The *ATLANTIC County* Smart Book

A Resource Guide For Going Home

Revised 2015
by
The New Jersey Department of Corrections
Office of Transitional Services

Quick Reference: Useful Numbers and Hotlines

American Friends Service Committee Prisoner's Resource Center	1-973-643-2205
CDC National STD and AIDS Hotlines	
Spanish:	1-800-344-7432
English:	1-800-227-8922
Addictions Hotline of NJ	1-800-238-2333
Alcoholics Anonymous	1-800-245-1377
Division of Disability Services (DDS)	1-888-285-3036
Division of Child Protection & Permanency	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
Atlantic County One Stop	
Hammonton	609-561-8800
Pleasantville	609-813-3910
Social Security Office	1-800-772-1213
Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline (Woman's Space, Inc.)	
Bilingual and TTY accessible	1-800-572-7233

The Atlantic County Smart Book

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The Start of a New Beginning:

How to use this book

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

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

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

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

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

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

You may visit your local library for Free Internet access.

Getting Started:

Identification (I.D.) and Other Documents

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

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

A. Social Security Card

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

Social Security Administration
1350 Dougherty Road
Egg Harbor Twp. NJ 08234

Office hours Monday- Friday 9:00am-3:00pm
Phone numbers:
Toll Free 1-800-772-1213
TTY- 1-800-325-0778

If you choose to visit your local office to apply you will need to fill out the application at the office. To save time you can download the application online (www.ssa.gov/replace_sscard.html). You will need to show proof of identification. **Prison release papers count as proof of identification. Also, use your NJDOC Temporary ID card.**

B. Birth Certificate

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

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

Contact information for the NJ Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration:
1-609-292-4087
1-866-649-8726 (toll-free nationwide)

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

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

Town/ Address	Phone Number	Fee
Atlantic City City Hall First Floor Room 105 1301 Bacharach BLVD Atlantic City, NJ 08401	609-347-5411	$6.00
Township of Egg Harbor 3515 Bargaintown Road Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234	609-926-4085	$8.00
Town of Hammonton - 100 Central Avenue, Hammonton, New Jersey 08037	609-484-3612	$10.00
City Hall 1 West New Jersey Avenue Somers Point NJ	609-927-9088	$20.00

C. County I.D.

The Atlantic County Clerk's Office is located at:
5901 Main Street
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
609-641-7867 or 609-625-4011
Cost for county I.D.: $10

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

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

MVC LOCATIONS IN ATLANTIC COUNTY
For questions, please call 1 (888) 486-3339
Cardiff
Harbor Square
6725 Black Horse Pike
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
Mon - Fri 8am to 5:30pm; Tuesday 8am to 7:30 pm
Sat 8am to 1:00pm

Mays Landing
1477 19th Street
Hamilton Industrial Park
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Mon - Fri 8am to 5:30pm; Sat 7am to 1:00pm

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 to 5:30pm; Sat 8am to 1:00pm

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

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

SIX POINT SYSTEM OF IDENTIFICATION

Primary Documents:
(4 Points)

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

Secondary Documents:
(3 Points)

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

(2 Points)

- U.S. Military Discharge Papers (DD214)

(1 Point)

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

You can get a brochure on this new "Six Point" system from the MVC offices listed above or from the Motor Vehicle Commission website, www.state.nj.us/mvc. If your license has expired, you will have to go with your six points of I.D. to the MVC to fill out a renewal application. You may have to take the written test again. License renewal costs **$24.00**.

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

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

F. Certificates of Naturalization or Citizenship

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

Citizenship Locations

US Citizenship & Immigration Service
530 Fellowship Road
Mount Laurel NJ 08054

G. Alien Registration Card "Green Card"

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

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

H. Military Discharge Papers

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

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138

Atlantic County Ventnor Vet Center
6601 Ventnor Avenue Suite 105 Ventnor Building
Ventnor, NJ 08406
609-487-8387

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

I. Passport

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

Atlantic County Clerk
5901 Main Street
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Phone: 609-625-4011
www.**atlanticcounty**clerk.org

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.

Book: $110 check / money order payable to US Dept. of State
Card: $30 (same payment method as above)
Agent Processing /Execution Fee: $25 check/money order/cash – made payable to Atlantic County Clerk

A passport will be valid for 10 years.

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

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

First Steps After Release:

Where Do I Go to Find…

This section provides resources for food, shelter, clothing, money, and other emergency needs. We have provided some resource options in Atlantic 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 Atlantic 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.

211is multi-lingual and accepts TTY callers.

B. Shelter

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

Atlantic City Rescue Mission
2009 Bacharach Boulevard
Atlantic City NJ 08401
609-345-5517

Atlantic County Women's Center
1201 North New Road Suite 240
Linwood, NJ 08221
609-646-6767

Covenant House of New Jersey
929 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-348-4070

Salvation Army
22 South Texas Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-344-0660

C. Food/Clothing

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

<u>Food Pantries/Soup Kitchens</u>

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

Community Food Bank Southern Branch
6735 Black Horse Pike Egg Harbor, NJ 08234
Pantry Hours Tues–Friday 1pm–4pm, Saturday 9am-12pm
609-383-8843

Atlantic City Rescue Mission
2009 Bacharach Boulevard Atlantic City NJ 08401
Mon-Friday 10:00-1:30pm need photo identification
609-345-5517
Provides non-perishables

Saint Nicholas of Toletine Food Pantry
1409 Pacific Avenue Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-344-1040
Pantry 1st and 3rd Monday of each month 8:00am-12:00pm

South Jersey Alliance
19 Gordons Alley Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-347-1085
Tues & Thurs: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Presbyterian Food Pantry
26 Bellevue Avenue Hammonton, NJ 08037
609-561-0168
Please call for times

Rural Opportunities Food Bank
11 12TH Street Hammonton, NJ 08037
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

Jewish Family of Atlantic County
607 North Jerome Avenue Margate, NJ 08402-1527
609-822-2381
Mon-Fri: 9am-3pm

Main Street Pantry at First United Methodist Church
6011 Main Street Mays Landing, NJ 08330
609-432-9177

Salvation Army – Mays Landing
1309 Route 50 Mays Landing, NJ 08330
609-625-1212
Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri: 9am-11am, 2pm – 4pm
609-625-7744

Salvation Army Buena
600 Central Avenue, Minotola, NJ 08341
856-696-5252
Email: myrnakeller@verizon.net
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 9am-12pm

Salvation Army - Atlantic City
22 South Texas Ave. Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-344-0660
Mon-Fri: 9am-11:30 am, 1 pm – 4 pm

Atlantic Human Resources Food Pantry
119 West Bayview Avenue, Pleasantville, NJ 08232
609-641-5111
Email: motherotr@aol.com
Please call for times

Mount Zion Baptist Church
Site: 353 South New Road, Pleasantville, NJ 08232
Phone: 609-641-4337
Hours: Wed: 4:30-5:30pm

D: Transportation

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

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

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

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

Medicaid recipients may be eligible for the "Dollar-A-Day Car Insurance Program". If you intend to drive places, remember that you **must** have a valid driver's license and valid auto insurance for any vehicle that you are driving. New Jersey now has a "Dollar-A-Day Car Insurance Program" for low-income individuals who receive Medicaid and want to insure a car registered in their name. It costs **$360.00** per year if you pay all at once and **$365.00** if you pay in installments. You cannot get this insurance if your license or registration is

revoked or suspended. Other restrictions may apply. For more information contact: 800-652-2471;
http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/dollaradayqna.htm.

Transportation for senior citizens and people with disabilities and vet status:

All county residents who are 60 years of age or older, have a disability, are a veteran traveling to/from qualified medical centers, residents of the FTA defined rural western areas of the county, and/or qualified residents, traveling to/from employment, educational, or job training opportunities are all eligible to receive transportation from the A.C.T.U. However Atlantic County may not duplicate services that are available and provided by other service providers.

Please call (609) 645-5910 for further information on eligibility, and allow the A.C.T.U. staff to assist you in finding the travel solution that provides for your need, while maintaining our goal of providing services to the maximum number of mobile dependent residents of Atlantic County.

Wheels to Work
Provides free bus transportation to customers who rely on public transportation and live in areas of the County where public transportation is not available.
PHONE: 609-348-3001 Ext. 2827

E. Money

Once you are released from custody, you will need a source of income until you can find a job. (see section on "Finding a Job" for job seeking information).
The DOC does not provide any "gate money," except for the money you may have in your inmate account. If it is possible to save any money before you are released, you should try to do so.
Based on need, Parole can give emergency funds, but it is at their discretion. Ask your parole officer about this.

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

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

WFNJ-GA AND WFNJ-TANF
Application sites in Atlantic County:

County Office Building
1333 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 348-3001

Pleasantville One Stop Center
2 South Main Street
Pleasantville, NJ 08232
(609) 485-0227

Hammonton Human Services Building
310 Bellevue Avenue
Hammonton, NJ 08037
(609) 567-3200

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

FOOD STAMPS
You may apply for food stamp while applying for GA/TANF.
If you were convicted after August 22, 1996 of a drug distribution or sales offense, you may still be able to get Food Stamps if you have completed or are enrolled in a licensed drug treatment program, or completed a program in prison and are drug free (you will be tested). Same goes for possession offenses. Please contact the welfare office in Atlantic County to inquire.

F: Veterans Benefits:

If you were receiving veteran's benefits, either for disability or a pension, and you were incarcerated for more than 60 days, you will have to get reinstated after you are released.

If you were not receiving benefits and you are a veteran, you may be eligible for benefits or for other programs and services, including health care. You can contact the P.R.E.P.A.R.E social worker in your institution located in the social services department for assistance. You can also contact the Veteran's Administration for questions about benefits at 800-827-1000; the health benefit number is 877-222-VETS. The 24 hour veterans mental health hotline is **1-866-VETS-NJ4U**.

Vet Center
6601 Ventnor Avenue
Suite 307
Ventnor, NJ 08406
(609) 487-6932

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

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

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

Federal Veterans Information:
www.va.gov

Info for NJ Veterans:
www.vetsinfo.com

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

New Jersey Veterans Guide:
www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide

VA Home Loans:
www.homeloans.va.gov

Veterans Counseling Service Center:
www.va.gov/rcs/newjersey/html

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

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

Taking Care of Yourself: Getting Support

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

Taking Care of Yourself: Health Care Resources

It is very important that you pay close attention to your after 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 Atlantic County.

A. Health Care Benefits: Am I eligible?

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

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

For questions about Medicaid eligibility, or to apply for Medicaid in Atlantic County go to:

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
1333 Atlantic Avenue Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 345-6700 Ext. 2701

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

If you are HIV+ or have AIDS, you may also be eligible for the **AIDS Drug Distribution Program** (ADDP), which provides help paying for HIV/AIDS medication for people who do not have other ways of paying. **You can apply for 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, Atlantic County has clinics that provide primary health care at low cost, sliding scale or free service. They are listed below. Most hospitals have charity care, for which you can inquire about during a hospital emergency room visit.

Atlantic County Community Health Centers

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center
City Campus
Atlantic City, N.J. 08401
(609) 345-4000

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center
Mainland Campus
Pomona, NJ 08240
(609) 652-1000

Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation
61 W Jimmie Leeds Road
Pomona, New Jersey 08240
voice: (609) 652-7000

Shore Memorial Hospital
1 East New York Ave
Somers Point, New Jersey 08244
voice: (609) 653-3545

William B. Kessler Memorial Hospital, Inc.
600 So White Horse Pike
Hammonton, New Jersey 08037
voice: (609) 561-6700

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

Atlantic County Department of Human Services
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
609 645 5935
Fax: 609-645-5931

Atlantic County Prescription Savings Program
800-633-0037
www.gspops.com

Family Planning Centers in Atlantic County Area:

Planned Parenthood Atlantic City
2922 Atlantic Ave Atlantic City, NJ 08401
P: 609.437.2020
F: 609.345.4290

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

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

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

C. Services for People with HIV/AIDS

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

In Atlantic County:
AIDS COMMUNITY CARE ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (ACCAP) - Eligible individuals diagnosed with AIDS may receive Medicaid covered services including private duty nursing services in the community rather than in a nursing home. Call 1-888-426-9243.
Address: 101 South Shore Road, Northfield NJ 08225

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

STD Screening
Screening, counseling and treatment are available for gonorrhea, syphilis and Chlamydia. Confidential HIV/AIDS counseling and testing is also available. No cost. No appointment is necessary. The clinic is scheduled every Monday, except holidays, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 201 Shore Road (Stillwater Building) in Northfield. For more information call 609-645-5933.

D. Services for People With Tuberculosis and Hepatitis C

In addition to the general medical care facilities listed above, there are a few services especially for people with tuberculosis

and hepatitis C. Screening and treatment are available at no cost. Certain eligibility requirements apply.

Clinics are held at the Public Health Clinic.
201 Shore Road in Northfield NJ 08201
609-645-5933
Please call for an appointment.

E. Dental Care

The following locations do not provide free care, but do have a sliding scale for those without insurance. Waiting lists can be long.

The John Cronin Dental Center
235 Dolphin Ave.
Northfield, NJ 08225
Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Phone: (609) 645-5814 Call for appointment and information

South Jersey Family Medical Center
Buttonwood Medical and Dental Center
600 Pemberton – Browns Mills Rd.
Pemberton, NJ 08064
(609) 894-1100 Call for appointment and information

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 Atlantic 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 Atlantic 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 Atlantic County is:
Sally Williams, Administrator
Atlantic County Mental Health Board
101 South Shore Road
Northfield, NJ 08225
(609) 645-7700, x4307
e-mail: williams_sally@aclink.org

The following are the agency listings in Atlantic County that provide Mental Health services.

AtlantiCare Behavioral Health
(Atlantic Mental Health Center)
Bellevue Commons
2511 Fire Road, Unit B 10
Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234
Phone: (609) 646-9159 **Fax** (609) 646-5725
ted.stryker@atlanticare.org

Career Opportunity Development, Inc. Karen Gardner,
901 Atlantic Avenue VP Finance & Administration
Egg Harbor, NJ 08215
Phone : (609) 965-6871 **Fax:** (609) 965-3099
kgardner@njcodi.org
rschober@njcodi.org

Family Service Association of Atlantic County
3073 English Creek Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
Phone: (609) 569-1731 or 0239 **Fax:** (609) 569-1944
jerome.j.johnson@att.net

Jewish Family Service of Atlantic County
607 N. Jerome Avenue
Margate, NJ 08402
Phone: (609) 822-1108 **Fax:** (609) 822-1106
asteinberg@jfsatlantic.org

AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center
1925 Pacific Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Phone: (609) 344-4081 **Fax:** (609) 348-3910

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

Cape Counseling Services
128 Crest Haven Road
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
(609) 465-4100

Career Opportunity Development, Inc.
901 Atlantic Avenue
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215
(609) 965-6871

Detoxification

John Brooks Recovery Center
20 S. Tennessee Avenue Atlantic City New Jersey 08401
609-345-2433

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

Outpatient and Residential Treatment

Atlantic Prevention Resources
1416 north Main Street Pleasantville New Jersey 08232
609-272-0101
Offers outpatient and intensive outpatient.

Atlanticare Behavioral Health Hammonton Branch
120 White Horse Pike Hammonton New Jersey 08037
609-561-7911
Offers outpatient services

Atlanticare Behavioral Health Egg Harbor Branch
6010 Blackhorse Pike Egg Harbor Twp. New Jersey 08234
609-272-0909
Offers mental health inpatient services.

Family Service Association
312 E. Whitehorse Pike Absecon, New Jersey 08201
609-569-0239
Offers outpatient individual counseling for mental health and addictions.

Hansen House
411 Aloe Street Absecon, New Jersey 08201
609-965-3699
Offers inpatient co-occurring treatment for both male and females.

Harvest Counseling Services
Brigantine Town Center Brigantine New Jersey 08203
609-266-2227
Offers outpatient addictions services.

John Brooks Recovery Center
20 S. Tennessee Avenue Atlantic City New Jersey 08401
609-345-2433
Offers both male and female inpatient and out patient services.

Lighthouse at Atlantic County
6601 Ventnor Avenue Ventnor City, New Jersey 08406
609-822-7223
Offers outpatient addictions services

Lighthouse at Mayslanding
5034 Atlantic Avenue Mays Landing New Jersey 08330
609-625-4900
Offers inpatient and outpatient 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.

Atlantic County Department of Health and Human Services Mental Health Board
609-645-7700, extension 4307

Primary Screening Center for Atlantic County:

Psychiatric Intervention Program (PIP)
@ Atlanticare Regional Medical Center
1925 Pacific Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
HOTLINE: (609) 344-1118

Early Intervention Program
AtlantiCare Behavioral Health Services
Adult Intervention Services
1601 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
HOTLINE: (866) 750-6612

H. Free/Low Cost Eyeglasses and Eye care

Nearest Location:
Low Cost Eye and Vision Care
400 Chambers Avenue
Camden, NJ
(856) 365-1811

Vision USA: 1-800-766-4466 Nationwide Directory

Finding a Job:
Employment Assistance and Training Programs

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

A. Things to Know Before You Start Your Job Search

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

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

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

IT'S A JOB FOR RIGHT NOW,
IT'S NOT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
When you are first starting out, especially if you've been out of the job market for a while, or have never had a job, you need to build a work history, and, of course, you need to make some money. Take whatever job you can get for now — it doesn't have to be the exact job you want, or what you eventually want to be doing. Do this job well —even if it's not a great job — and it can help you get a better one in the future. 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.

Atlantic County One Stops

Atlantic City Office
609-348-3001
Hours: M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Hammonton Office
609-561-8800
Hours: M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Pleasantville Office
609-813-3900
Hours: M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

Atlantic County JOBS Connection Hotline
1-877-860-5627

Atlantic County Supported Work Program
(609) 343-2284

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES
2 South Main Street, Suite 2
Pleasantville, New Jersey 08232
Telephone (609) 813-3933

This program includes diagnostic evaluation, vocational guidance and counseling, therapies, vocational training, rehabilitation workshop and training, tools, supplies, assistive devices, vehicle modification, supported employment/job coaching and job placement assistance. Disability must be significant impediment to 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 that employers perform background checks; some of these, however, also require that employers consider evidence of rehabilitation. These include most jobs in the health care and counseling fields (including drug and alcohol counseling) and social workers.

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

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

D. Benefits for Employers Who Hire People With Criminal Records

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

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

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

Federal Bonding Program: Provides bonding "or insurance coverage" for employers who hire individuals with criminal histories who are otherwise qualified but cannot gain employment due to their criminal backgrounds. Please contact your local one stop for more information. 2 South Main St. Pleasantville, NJ 08232-2728 (609) 813-3900, 44 North Whitehorse Pike Suite A Hammonton, NJ 08037
(609) 561-8800, 3810 New Jersey Avenue Wildwood, NJ 08260-0210 (609) 729-0997 and toll free 1-800-233-2258.

E. Opening a Checking or Savings Account

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

F. Public Libraries

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

LIBRARIES

Bookmobile
(609) 625-2776
Extension Services Section
40 Farragut Ave.Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Call for recent schedule

Brigatine
(609) 266-0110
201 15th St. South Brigantine, NJ 08203
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Buena Community Reading Room
Buena Regional High School
Weymouth-Malaga Road Buena NJ
856-697-4701
October - May:
Monday and Wednesday:
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
July:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
August:
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Egg Harbor City
134 Philadelphia Ave Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215
609-804-1063
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Egg Harbor Township
1 Swift Avenue Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
609-927-8664
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Galloway Township
306 E. Jimmie Leeds Road Galloway NJ 08205
609-652-2352
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Hammonton
451 Egg Harbor Rd. Hammonton, NJ 08037
(609) 561-2264
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Longport
2305 Atlantic Ave. Longport, NJ 08403
(609) 487-0272
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Mays Landing
40 Farragut Ave. Mays Landing, NJ 08330
(609) 625-2776
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Pleasantville
33 Martin L. King Dr. Pleasantville, NJ 08232
(609) 641-1778
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Somers Point
801 Shore Rd. Somers Point, NJ 08244
(609) 927-7113
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Ventor
6500 Atlantic Ave. Ventnor, NJ 08406
(609) 823-4614
Monday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

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

Department of Child Protection and Permanency:
1 (800) 331-DCPP (3937)

Family Health Line:
1 (800) 328-3838

Family Help Line (for stressed parents):
1 (800) THE KIDS 843-5437

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.

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

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

Please contact their office to inquire of services.

Family Success Centers
101 S. Shore Road
Northfield, NJ 08225
(609) 645-7700, ext. 4332

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 (DCPP), 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 DCPP in your area. Please contact the office that applies to your location.

Atlantic County East
1601 Atlantic Ave. Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-441-3164
800-392-2655
Fax: 609-344-3977/2025
Manager – Meghan McKeever

Atlantic County West
5218 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 104 Mays Landing, NJ 08330
609-625-3976
866-816-9199
Fax: 609-625-8530
Manager - Michelle Stone

C. Getting and Paying Child Support

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

Child support, custody and visitation issues are very complicated, and if you can get a lawyer, you should. Contact the Legal Services of New Jersey hotline, from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, at 888-576-5529, or you can also contact Atlantic County Legal Services, at 26 South Pennsylvania Avenue Suite 100, 1st Floor Atlantic City, NJ 08401 Phone: (609) 348-4200. From prison, you can also contact the Prisoner's Self Help Legal Clinic, P.O. Box 768, Newark, NJ 07101.

Getting and Enforcing a Child Support Order
If you have custody of your children, and want financial support from the non-custodial parent, you can apply for child support at the Superior Court of NJ Family Division, 1201 Bacharach Blvd., Atlantic City, NJ 08401(609) 345-6700 ext. 3446. There is a possible fee. You can also call 1-877 NJKIDS1 for more information about this.

Paying Child Support
If you have kids that you did not have custody of before you went to prison, there may be a child support order requiring you to pay a certain amount every month for their support. Even if you did not go to court — if, for example, the parent with custody filed for the order while you were incarcerated — the court can still order you to pay child support. The amount you pay in child support is tied to your income, and if the court does not know your income, they will assume you are working 40 hours a week at minimum wage. Child support payments are usually taken out of your paycheck. If you have not paid at all or missed payments, you will owe "arrears." Unless you got a modification of your child support order when you went into prison (see below), the amount of arrears that you owe will have continued to grow while you were inside. When you come out, and get a job, they can begin to take out not just the monthly amount you owe for child support, but more money to pay back the arrears (up to 65% of your pay in total). They may also suspend your driver's license. Here are some things you can do:

Know Your Rights / Non-Custodial Parents
1-877-655-4371

- ✓ Information on Your Support Payments
- ✓ Know Your Rights and Responsibilities
- ✓ Assistance with Employment Skills
- ✓ Visitation Assistance

Father's Care Network
609-601-9925 ext. 222
A program designed to assist fathers in strengthening their role in the lives of their children. Services include *24:7 Dad program,* visitation assistance, parenting skills, conflict resolution, mentoring, and assisting incarcerated fathers with reunification.

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)

Atlantic County Women's Center
1201 New Road Suite 240 Lindenwold NJ 08221
609-601-9925

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 Atlantic 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 Locations

Atlantic County One Stop Career Center
2 South Main St.
Pleasantville, NJ 08232
(609) 485-0052 ext. 140 International Institute of NJ

Cape May County Technical School
188 Crest Haven Rd.
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210
(609) 465-2161 ext. 648

C. Higher Education

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

Local Area Colleges

Mays Landing Site Atlantic Cape Community College
5100 Black Horse Pike
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
(609) 625-1111 or (609) 343-4900

Atlantic Cape Community College
1535 Bacharach Blvd.
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 343-4800

The Richard Stockton College of NJ
PO Box 195, Pomona, NJ 08240

609-652-1776
webmaster@stockton.edu

Rutgers at Atlantic Cape Community College
5100 Black Horse Pike Building Q Room 100
Mays Landing NJ 08330
609-343-4995

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 Atlantic County legal services please contact the office located nearest to you.

Atlantic County Legal Services
26 South Pennsylvania Avenue Suite 100, 1st Floor
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609 348-4200

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

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

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

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

C. Expungement: Cleaning Up Your Criminal Record

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

To obtain a copy of the book, call 888-576-5529, or go to the LSNJ website, where you can download it for free: http://www.lsnj.org/english/crime/municipalcourt/clearingyourrecord.cfm.
Free information is also available on the NJDOC website: http://www.state.nj.us/corrections/SubSites/OTS/news_ots.html

D. Checking and Correcting Your Credit Record

While New Jersey allows employers to look at your criminal record, many employers — and others like landlords and mortgage companies — will use a credit report instead of or in addition to the state's records. Credit records are maintained by private companies and generally have information about

your debts, your history of paying bills and other financial matters, but may also have information about your criminal record. The information may not be correct, and the law does offer you some protections. For example, if an employer uses a credit record to deny you a job, they have to tell you this, and give you the name, address and phone number of the agency that provided the report, and the agency must give you a copy of that information on your request. They cannot charge you money for that request if the employer used the report to deny you a job. If the records of the credit agency contain incorrect information, they must investigate and correct inaccurate information.

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

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

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

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

E. Voting Rights

New Jersey law does not allow you to vote while you are in prison, or while you are on probation or parole for an indictable offense (disorderly persons offenses don't disqualify you). **Once you have completed your parole or probation term, you may register to vote**. Make sure that you are registered in the county in which you reside. **Applications for registration can be obtained from Social Services prior to release**. Also you may apply with the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office in the County where you live or from your Municipal Clerk once you are released. Registration forms are also available in various State agencies and at Division of Motor Vehicle offices and can be obtained while transacting agency business. If you are not sure, you can visit

http://www.state.nj.us/lps/elections/vote_doe.html. You will be able to download a voter's registration form and mail it in. This site also explains who can register to vote and where you can register.

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

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

The Game Plan

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

Places to stay

_____

_____

_____

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

_____

_____

_____

People I need to see or call:

Who? _____

Who? _____

Who?_____

NOTES:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Your First Weeks Out

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

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT

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

When? _____

When? _____

When? _____

Where/phone number?

_____
Where/phone number?

_____
Where/phone number?

_____

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

Notes:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

I.D. Checklist

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

Notes:_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

My Contacts:
Important Names and Phone Numbers

Parole Officer:_____

Parole Number:_____

Parole Office:_____

Address:_____

_____

_____

_____

Smart Book Topics

Getting Started:
I.D. and Other Documents

First Steps After Release:
Where Do I Go to Find…

Taking Care of You:
Getting Support

Taking Care of You:
Health Care Resources

Finding a Job:
Employment Assistance
and Training Programs

Reconnecting With Family

Getting More Education

Other Things You Need to Know

The Game Plan