



WELCOME TO NEW JERSEY THE GARDEN STATE!

Information for Newcomers

Last updated February 2026

NEW JERSEY HUMAN SERVICES



This is a welcome packet with a set of resources intended to support you and your family. You will find information about resources and services including legal services, food and income assistance, health care and mental health services, school enrollment, getting a state identification card, and transportation. All the topics have links that will direct you to the indicated websites. There are also flyers and contact information regarding the different services and resources available to New Jersey residents.

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Additional Resources

- New Jersey Department of Human Services Resources ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- New Jersey Office of New Americans Services ([Bilingual: English, Spanish](#))
- New Jersey List of Pro Bono Legal Service Providers ([English](#))
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food and Nutrition Assistance ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- County Social Services Agencies ([DHS Website](#))
- Federally Qualified Health Centers ([DOH Website](#))
- New Jersey Department of Health K-12 Immunizations ([English](#))
- Legal Services for unaccompanied migrant children ([Bilingual: English, Spanish](#))
- Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program ([By District Website](#))
- 5 Things You Should Know About New Jersey Law and Discrimination ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- 5 Things You Should Know About Protections Against Discrimination in School ([Eng.](#), [Span](#))
- Hispanic Women's Resource Centers ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Identity Theft and Phishing ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Avoiding Immigration Services Scams ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Elder Fraud ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- New Jersey Hourly Wage ([English](#))

Need Legal Assistance?

Understanding your immigration status and what options may be available to you and your family to seek immigration relief is important. Here are some resources if you need legal support.

If you are seeking asylum, your case may be in different stages of the asylum application process and you may be scheduled for a court hearing in New Jersey or another state. Here are some important resources and [information](#) for you.

Note: You can learn more about your next step with immigration or court date by calling 1-800-898-7180 or visiting this [website](#). You can also click [here](#) for Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) informational website for individuals who were released from the custody of immigration officials along the southwest border of the United States and instructed to report to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office.

Legal services providers for general assistance

You may call the organizations for a consultation or advice; please note that representation by any of these organizations depends on capacity and is not guaranteed.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

973-643-1924
Call to request a telephonic consult
(consults are scheduled every
Tuesday between 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

732-902-0460
Residents of Monmouth and Ocean Counties
(call on Tuesdays between 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

973-474-9861
Detention-related calls
(Call on Tuesdays/Thursdays between 2:00 pm –
4:00 pm)

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ)

1-732-572-9100 ext. 8782
(statewide, non-detained immigration
matters)
1-888-894-0612

For detained individuals or other
detention-related calls (Call Monday 10:00am -
12:00pm and 2:00pm - 4:00pm,
Wednesday and Fridays 2:00pm - 4:00pm)

Online intake portal (for non-detained
immigration matters and other civil legal issues):
<https://lsnjlawhotline.org>

Immigration legal services for unaccompanied minors or youth

Free legal counsel and social services coordination is available to migrant children and youth under age 21 who arrive in New Jersey as unaccompanied minors seeking refuge.

[Kids in Need of Defense](#): Call or text 201-305-9217, or email UACscreening@njcic.org

Pro Bono (free) Immigration Legal Services Providers are listed [here](#)

Applying for asylum

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Information about applying for asylum

If you are eligible for asylum, you may be permitted to remain in the United States. To apply for asylum, you must file a Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, within one year of your arrival to the United States. You may include your spouse and children who are in the United States on your asylum application at the time you file or at any time until a final decision is made on your case. To include your child on your application, the child must be under 21 and unmarried.

If you have a pending asylum application, you may be eligible to apply for an employment authorization. To apply, you must file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, 150 days after you file your asylum application. You are not eligible to receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) until your asylum application has been pending for at least another 30 days, for a total of 180 days, commonly referred to as the 180-Day Asylum EAD Clock.

I-94s

An I-94 Electronic Form is an admission record that has your entry date to the United States, status, and departure date, if you entered with inspection/valid entry documents. If you have misplaced this document, you can retrieve it here.

Need Food or Income Assistance?

Food pantries

Many food pantries and soup kitchens can help you get a free meal or perishable food. To find a food pantry or soup kitchen near you, call or text 2-1-1. NJ 211 provides daily live assistance 24 hours a day. The service is free, confidential and multilingual. You can simply dial 2-1-1, text by sending your zip code to 898-211, or chat online. Whichever method you choose, you will be communicating with a community resource specialist who has been educated about federal, state and local systems created to help.

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

WIC provides food and nutrition assistance to pregnant women and children up to 5 years old. WIC services are available regardless of immigration status. You can apply at a WIC office. To find one near you, click here.

Fact sheets about WIC are available in multiple languages here

New Jersey Supplemental Assistance Program (NJSNAP)

NJSNAP helps eligible households purchase foods at grocery stores or farmer's markets. Eligible families and qualified immigrants can apply for NJSNAP online by visiting [NJHelps.gov](#) or by going to their local [county social services agency](#).

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

TANF provides temporary cash assistance and emergency housing assistance to eligible families with children to meet their basic needs. Eligible families and qualified immigrants can apply for TANF by visiting [NJHelps.gov](#) or going to their local [county social services agency](#).

General Assistance (GA)

GA provides temporary cash assistance or emergency housing assistance to eligible single individuals to meet their basic needs. Eligible and qualified immigrants can apply for GA by visiting [NJHelps.gov](#) or going to their local [county social services agency](#).

Concerned about accepting benefits and the “Public Charge”?

Some immigrant families worry that applying for benefits such as food, housing, and healthcare assistance could impact their ability to get a green card. Certain people who apply for a green card or visa must pass “public charge” test in which immigration officials assess an individual’s likelihood of depending on public benefits. Public charge does not apply to everyone.

Under the current public charge policy, some immigrant families’ eligibility for public benefits such as food, healthcare assistance, and housing support programs has not changed.

If you are unsure if Public Charge applies to you or a family member, please consult with an immigration attorney. Free legal services are available through the [Office of New Americans Legal Services Program](#), or you can find an pro bono (free) legal services provider [here](#).

Need Health Care and Mental Health Supports?

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)

FQHCs are community-based health centers that provide free or low-cost health care services to individuals who do not have health insurance. Health centers provide a wide range of services that include:

- Comprehensive Primary and Preventive Health Care
- Pediatric Services
- Dental Care
- Women’s Health
- Behavioral/Mental Health
- Lab Services
- HIV/AIDS Counseling and Testing
- And much more.

Health centers are located statewide. To locate the health center nearest you, please visit [here](#).

New Jersey Hospital Care Payment Assistance Program

The program is available to patients for inpatient and outpatient services at all acute care hospitals throughout New Jersey. Medically necessary services may be [eligible](#) for patients who meet income and asset criteria. For more information, check [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Mental Health Supports

[Mental Health Cares](#) offers behavioral health information and referrals to individuals needing emotional support or other mental health concerns. They are available 7 days a week, from 8 am to 8 pm at 1-866-202-HELP (4357) or by texting NJHOPE to 51684.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline If you are having thoughts of suicide or are experiencing a mental health or substance use related crisis, call or text 988.

Sign language users can call 973-870-0677 videophone for emotional support.

Individuals needing addiction treatment assistance can call 1-844-ReachNJ (1-844-732-2465) 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to get connected to treatment, regardless of whether they have health insurance.

Healthcare coverage

New Jersey Medicaid, also known as NJ FamilyCare, provides free or low cost health insurance for eligible individuals and families, including pregnant women, children, and individuals with disabilities. Individuals can self-screen for NJ FamilyCare at [NJHelps](#) and apply online at [NJ FamilyCare](#).

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides free or low-cost healthcare coverage to children under the age of 19 who meet certain family income requirements. To apply, please visit the [NJ FamilyCare website](#).

Immigrant eligibility for Medicaid

Children age 18 or younger and pregnant women who are lawfully present are able to apply for NJ FamilyCare, regardless of when they entered the United States. They do not have to wait five years to be eligible. Adults who are legal permanent residents of the United States must have had that status for at least five years to be eligible for NJ FamilyCare. Please contact NJ FamilyCare for [eligibility](#).

Medical Emergency Payment Program

If you or your child(ren) are residents of New Jersey, have had a recent medical emergency and are not eligible for NJ FamilyCare because you do not meet the citizenship/immigration

requirements, you or your children may be eligible for payment of certain emergency medical services through NJ FamilyCare.

To access the Medical Emergency Payment Program, individuals must:

- be an established New Jersey resident;
- have no documentation from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS); or
 - have lawfully present status (green cards or some visas) or other restricted immigration status but entered the United States on or after August 22, 1996, and you have not resided in the United States for 5 years; or
 - are a non-immigrant (student, child of a worker or visitor on business).
- have income within the appropriate standard for household size
- meet all other Medicaid eligibility requirements.

How do I apply for the Medical Emergency Payment Program for undocumented residents?

When an emergency medical event occurs as described above, the hospital will initiate the application process for the Medical Emergency Payment Program.

- The hospital will ensure that the application and necessary documents are completed before an individual is discharged.
- The hospital will submit the documentation to the appropriate county board of social services, where the eligibility determination will be completed.
- If additional information is required, the board may outreach the applicant or their representative for additional information. Notices of eligibility determinations will be sent to the address on the application.
- Once an individual is determined eligible, the claims will be submitted to Medicaid for payment.

Get Covered NJ - health insurance through the Affordable Care Act

Newcomers are also eligible for health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act. [Get Covered NJ](#) is New Jersey's official health plan marketplace for these plans. Newcomers have the option to apply within 60 days' post arrival, or otherwise wait until open enrollment, which runs from November 1 to January 31.

Need to Enroll Your Children in School?

New Jersey offers free public school from kindergarten (K) age 5 through 12th grade, in the school district where you [reside](#).

Head Start is a school readiness program for children up to age 5 that is free for low income families regardless of immigration status, dependent on [eligibility](#).

Immunizations

Students who do not have the required vaccines may not be able to attend school until they have received the appropriate vaccines or an exemption form has been submitted to the school nurse. You can learn more about required immunizations and how to submit documentation by going [here](#).

Need Identification?

State identification, or photo identification cards, are provided to New Jersey residents regardless of their immigration status. This is solely an identification card and cannot be used for driving purposes.

A New Jersey Driver's License is another form of state identification and required for driving privileges. All applicants applying for a [New Jersey Driver License](#) must be eligible and undergo a [written](#) and [drivers exam](#). You can get a New Jersey license regardless of immigration status.

You can apply in-person at [New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission](#) location.

An alternative to the state identification cards are **city identity cards**. Some cities in New Jersey issue a photo identification card for residents that provide access to various services, programs, and discounts in the city. Please contact the [local municipal/ town hall](#) offices to verify if your city offers these identification cards.

Need Transportation?

NJ TRANSIT is New Jersey's public transportation system. NJ TRANSIT covers a service area with bus, rail and light rail transit linking major points in New Jersey, New York, and Philadelphia.

Where can I find information about fares?

Fares depend upon many factors such as distance traveled, type of ticket purchased, type of transportation utilized, date and/or time of day. For specific trip fares, you need to check the schedule and [route information](#). Tickets for all modes of transportation can be purchased on the [NJ TRANSIT](#) app, at a ticket vending machine, or at a staffed ticket office. Station information with addresses, parking, and ticket office hours can be found [here](#).

What if I need to travel outside of New Jersey, New York, and Philadelphia?

NJ TRANSIT connects with other transportation providers at major locations across the system.

- [Amtrak](#) - provides rail service along the Northeast Corridor and national long-distance rail service. NJ TRANSIT customers can connect to Amtrak at Newark, Trenton, Metropark, New York, and Philadelphia 30th Street stations.
- [BurlLink](#) - operates shuttle bus service in Burlington County from several stations along the River LINE.
- [Dock and Roll Shuttle](#) - connects Monmouth County's shore communities and ferry service to Lower Manhattan.
- [Greyhound](#) - provides intercity bus services to 2,400 locations in North America. NJ TRANSIT customers can connect to Greyhound at Port Authority Bus Terminal, Newark Penn Station, Philadelphia's Greyhound Bus Terminal or Atlantic City.
- [MTA](#) - operates New York City transit subway and buses, Metro-North Railroad, Long Island Rail Road, and other services, and customers can connect to MTA services at New York Penn station, Port Authority Bus Terminal or George Washington Bridge Bus Terminal.
- [New York Waterway](#) - provides trans-Hudson River ferry service with connections available at Hoboken Terminal, Port Imperial, Exchange Place, Pavonia-Newport and other locations along the Hudson waterfront.
- [PATCO](#) - provides rail service between Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia and customers can connect at the Walter Rand Transportation Center (Camden) or Lindenwold.
- [PATH](#) - provides frequent service 24 hours a day between Newark, Jersey City, Hoboken, and New York with connections from NJ TRANSIT at Newark Penn Station or Hoboken Terminal.
- [SEPTA](#) - provides transit service in Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania. NJ TRANSIT customers can connect to SEPTA service at Trenton Transit Center or Philadelphia 30th Street Station.

Things You Should Know About New Jersey's Discrimination Law, Workplace Rights, and Resources

- For information on New Jersey's law against discrimination, please click [here](#) for English and [here](#) for Spanish.
- For information on how to file a discrimination complaint, please click [here](#) for English and [here](#) for Spanish.
- For information about protections from sexual harassment, please click [here](#) for English and [here](#) for Spanish.
- For information about protections from discrimination and harassment in school, please click [here](#) for English and [here](#) for Spanish.

- For information about protections from discrimination in housing, please click [here](#) for English and [here](#) for [Spanish](#).
- For information about protections from discrimination in housing based on the source of lawful income you plan to use to pay rent, please click [here](#) for English and [here](#) for Spanish.
- Click [here](#) for more information on the Department of Labor and Workplace Development Workers' Rights for Immigrant and Refugee Communities, Wage and Hour Laws, Wage Theft Complaints, and more.

For more information on all of New Jersey's resources, please review *New Jersey Department of Human Services Resource Guide*. For English, please click [here](#). For Spanish, please click [here](#)



For more information on the *Office of New Americans*, please click [here](#).

To view this packet online, scan the QR code below:



Know Your Rights: Immigrants' Rights

Every person who lives in or visits New Jersey has rights regardless of their citizenship or immigration status. The following information is designed to help you understand your rights and responsibilities when interacting with immigration enforcement officers, primarily Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers.

Please note that ICE can enter any public space without needing any type of warrant. Public spaces may include: specific areas in the workplace, office lobby, supermarket, retail store, or dining area of a restaurant.

If you encounter an immigration agent or other law enforcement in a public space:

- You may ask to see their badge / identification. If you are unsure if the officer is an immigration agent, you may ask what agency they represent and specifically if they are federal immigration agents.
- You may ask whether you are free to leave.
- You have the right to remain silent and you are not required to answer questions. You may tell the immigration agent that you choose to remain silent.
- If you are not a U.S. citizen and an immigration agent requests your immigration papers, you must show them if you have them with you. If you do not have documentation at the moment of the encounter, you may tell the agent that you want to remain silent or that you want to consult a lawyer before answering any questions.
 - Carry valid U.S. government identification with you at all times.
 - If you have immigration documentation, carry your valid immigration papers, including your employment authorization card, and copies of your I-94s and Notices to Appear with you at all times.
 - Foreign documents should be left at home secured at all times.
 - Do not carry false or fraudulent documents, and never provide false or fraudulent documents to a police officer or immigration agent.
- If an immigration agent asks if they can search you, you have the right to say no. Agents generally do not have the right to search you or your belongings without your consent, a valid warrant, or probable cause. However, if an officer or agent searches you anyway, do not resist. You may tell them: "I do not consent to a search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to speak with an attorney as soon as possible."
- You may ask for an interpreter if they do not speak your language.

This fact sheet provides only general information. This fact sheet does not provide legal advice and is not a substitute for legal help. Each person's situation is different. Please consult an attorney for legal advice for your situation.



State of New Jersey

If immigration agents come to your home:

- You may ask to see their badge / identification. If you are unsure if the officer is an immigration agent, you may ask what agency they represent and specifically if they are immigration agents.
- You may ask the officers or agents why they are there.
- They must have a valid warrant to enter. If they do not produce a warrant, you generally do not have to open your door.
 - If the officers or agents say they have a warrant, you may ask to see it (through a window or slid under the door, for example) before letting them inside.
 - If the warrant is issued by a court and signed by a judge and say "U.S. District Court" or identify a State Court at the top., the officer or agent may enter your home. If the document is not signed by a judge, you are not required to let them inside. You may say: "You are not allowed to enter."
 - An administrative warrant alone does **not** allow agents to enter private areas without your permission. Administrative warrants are not from a court. Administrative warrants say "Department of Homeland Security" and are on Forms I-200 or I-205.
 - Immigration agents are permitted to enter without your permission in an emergency, such as a threat to public safety or a threat to someone's life. However, you still have a right to remain silent and document the interaction, including recording (so long as you don't interfere with their law enforcement activities).
- If the officers or agents force their way into your home, do not resist. You may tell them: "You are not allowed to enter. I do not consent to a search. I wish to remain silent. I wish to speak with an attorney as soon as possible."
- You may ask for an interpreter if they do not speak your language.

If you are detained:

- Do not attempt to resist arrest.
- You have the right to request to speak with an attorney. You can find an pro bono legal service provider at <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers>.
- You do not have to say anything, answer any questions, make any decisions, or sign any documents before speaking with your attorney
- You have the right to request an interpreter.
- No one can force you to make a final decision or sign a document if you do not fully understand it.
- If you are unsure whether and where your loved one is detained, you can use the ICE detainee locator here <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>

Additional Resources:

- Office of New American's Legal Services Programs:
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njnewamericans/programs/legal/>
- If you are unsure whether and where someone you know is detained, you can use the ICE detainee locator: <https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search>
- Pro bono legal service provider: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers>



State of New Jersey

NJ Immigrant Trust Directive:

- The New Jersey Immigrant Trust Directive limits the type of voluntary assistance that New Jersey law enforcement officers—state, county, and local—may provide to federal immigration authorities.
- New Jersey law enforcement officers generally may not stop, question, arrest, search, or detain any individual solely based on immigration status.
- They also may not inquire about the immigration status of any individual and they generally may not participate in civil immigration enforcement operations.
- There are several exceptions and exclusions to the Immigrant Trust Directive. For example, it does not restrict or prohibit New Jersey law enforcement officers from enforcing criminal laws of New Jersey or complying with valid judicial warrants or other court orders.
- Information about the Immigrant Trust Directive is available at <https://www.njoag.gov/trust/>.
- To report a potential violation of the Directive, contact the relevant police department or the county prosecutor's office.

Be Aware of Falling Victim to Fraud

Unscrupulous individuals pretending to be “immigration consultants,” “notarios” or “attorneys,” falsely claim they can provide immigration services to targeted immigrants with limited English skills. Only attorneys and accredited representatives authorized by USCIS are allowed to prepare legal documents such as immigration forms, give advice on legal matters, or represent clients in a legal proceeding.

- An attorney must have a valid license to practice law. Most states have a public searchable database for licensed attorneys. https://portalattysearch-cloud.njcourts.gov/prweb/PRServletPublicAuth/app/Attorney/-amRUHgepTwWWiiBQpI9_yQNuum4oN16*/!STANDARD?AppName=AttorneySearch
- An accredited representative must have training and authorization from the US government to help people with immigration cases. You can look for the organization and the individual on the government's listing of accredited representatives. <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/media/1398081/dl?inline>

Feel free to ask questions. You can ask an attorney or accredited representative about their training, experience, and certification. You can also ask about the status and timeline for your case, a full copy of any records or documents, a written agreement explaining the services, and anything else you would like to have or know.

To report immigration scams, please contact the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA): 1-800-242-5846 (toll-free within New Jersey). NJ DCA intakes reports from all people regardless of their citizenship or immigration status, and DCA employees do not ask about citizenship or immigration status.

For more information:



State of New Jersey

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

New Jersey Human Services is here to help you and your family.

GET HELP WITH:



AFFORDING HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

Visit www.NJFamilyCare.org
1-800-701-0710



AFFORDING GROCERIES

Visit www.NJSNAP.gov
1-800-687-9512



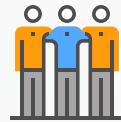
INCOME ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Visit NJHelps.org



CHILD CARE

Visit www.ChildCareNJ.gov
1-800-332-9227



ADDICTION TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Call 844-REACHNJ



MENTAL HEALTH & EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 988
NJMentalHealthCares 866-202-HELP
ASL Videophone 973-870-0677



SUPPORTS FOR OLDER RESIDENTS

Call 877-222-3737



SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Call 888-285-3036



State of New Jersey



Department of Human Services