive
P.O. Box 390
Princeton, NJ 08542
(609)-497-7608

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.

NJ Family Care is available to certain low income parents. In addition to health benefits dental and eyeglasses are offered. For children this service is free. In order to check for eligibility, please call 1-800-701-0710

Henry J. Austin Health Center
321 North Warren Street and 112 Ewing Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-278-5943 and 609-396-9600
Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-4:30pm

Clinics, Dental Care, Medicaid, Medical Care, Women's healthcare

F. Mental Health and 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 Mercer County's treatment resources and each of these will also help with referrals if they can not help you. If you want treatment, you should also ask your parole officer for help — beds in treatment facilities are hard to come by, and they can help get you in. There are Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support group meetings all over Mercer County. To find a meeting near you, call 866-920-1212 (for AA) or 800-992-0401 (for NA). For other self-help group resources, call the New Jersey Self Help Clearinghouse at 800-367-6274. Also, you can call the Addictions Hotline of NJ at 800-238-2333.

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

The Mental Health Administrator for Mercer County is:

Michele Madiou, Administrator
Mercer County Division of Mental Health
640 South Broad Street - PO Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650
(609) 989-6529
Email: mmadiou@verizon.net

Ann Dorocki, Chief
Addictions Services
Dept. of Human Services
640 South Broad St.
PO Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650-0068
609-989-6826
Email: adorocki@mercercounty.org

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
856-302-1811

Burlington Comp Counseling Inc.
75 Washington Street
Mount Holly, NJ 08060
609-267-3610---
Lori Sonemblm----
Accepts Medicaid and has sliding scale payment plan

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
Bayonne, NJ 07002

201-436-1022

Princeton House Behavioral Health

905 Herrontown Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-497-3300

Somerset Treatment Services

110 Rehill Ave
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 Treatment

Association for Advancement of Mental Health

819 Alexander Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
www.AAMH.org
Phone: (609) 452-2088
Offers mental health outpatient services, case management, and
supportive housing.

Catholic Charities-Diocese of Trenton

39 North Clinton Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
Phone: (609)396-4557
Provides outpatient services for adults experiencing
mental illness, including substance abuse issues.

Catholic Charities-Diocese of Trenton

10 Southard St.

Trenton, NJ 08609

Phone: (609)396-4557

Provides partial care for individuals living with mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.

Corner House

Monument Hall

1 Monument Drive

Princeton, NJ 08542

609-924-8018

Hours: Mon-Thur 9:00am-9:00pm; and Fri 9:00am-5:00pm

Provides outpatient services to adolescents, young adults and their families dealing with mental illness and addiction.

Family Guidance Center Corporation

1931 Nottingham Way (Administrative Office)

Hamilton, NJ 08619

www.fgccorp.org

Phone: (609) 586-0668

Access Center: 609-587-6641

Offers behavioral health and substance abuse outpatient services, referrals, and community education.

New Horizon Treatment Services

132 Perry Street

Trenton, NJ 08618

Phone: (609)394-8988

Website: www.nhts.net

Offers outpatient services to individuals living with mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.

Princeton House Behavioral Health-Inpatient

905 Herrontown Rd

Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: (609)497-3300

Website: www.princetonhcs.org

Offers inpatient mental health and addictions services

Princeton House Behavioral Health-Adult

Outpatient Services

741 Mount Lucas Rd

Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: (609) 613-4820 or (888) 437-1610

Website: www.princetonhcs.org

Offers partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs for adults with mental illnesses and/or addictions issues.

Princeton House Behavioral Health-Women's Outpatient Services

1000 Herrontown Road

Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: (609) 613-4321 or (888) 437-1610

Website: www.princetonhcs.org

Offers partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs to women with mental illness and/or addiction issues.

Princeton House Behavioral Health-Hamilton

300 Clocktower Drive, Suite 101

Hamilton, NJ 08690

Phone: (609) 688-2788 or (888) 437-1610

Website: www.princetonhcs.org

Offers partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs for individuals living with a mental illness and/or addiction issues.

Rescue Mission Of Trenton

98 Carroll Street

P.O. Box 790

Trenton, NJ 08605-0790

Phone: (609) 695-1436

Website: www.rescuemissionoftrenton.org

Offers residential, intensive outpatient and outpatient addictions services

Signs Of Sobriety (SOS)

100 Scotch Road 2nd Fl.

Ewing, NJ 08628

Phone: (609)882-7677

(609) 882-7117 (TTY)

Website: www.sosnj.org

Provides communication access and information/referral for recovery services and self-help groups.

Summit Behavioral Health-Princeton Junction

4065 Quakerbridge Road

Princeton, NJ 08550

1-888-465-4187

Website: www.summitbehavioralhealth.com

Offers intensive outpatient and outpatient addictions services.

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

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

G. Emergency Mental Health Services

FYI: If at any time you may want to hurt yourself or someone else, please call 911. If you feel like you may be a danger to your self or others. It is very important that you call someone for help. Here are a few numbers of places that would be more than willing to come to your aid.

In the event of a mental health emergency, call **609-396-HELP (4357)**

***If you are in immediate danger, call 911**

Primary Screening Center for Mercer County:

Capital Health Regional Medical Center

750 Brunswick Avenue

Trenton, NJ 08638

Phone: (609) 989-7297 or (609) 396-4357

H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses and Eye care

Campus Eye Group –

Henry J Austin Health Center

321 N Warren Street

Trenton, NJ 08608
609-989-3599

National Federation of the Blind of New Jersey

69 Prospect Place
Belleville, NJ 07109
973-450-3030

New Eyes for the Needy

549 Millburn Avenue
PO Box 332
Short Hills, NJ 07078
973-376-4903

Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00am-12:30pm; 1:30pm-4:00pm

Friday (closed during July/August) 9:00am-12:00pm

Eligibility: Must be in financial need; have had a recent eye exam. (New Eyes does not pay for eye exams but does provide referrals); have no other resources available to pay for glasses, including federal or state programs or assistance from local charitable organizations; income at or below the U.S. poverty guidelines

A New Eyes voucher typically covers only the cost of a basic pair of single or bifocal eyeglasses.



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 or 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. A 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.

Mercer County One Stop Career Center

26 Yard Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08650
Phone: 609-989-6523
Toll Free : 877-989-AJOB
Hours : M, W, Th, F 8 :30am-5 :00pm
Tuesdays 8 :30am-8 :30pm

For Vocational Rehabilitation Services:

ARC of Mercer County
180 Ewingville Rd.

Ewing, NJ 08638
609-393-3599
Supported employment, extended employment, pre-vocational
evaluation and work adjustment training

Christopher House
10 Southard Street
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-396-4557
Supported employment

Allies, Inc.
2277 State Highway 33, Suite 415
Hamilton, NJ 08690
609-584-5522
www.alliesnj.org
Supported employment

Opportunities for All
P.O. Box 8617
Princeton, NJ 08542
609-452-9753
Supported employment

CPNJ
354 South Broad St.
Trenton, NJ 08608
609-392-4004
Supported employment

Community Enterprises, Inc.
707 Alexander Road. Building 2, Suite 208
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-951-9900
Supported employment

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

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

Protections for Licensed Occupations:

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

D. Benefits for Employers Who Hire People with Criminal Records

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

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

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

Federal Bonding Program: Provides bonding “or insurance coverage” for employers who hire individuals with criminal

histories who are otherwise qualified but cannot gain employment due to their criminal backgrounds. Please contact your local one stop for more information:

Mercer County One Stop Career Center

26 Yard Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08650
Phone: 609-989-6523
Toll Free : 877-989-AJOB
Hours : M, W, Th, F 8 :30am-5 :00pm
Tuesdays 8 :30am-8 :30pm

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.

Hickory Corner Branch Library
138 Hickory Corner Road
East Windsor, NJ 08520
Phone: (609) 448-1330

Hightstown Memorial Branch
114 Franklin Street
Hightstown, NJ 08520
Phone: (609) 448-1474

Mercer County Library-Twin Rivers Branch
276a Abbingdon Dr.
Hightstown, NJ 08520
609-443-1880

Hopewell Public Library
13 East Broad St.
Hopewell, NJ 08525
609-466-1625

Pennington Free Public Library
30 North Main Street
Pennington, NJ 08534
609-737-2610

Princeton Library
65 Witherspoon St.
Princeton, NJ 08542
609-924-8822

Woodrow Wilson School Public Library
Prospect Ave
Princeton, NJ 08544
609-452-3000

Social of Art Libraries
28 Berrien Ave.
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
609-799-8793

Library Development Solution
64 Princeton Hightstown Rd.
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
609-275-4821

West Windsor Branch Library
333 N. Post Rd.
Princeton, Junction, NJ 08550
609-799-0462

Trenton Public Library-Briggs Branch
1115 Greenwood Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-392-7856

Trenton Public Library-Cadwalader Branch
200 N. Hermitage Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08618
609-392-1828

City of Trenton Free Public Library
120 Academy St.
Trenton, NJ 08068
609-392-7188

East Trenton Public Library
701 N. Clinton Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08638
609-392-7866

Mercer County Library System-Ewing Branch
61 Scotch Rd.
Trenton, NJ 08628
609-882-3130

Hamilton Twp. Public Library
1 Municipal Dr.
Hamilton, NJ 08619
609-581-4060

Hollowbrook Branch Library
320 Hollowbrook Rd.
Trenton, NJ 08638
609-883-5914

Mercer County Library System-Lawrence Branch
2751 Brunswick Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08648
609-882-9246

Trenton Public Library-Skelton Branch
943 S. Broad St.
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-392-7876

Washington Twp. Branch Library
42 Allentown Robbinsville
Trenton, NJ 08691
609-259-2150



Reconnecting with Family

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

Hotlines for Family Services Resources

NJ Child Abuse/ Neglect Hotline:

1(877) NJABUSE (652-2873)

Child Care Hotline:

1(800) 332-9227

NJ Child Support Hotline:

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

Division of Family Development:

1(800) 792-9773

NJ Division of Youth and Family Services:

1 (800) 331-DYFS (3937)

Family Health Line:

1 (800) 328-3838

Family Help Line (for stressed parents):

1 (800) THE KIDS (843-2537)

National Domestic Violence Hotline:

1(800) 799-7233

NJ Domestic Violence Hotline:

1(800) 572-7223

Parents Anonymous:

1(800) 843-5437

A. Family Counseling Resources

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

Family Guidance Center

946 Edgewood Avenue
Trenton, NJ 08609
609-393-1626
Family preservation services

Mercer Street Friends Center

151 Mercer Street (Administrative Office)
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-396-1506 (general inquiries)
Parenting Programs: 609-278-6900
222 North Hermitage Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08618
Parenting programs, family reunification, family support, etc.

Trenton North Ward Family Success Center

1554 Princeton Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08638
609-393-2980
Offers family support, information and services. All services are free and confidential.

Trenton South Ward Family Success Center

635 South Clinton Ave.
Trenton, NJ 08611
609-695-6274
Offers family support, information and services. All services are free and confidential.

Trinity Counseling Service

22 Stockton Street
Princeton, NJ 08540
609-924-0060
Individual counseling, family counseling, family preservation, couples counseling, etc.

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

Mercer North LO- #673

3131 Princeton Pike
Building 6, Suite 202
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-530-7200
800-392-2735
Fax: 609-530-0203

Mercer South LO - #669

120 S. Stockton St., 2nd Fl
P.O. Box 717
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-5100
800-392-2721
Fax: 609-633-9602

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, 2nd 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, 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. Here are some things you can do:

To locate a parent prior to an order, contact:

Mercer County Board of Social Services
200 Woolverton Street
P.O. Box 01450
Trenton, NJ 08650
1-877-655-4371

To enforce an existing order, contact:

Mercer County Child Support
175 South Broad Street
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650
1-877-655-4371
Hours: M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

To establish or change an order, contact:

Mercer County Family Court Bldg
175 South Broad Street
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, NJ 08650
1-877-655-4371

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:

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

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

WOMANSPACE, INC.
1530 Brunswick Ave.
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
609-394-0136
Email: info@womanspace.org
Emergency Shelter
24-Hr. Hotline: (609) 394-9000

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 Mercer 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

Mercer County Community College
102 North Academy Street
Trenton, NJ 08608-1702
(609) 570-3185
Spanish Language Testing Offered

Hamilton Township Adult School
90 Park Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08690
(609) 631-4100 x3025

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.

Local Area Colleges

Thomas Edison State College
101 West State Street

Trenton, NJ 08608
(888) 442-8372

The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)
2000 Pennington Rd.
Ewing, NJ 08628
(609) 771-2131

Rider University
2083 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(609) 896-5000

Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544
(609) 258-3000

Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Rd
West Windsor, NJ 08550
(609) 586-4800

Westminster Choir College of Rider University
101 Walnut Lane
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 921-7100

Princeton Graduate College
Clio Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544
(609) 258-3030

Strayer University
3150 Brunswick Pike #100
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(609) 406-7600

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 Mercer County legal services please contact the office located nearest to you:

Central Jersey Legal Services
198 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
County: Mercer County
Phone: (609) 695-6249
Fax: (609)392-7952
Website: www.lsnj.org/cjls

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 at the following address.

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 web site, 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
800-685-1111.

Transunion Personal Credit Report:
PO Box 1000, Chester PA 19022
800-888-4213.

Experian:

PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013
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 person's 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 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 some 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: _____

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 (job leads, appointments,
Prescriptions, go to a support group, etc.):**

Notes: _____

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

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____

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