



## **THE ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF PROBATION

11 New Hempstead Road, 2nd Floor, New City, NY 10956

Myrna Lopez, Reentry Coordinator (845) 638-5530

July 2012

In 2006, Rockland County convened a task force comprised of representatives from local and state criminal justice agencies, law enforcement, human services, community-based organizations and grassroots leaders to focus on the challenge of helping returning inmates reintegrate successfully into our communities.

The Reentry Task Force works to find ways to connect previously incarcerated persons and their families to needed services - housing, employment, substance abuse, mental health. The Reentry Coordinator assists in accessing services and coordinates programs on the basis of individual case needs.

### **VISION**

Rockland County will be a safer and more secure community in which previously incarcerated persons are welcomed to become law-abiding and contributing citizens.

### **MISSION**

Rockland County Reentry Task Force will work together, plan, and coordinate services to promote successful reentry of previously incarcerated persons.

Support for the Reentry Task Force is provided by the County of Rockland and the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). The Reentry Task Force is part of a larger statewide collaboration based on the National Institute for Corrections' Transitions from Prison to Community Initiative (TCPI).

### **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASK FORCE PARTNER AGENCIES**

NYS Department of Corrections and  
Community Supervision

Rockland County Department of Probation

Rockland County Sheriff's Department

Spring Valley Police Department

Rockland County Department of Mental  
Health

Rockland County Department of Social  
Services

Rockland County District Attorney

Rockland Family Shelter

Tomorrow's Workplace

Information Rockland

Adult Continuing Career and Educational  
Services (ACCES-VR)

NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance  
Abuse (OASAS)

Rockland Council on Alcohol and Other  
Drug Dependencies (RCADD)

Rockland Community College

Rockland Parent Child Center

Rockland County Legislature

Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

RB Search Services



**INFORMATION ROCKland**  
**Your Connection to Health and Human Services**  
**(845) 364-2020**  
Website: [www.INFOrmationROCKland.com](http://www.INFOrmationROCKland.com)  
Email: [InfoRock@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:InfoRock@co.rockland.ny.us)

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## DIRECTORY OF SUPPORTIVE RESOURCES FOR PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED PERSONS

Information Rockland (“InfoRock”) is Rockland County’s central Information & Referral service for questions about health and human services. InfoRock operates a call center that can be reached at **845-364-2020**, Monday-Friday, 8AM to 5PM. Calls are taken anonymously.

As a partner agency on the Reentry Task Force, InfoRock is pleased to provide the attached listing of supportive resources for previously incarcerated persons and their families, to assist with the transition back to the community.

InfoRock maintains a database of health & human services that is continuously updated and available on the website [www.informationrockland.com](http://www.informationrockland.com) for 24x7 access. This directory, as well as many other targeted publications, are available for download on the website.

**InfoRock’s** call center answers questions about these types of services:

- ✓ Food, Shelter, Financial Assistance
- ✓ Public Health Clinics
- ✓ Mental Health Programs
- ✓ Substance Abuse Programs
- ✓ Housing Assistance Programs
- ✓ Employment and Job Skills Training
- ✓ Medicaid, Child/Family Health Plus
- ✓ County Government & Other Municipal Services
- ✓ Legal Services
- ✓ Home Care
- ✓ Senior Programs
- ✓ Adult and Child Protective Services
- ✓ Family Support Programs

This listing is a representation of information known at the point it was compiled and updates will be made as necessary.

**JULY 2012**

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**COUNTY OF ROCKLAND**  
C. Scott Vanderhoef,  
County Executive



**HOSTED BY:**  
Department of Social Services  
Susan Sherwood, Commissioner

# NYS Dept. of Corrections and Community Supervision

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## The Departmental Mission



### Vision

Enhance public safety by having incarcerated persons return home under supportive supervision less likely to revert to criminal behavior.

### Mission Statement

To improve public safety by providing a continuity of appropriate treatment services in safe and secure facilities where offenders' needs are addressed and they are prepared for release, followed by supportive services under community supervision to facilitate a successful completion of their sentence.

### Goals

- Create and maintain an atmosphere where both offenders and staff feel secure.
- Develop and implement positive individualized treatment plans for each offender that includes post release reentry plans.
- Teach offenders the need for discipline and respect, and the importance of a mature understanding of a work ethic.
- Establish a needs/risk approach to treatment and community supervision to ensure a continuity of services.

### Policies

- Offer opportunities for offenders to improve their skills, and to receive individual treatment services, based on their ability and willingness to participate.
- Provide appropriate medical and psychiatric services necessary to those requiring such treatment so each offender can maximize his/her own rehabilitation.
- Provide a level of community supervision based on the releasee's needs and behavior.
- Establish a structured environment that fosters respect through communication and structure.

#### **Peekskill Area Office:**

201 South James Street, Lower Level  
Peekskill, NY 10566  
(914) 734-4270  
Bureau Chief Paul Pacheco

**Serving all Rockland County Releaseses**

#### **Hudson Valley Regional Office:**

3 Cottage Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New Rochelle, NY 10801  
(914) 654-8691  
Regional Director Steven Claudio

Re-Entry Parole Services Program Specialist  
Ana Enright - (914) 654-8670

Website: [www.doccs.ny.gov](http://www.doccs.ny.gov)



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*Advocacy & Support for Previously Incarcerated - Reentry Task Force, Pre-Release Literacy, Case Management, Parent Support & Education, Transitional Housing, Employment Coordinator*

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**ADDENDUMS - REENTRY SUPPORT DOCUMENTS**

**– 3<sup>RD</sup> PARTY PUBLICATIONS**

(1) *“ReEntry MythBusters”* – Published by Federal Interagency Reentry Council. Fact sheets designed to clarify federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals & their families in areas such as public housing, access to benefits, parental rights, employer incentives, Medicaid, etc.

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(2) *Legal Action Center (LAC) Publications* – Summary of free publications intended for the previously incarcerated, their families, and the professionals working with them. Addresses a variety of issues such as employment, housing, documents, etc.

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**II. TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

*TANF, Food Stamps, HEAP Utility Assistance, Free/Reduced School Meals, WIC, Rental Arrears, Free/Reduced Phone Services*

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**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ADDENDUM DOCUMENT**

(1) *OTDA Informational Letter (12-INF-03)* – RE: Temporary Assistance (TA) and Medicaid (MA) Benefits For Infants Residing With Their Incarcerated Mothers

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**III. HOUSING & HOUSING RELATED SERVICES**

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**VI. EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

*Offender Workforce Specialist, Certificate of Good Conduct/Relief; Vocational Rehabilitation & Training, Peer Counseling, Senior Employment Training, Adult Education & Community College*

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2.	Adult Continuing Career and Educational Services (ACCES-VR) - Vocational Rehabilitation (formerly VESID)	(845) 426-5431	48
3.	Advocating For Change - Community Support	(845) 364-6896	1
4.	Alcoholics Anonymous - Alcohol Abuse Support Group	(845) 352-1112	42
5.	ARC of Rockland - Developmental Disability Services	(845) 267-2500	46
6.	ARC of Rockland - Health/Clinic Services	(845) 267-0110	51
7.	Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland County - Family Support Programs	(888) 412-2447	58
8.	Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) - Inmate Literacy & Transitional Services	(845) 348-3500	1
9.	Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) - Adult Education & Career Prep	845) 348-3500	49
10.	CANDLE (Community Awareness Network For A Drug-Free Life & Environment) - Family Skills Education/Strengthening Families Program	(845) 634-6677	56
11.	Catholic Community Services of Rockland - Payment Assistance Programs	(845) 942- 5791	28
12.	Child Care Resources of Rockland - Information & Referral – Child Care/Day Care Services	(845) 425-0009	57
13.	Community Medical and Dental Care Inc. – Monsey - Community Clinic	(845) 352-6800	46
	Community Medical and Dental Care Inc. - Spring Valley - Community Clinic	(845) 426-5800	46
14.	County of Rockland Community Development Office - Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher	(845) 364-3939	38
15.	County of Rockland Dept. of Social Services (DSS)		
	- Child Protective Services - Mandated Reporters	(800) 635-1522	58
	- Child Support Enforcement Unit	(845) 638-5917	58
	- Day Care Subsidies	(845) 364-3797	57
	- Information Rockland (Information & Referral)	(845) 364-2020	(i)
	- Long Term Care Medicaid (Chronic Care)	(845) 364-3988	54
	- Managed Care – NY Medicaid Choice Program	(800) 505-5678	54
	- Medicaid	(845) 364-3040	54
	- Family Preservation Services (Preventive)	(845) 364-2020	56
	- Food Stamps	(845) 364-3100	27
	- Foster Care Program For Adults – Family Type Homes	(845) 364-3561	39
	- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)	(845) 364-3480	27
	- Housing Unit – Homeless Shelter/ Eviction Assistance	(845) 364-3150	36
	- Temporary Financial Assistance (TANF)	(845) 364-3100	27





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17.	County of Rockland Family Court - Custody/Support Issues	(845) 483-8210	58
18.	County of Rockland Office for the Aging - Medicare Counseling (HIICAP)	(845) 364-2118	55
19.	County of Rockland Office For The Aging - Senior Community Service Employment Program	(845) 364-2107	49
20.	County of Rockland Office For The Aging - Senior Housing Options	(845) 364-2110	39
21.	Daytop Village - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Provider	(845) 353-2730	40
22.	Every Person Influences Children (EPIC) - Parenting Workshops	(845) 352-9105	57
23.	Federal ReEntry Council - Addendum – “Mythbusters”	Multiple	3-26
24.	Food Pantries & Soup Kitchens - List of Food Pantries & Soup Kitchens in Rockland County	Multiple	59-61
25.	Four Winds Hospital - Inpatient Psychiatric / Partial Hospitalization	(800) 528-6624	45
26.	Good Samaritan Hospital - Chemical Dependency Inpatient Unit/ T5	(845) 368-5242	40
27.	Good Samaritan Hospital - Frawley Outpatient Mental Health Unit	(845) 368-5222	44
28.	Health Economics Group, Inc. (HEG) – Dentemax - Negotiated Dental Network	(800) 752-1547	55
29.	Helping Hands - Safe Haven For The Homeless	(845) 667-2588	36
30.	Hudson River Healthcare - Community Health Center (Haverstraw)	(845) 429-4499	51
	Hudson River Healthcare - Community Health Center (Spring Valley)	(845) 573-9860	51
31.	Hudson Valley Developmental Disability Services Office (HVDDSO) - Information and Referral	(845) 947-6000	39
32.	Jawonio Health - Center/Clinic	(845) 634-4648	51
33.	Jawonio Tech - Personalized Recovery Oriented Service	(845) 708-2000	46
34.	Kaser Housing Authority - Section 8 Housing	(845) 352-2932	37
35.	Legal Action Center (LAC) - Legal Information & Advocacy	(212) 243-1313	48
36.	Lexington Center For Recovery, Inc (Airmont) - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Provider	(845) 369-9701	40
	Lexington Center For Recovery, Inc (Haverstraw) - Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment Provider	(845) 947-3810	40
37.	Loeb House - Residential Treatment Provider for Alcohol and Substance Abuse	(845) 735-0515	41
38.	Mental Health Assoc. of Rockland County - Mental Health Comprehensive Services	(845) 267-2172	44





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41.	Mental Health Assoc. of Rockland County, Inc. (MHA) - Multiple Programs – Parenting Education, Children’s Support Programs	(845) 267-2172	57
42.	Nami-Familya of Rockland County - Mental Health Community Counseling and Support	(845) 359-8787	47
43.	Narcotics Anonymous - Substance Abuse Support Group	(212) 929-6262	43
44.	Nathan S. Kline Institute For Psychiatric Research (NKI) - Psychiatric Clinical Trials Children and Adolescents	(845) 398-5583	45
45.	National Council on Alcoholism And Drug Dependence - Substance Abuse Hotline	(800) 622-2255	43
46.	New Beginnings Dignity Services - Transitional Housing - Reentry Group Home	(845) 426-6626	38
47.	New Square Housing Authority - Section 8 Housing	(845) 354-1000	37
48.	Nyack Hospital - Recovery Center for Change (Substance Abuse)	(845) 348-2070	41
49.	Nyack Housing Authority - Section 8 Housing	(845) 358-2476	37
50.	NYS Dept. of Corrections and Community Supervision - Peekskill Office	(914) 734-4270	(ii) 48
51.	NYS Dept. of Health - Discount Prescription Drug Program	(800) 788-6917	55
52.	NYS Dept. of Public Service - Discount Phone Services Landline/Wireless	(888)-275-7721	28
53.	NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) - Internet Housing Resource Directory	(866) ASK-DHCR	38
54.	NYS Office of Alcoholism And Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) - Substance Abuse Hotline	(877)-846-7369	42
55.	Open Arms, Inc. (Men) - Residential Treatment Provider for Alcohol and Substance Abuse	(845) 429-9514	41-42
56.	Open Arms, Inc. (Women) - - Residential Treatment Provider for Alcohol and Substance Abuse	(845) 271-3787	41-42
57.	Open Arms, Inc. - Supportive Residences	(845) 429-0945	41-42
58.	Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic (PPHP) - Community Health Center	(800) 230-7526 (845) 426-7577	51
59.	OTDA (Addendum) - Informational Letter Re: Public Assistance Programs	Multiple	29-35
60.	ProAct - Rockland County Prescription Drug Discount Card	(877) 776-2285	55
61.	Ramapo Housing Authority - Section 8 Housing	(845) 357-7171	37
62.	RB Search Services - Employment Search Firm	(845) 425-4727	50
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65.	Rockland Children’s Psychiatric Center (RCPC) - Inpatient Psychiatric	(845) 680-4000	45
66.	Rockland Council on Alcoholism & Other Drug Dependence (RCADD) - Substance Abuse Supportive Services	(845) 215-9788	42
67.	Rockland County Department of Mental Health - Alcohol & Substance Abuse Information and Referral	(845) 364-2286	40
68.	Rockland County Department of Mental Health - Comprehensive Psychiatric Services	(845) 364-2150	44
69.	Rockland County Dept. of Health		
	- Adult & Foreign Travel Immunization Clinic	(845) 364-2519	52
	- Child & Adolescent Immunization Clinic	(845) 364-2519	53
	- Child Health Clinic (Well Baby)	(845) 364-2646	53
	- Family Planning Services	(845) 364-2531	52
	- Health Insurance Counseling (Family Health Plus, Medicaid)	(845) 364-3312	54
	- Infectious Disease Clinic (AIDS/HIV)	(845) 364-2570	52
	- PPD/TB Tuberculosis Clinic/Chest Clinic	(845) 364-2995	52
	- Put it Out Rockland Smoking Cessation Program	(845) 364-2651	52
	- Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic	(845) 364-3771	52
	- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Monsey	(845) 426-6351	27
	- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Haverstraw	(845) 429-5525	27
	- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Spring Valley	(845) 426-0971	27
	- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Nyack	(845) 353-6037	27
	- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - New Square	(845) 364-3329	27
70.	Rockland County Dept. of Mental Health - Single Point of Access (SPOA) – Adults with Mental Illness	(845) 364-2399	44
71.	Rockland County Dept. of Mental Health - Single Point of Access (SPOA) – Children with Mental Illness	(845) 364-2627	44
72.	Rockland County Dept. of Probation - Rockland County Reentry Task Force	(845) 638-5530	1
73.	Rockland Family Shelter (RFS) - Domestic Violence Shelter - Domestic Violence Hotline - Family Support Program	(845) 634-3344	36, 46, 56
74.	Rockland Housing Action Coalition (RHAC) - Rental and Low Cost Homes	(845) 708-5799	38
75.	Rockland Independent Living Center - Peer Recovery Center – Reach One	(845) 624-1366	42, 47, 49
76.	Rockland Jewish Family Service - Community Counseling & Support	(845) 354-2121	46
77.	Rockland Parent Child Center - Programs for Incarcerated Parents & their Children	(845) 358-2702	2, 56
78.	Rockland Psychiatric Center (RPC) - Inpatient Psychiatric for Adults	(845) 359-1000	45





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80.	Rockland Psychiatric Center (RPC) - Nyack Outpatient Support Center	(845) 358-1677	45
81.	Russell E. Blaisdell Addiction Treatment Center - Inpatient Mental Health (Males)	(845) 359-8500	41
82.	Salvation Army - Payment Assistance Programs	(845) 352-9577	27
83.	SAMSHA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment - Substance Abuse Hotline	(800) 662-4357	42
84.	Shawn Carter Foundation - Scholarships For Underprivileged	Emails only	58
85.	Social Security Administration (Rockland Office) - Medicare / Disability	(866) 755-4334	54
86.	Spring Valley Housing Authority - Section 8 Housing	(845) 352-7677	37
87.	Head Start of Rockland - Subsidized Early Education / Preschool Services	(845) 429-4122	57
88.	The Children’s Village - Project Turning Point Crisis Youth Shelter Hotline	(845) 623-6939	36
89.	Thrift Shops - List of Thrift Shops in Rockland County	Multiple	62
90.	Tomorrow’s Workplace - Disability & Offender Workforce Development Specialist	(845) 356-5100	1, 48
91.	US Department of Housing And Urban Development (HUD) - Internet Housing Resource Directory	(212) 264-8000	38
92.	US Dept. of Veterans Affairs (USVA) - New City VA Clinic	(845) 634-8942	38
93.	US Dept. of Veterans Affairs (USVA) - VA Home Front Regional Program Coordinator	(914) 737-3740	36
94.	VCS Inc. - Parent Education, Parent Support Groups, Counseling Services	(845) 634-5729	47, 56
95.	West Hudson Psychiatric Society - Private Practice Psychiatric Referrals	(845) 638-6992	46





# **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

## ***REENTRY SUPPORT PROGRAMS***

### **I. REENTRY SUPPORT PROGRAMS - SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS**

#### **1. REENTRY PROGRAMS: ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASK FORCE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF PROBATION**

11 New Hempstead Road, 2nd Floor, New City, NY 10956 (845) 638-5530

The Rockland County Reentry Task Force works to connect previously incarcerated persons and their families to needed services - housing, employment, substance abuse, mental health. The Reentry Task Force is comprised of representatives from local/state criminal justice agencies, law enforcement, human services, community-based organizations and grassroots leaders. The Reentry Coordinator assists in accessing services and coordinates programs on the basis of individual case needs.

#### **2. DIVERSION SERVICES: VETERAN'S ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION (VATI) COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

1 South Main Street, New City, NY 10956 (845) 638-5001

Identifies and screens veterans facing nonviolent criminal charges. Eligible veterans are referred to the Veterans Service Agency for case management services.

#### **3. INMATE PRE-RELEASE PROGRAMS: LITERACY & TRANSITIONAL SERVICES BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (BOCES)**

131 Midland Ave, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 348-3500

Provides literacy education programs and pre-release transition services for inmates at Rockland County Correctional Facility. Education offerings include GED preparation and ESL classes. Transition services include life skills improvement & career planning. Upon release, former inmates may continue literacy education, as well as vocational training and job placement assistance through BOCES. See section 6. Education, Employment & Vocational Services.

#### **4. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING & SUPPORT: CHANDEL 1 HOME - REENTRY GROUP HOME NEW BEGINNINGS DIGNITY SERVICES**

230 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 426-6626

Transitional living residence for previously incarcerated men. Family style home offers supportive living environment. Services help residents transition back to community life and include life skills training, employment preparation & assistance, seminars, referrals to social services & community agencies.

#### **5. REENTRY EMPLOYMENT CUSTOMER SERVICE & PROGRAM NAVIGATOR TOMORROW'S WORKPLACE (TW)**

1 Perlman Drive, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 356-5100 x119

Employs a Disability & Offender Workforce Development Specialist who works individually with Previously Incarcerated Persons to assist in navigating the employment process. As a NYS DOL 'One-Stop Career Center', Tomorrow's Workplace provides comprehensive job search assistance services.

#### **6. COMMUNITY SUPPORT & ADVOCACY ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE**

P.O. BOX 1510 Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 364-6896

Offers community-based advocacy and linkage to local network of services for ex-offenders. Assists ex-offenders with coordination and collaboration among local criminal justice, social services, educational, labor, health, mental health and not-for-profit systems.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Case by case basis.





## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

### **REENTRY SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

#### **7. FAMILY CONNECTIONS - PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED PARENTS & THEIR CHILDREN ROCKLAND PARENT CHILD CENTER (RPCC)**

1 South Broadway, Suite B, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 358-2702

Family Connections provides a range of reentry support services to incarcerated parents and their children. For some participants, services begin during incarceration (pre-release) and continued services are available post-release to assist in successful transition back into the community.

Some services are limited to parents incarcerated in the Rockland County Correctional Facility (RCCF), while others are extended to parents in other nearby correctional facilities.

#### **PARENT-CHILD VISITATION (RCCF + OTHER):**

Facilitates visitation between parents and their children separated by incarceration. Pre and post visit counseling and support is provided to both parent and child.

#### **PRE-RELEASE PARENTING EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUPS (RCCF):**

Facilitators help incarcerated parents in RCCF create goals and action plans to meet their family's needs upon reentry. Focus on building parenting skills, competence and confidence for successful bonding and reconnection with their children. Parents work toward stable and productive life - employment, mental health, addiction recovery, education and housing.

#### **PRE/POST-RELEASE CASE MANAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY SERVICES (RCCF):**

Supplementary case management & advocacy services provided to parents who are engaged in, or have completed the Parenting Education and Support Group. Services also provided to their children and caregivers to assist with accessing needed community services, as well as facilitating family reunification.

#### **LEIGH SCHUERHOLZ PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM (RCCF):**

Trained volunteer mentors provide individual emotional support and assistance to parents who have completed the Pre-Release Parenting Education & Support Group.

#### **POST-RELEASE PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS (RCCF + OTHER):**

Post-release parenting support groups offered for both mothers and fathers. Parents offer each other mutual support during their transition back into the community. Participants share insights into issues such as: maintaining mental health and sobriety, understanding their children's needs, coping with stress, managing anger and resolving interpersonal conflicts using non-violent means.

#### **POST-RELEASE SUPPORT GROUP FOR MOTHERS (RCCF + OTHER)**

A 14-week reentry support group for 15 previously incarcerated women and their children. Women are provided tools and resources to help set personal, educational and professional goals. Trained facilitators and specialists teach parenting skills, financial skills, conflict resolution and job readiness. Children develop positive self-esteem, resiliency, anger management and conflict resolution skills through role play, creative play with a licensed art therapist and group activities.

\* Group is a collaborative with Creative Response to Conflict, Cornell Cooperative Extension and RSVP. Funded through United Way. Transportation & dinner provided.

#### **BUILDING CONNECTIONS FOR YOUTH MENTORING (RCCF + OTHER):**

A one-to-one mentoring program that matches young people, ages 5-17 who have a parent who is or has been incarcerated, with a trained adult volunteer mentor.





# ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE

## I. (1) ADDENDUM – REENTRY MYTHBUSTERS

### I.(1) SUMMARY OF ADDENDUM DOCUMENT

(See next 22 pages for document)

The working group of the Federal ReEntry Council (see 'About the Council' below), developed a set of "Reentry MythBusters" to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, and provide information about resources that may be able to assist. MythBusters are summary fact sheets that are targeted to areas such as public housing, access to public assistance benefits, parental rights, employer incentives, Medicaid, etc.

The "Reentry MythBusters" document can be found on the pages that follow. Additional copies can be downloaded and reprinted at the Nation ReEntry Resource Center's website below:

[www.NationalReEntryResourceCenter.Org/Documents/0000/1090/REENTRY\\_MYTHBUSTERS.pdf](http://www.NationalReEntryResourceCenter.Org/Documents/0000/1090/REENTRY_MYTHBUSTERS.pdf)

A summary of Fact Sheets is listed below:

#### Reducing Barriers to Employment

- On the Federal Bonding Program
- On Hiring/Criminal Records Guidance
- On the Federal Hiring Policies
- On the Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- On Criminal Histories & Employment Background Checks

#### Access to Federal Benefits

- On Public Housing
- On Veterans Compensation Benefits
- On Veterans Health Care
- On Federal Student Financial Aid
- On Medicaid Suspension vs. Termination
- On Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits
- On SNAP Benefits/Mailing Address

- On SNAP Benefits/ID
- On TANF Benefits
- On Social Security Benefits

#### Juveniles and Reentry

- On Juvenile Criminal Records
- On Medicaid Suspension vs. Termination for Juveniles
- On Youth Access to Education upon Reentry

#### Additional MythBusters

- On Voting Rights
- On Parental Rights
- On Child Support Modifications
- On Federal Tax Obligations and Benefits

**About the Council** – The U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder assembled a Cabinet-level interagency Reentry Council comprised of 18 federal departments & agencies. The Reentry Council supports the federal government's reentry efforts by enhancing communication, coordination, and collaboration across the federal government. Reentry Council partners work together to increase public safety, assist those returning from prison and jail to become productive citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

The National Reentry Resource Center, established by the Second Chance Act (Public Law 110-199) and administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance/U.S. Department of Justice, provides education, training, and technical assistance to states, tribes, territories, local governments, service providers, non-profit organizations, and corrections institutions working on prisoner reentry.

The National Reentry Resource Center is a project of the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

[www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org)

ADDENDUM





## Reentry MythBusters

[Reentry MythBusters](#) are a first product of the Federal Interagency [Reentry Council](#). They are essentially fact sheets, designed to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families in areas such as [public housing](#), access to benefits, [parental rights](#), [employer incentives](#), Medicaid suspension/termination, and more. As you will see, some federal laws and policies are narrower than is commonly perceived, as is the case with [public housing](#) and [food assistance benefits](#). In several policy areas, states and localities have broad discretion in determining how policies are applied and/or have various opt-out provisions for states ([TANF](#) and [child support](#) are examples here). In some cases, statutory barriers do not exist at all or are very limited, as is the case with [federal hiring](#). In fact, some federal policies and practices contain incentives for assisting the formerly convicted population (i.e., [federal bonding](#) and [tax incentives for employers](#) hiring formerly convicted individuals).

So who are the Reentry MythBusters helpful for?

- **Prison, jail, probation, community corrections, and parole officials** – who want to ensure that individuals can access federal benefits, as appropriate, immediately upon release to help stabilize the critical first days and weeks after incarceration. Pre-release applications and procedures are available for certain federal benefits ([Veterans](#), [Social Security](#), [food assistance](#), and [student financial aid](#)).
- **Reentry service providers and faith-based organizations** – who want to know how to access the laws and policies related to [public housing](#), [SNAP benefits](#), federal [student financial aid](#), and [Veterans](#), [Social Security](#), and [TANF benefits](#). The Reentry MythBusters also describe [child support](#) options, [parental rights](#) while incarcerated, and the [appropriate use of criminal histories in hiring decisions](#).
- **Employers and workforce development specialists** – who are interested in the [incentives](#) and [protections](#) involved in hiring formerly convicted individuals. The Reentry MythBusters are also helpful to employers (including [federal agencies](#)) who want to better understand the [appropriate use of a criminal record](#) in making hiring decisions.
- **States and local agencies** – that want to understand, modify, or eliminate certain bans on benefits ([TANF](#), [SNAP](#)) for people who have been convicted of drug felonies.

Additional Reentry MythBusters are under development and will address juvenile justice issues, among others.

Questions? A [roster](#) of the Reentry Council staff working group is available on the Reentry Council [website](#), as is additional overview material about the [issue of reentry](#) and an [the Reentry Council activities](#) to date.

# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH:** Individuals who have been convicted of a crime are “banned” from public housing.

**FACT:** Public Housing Authorities have great discretion in determining their admissions and occupancy policies for ex-offenders. While PHAs can choose to ban ex-offenders from participating in public housing and Section 8 programs, it is not HUD policy to do so. In fact, in many circumstances, formerly incarcerated people should not be denied access.

On January 5, 2011, during an Interagency Reentry Council Meeting, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan reminded council members that “this is an Administration that believes in the importance of second chances.” He further stated, “And at HUD, part of that support means helping ex-offenders gain access to one of the most fundamental building blocks of a stable life – a place to live.”

**Fact: There are only two convictions for which a PHA MUST prohibit admission – those are:**

- If any member of the household is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a State sex offender registration program; and,
- If any household member has ever been convicted of drug-related criminal activity for manufacture or production of methamphetamine on the premises of federally assisted housing.

Additionally, PHAs must prohibit admission of an applicant for three years from the date of eviction if a household member has been evicted from federally assisted housing for drug-related criminal activity. PHAs must also establish standards which prohibit admission if the PHA determines that any household member is currently engaged in illegal use of a drug or the PHA determines that it has reasonable cause to believe that a household member’s illegal drug use or a pattern of illegal drug use may threaten the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other residents. In these cases, however, PHAs retain their discretion to consider the circumstances and may admit households if the PHA determines that the evicted household member who engaged in drug-related criminal activity has successfully completed a supervised drug rehabilitation program, such as those supervised by drug courts, or that the circumstances leading to eviction no longer exist (24 CFR 5.854).

PHAs must also formally allow all applicants to appeal a denial for housing giving the applicant an opportunity to present evidence of positive change since the time of incarceration.

Working within the parameters and flexibilities of the above regulations, many PHAs have established admissions and occupancy policies that have promoted reuniting families in supportive communities and using stable housing as a platform for improving the quality of life.

### For More Information:

See 24 CFR 960.204 for Public Housing, and 24 CFR 982.553 for the Housing Choice Voucher program

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Because reentry intersects with health and housing, education and employment, family, faith, and community well-being, many federal agencies are focusing on initiatives for the reentry population. Under the auspices of the Cabinet-level interagency Reentry Council, federal agencies are working together to enhance community safety and well-being, assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

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REENTRY  
MYTH

BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH:** Employers have no federal income tax advantage by hiring an ex-felon.

**FACT:** Employers can save money on their federal income taxes in the form of a tax credit incentive through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program by hiring ex-felons. An ex-felon under WOTC is an individual who has been convicted of a felony under any statute of the United States or any State, and has a hiring date which is within one year from the date of conviction or release from prison.

The main objective of this program is to enable certified employees to gradually move from economic dependency to self-sufficiency as they earn a steady income and become contributing taxpayers. At the same time, participating employers are compensated by being able to reduce their federal income tax liability. The Work Opportunity Tax Credit program (WOTC) joins other workforce programs that help incentivize workplace diversity and facilitate access to good jobs for American workers.

**THE WOTC:** For each new ex-felon hired, the credit is 25% of qualified first-year wages for those employed at least 120 hours, or \$1,500; and 40% for those employed 400 hours or more, or \$2,400.

**TARGET GROUPS:** The WOTC is a federal tax credit used to reduce the federal tax liability of private-for-profit employers. Employers can hire individuals from the following 9 target groups, which have traditionally faced significant barriers to employment:

- Qualified TANF Recipients
- Qualified Veterans
- Qualified Ex-Felons
- Qualified Designated Community Residents (DCR)
- Qualified Vocational Rehabilitation Referrals
- Qualified Summer Youth
- Qualified Food Stamp Recipients
- Qualified Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Recipients
- Qualified Long-Term Family Assistance Recipients

**APPLICATION PROCESS:** There's no limit to the number of "new" ex-felons an employer can hire to benefit from these tax savings. Employers apply for and receive a WOTC certification for each new hire from their State Workforce Agencies. There's minimal paperwork needed to qualify and claim the tax credit!

**For More Information:**

<http://www.doleta.gov/wotc>

<http://www.irs.gov>

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# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH:** Businesses and employers have no way to protect themselves from potential property and monetary losses should an individual they hire prove to be dishonest.

**FACT:** Through the Federal Bonding Program (FBP), funded and administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), fidelity insurance bonds are available to indemnify employers for loss of money or property sustained through the dishonest acts of their employees (i.e., theft, forgery, larceny, and embezzlement).

Job seekers who have in the past committed a fraudulent or dishonest act, or who have demonstrated other past behavior casting doubt upon their credibility or honesty, very often are rejected for employment due to their personal backgrounds.

The FBP is an employer hiring incentive that guarantees the job honesty of at-risk job seekers, including ex-offenders. The DOL provides state workforce agencies with a package of promotional bonds to provide a base and incentive to employers and others to participate. Beyond the promotional bonds, additional bonds may be purchased from the bonding agent by states, localities, and other organizations providing reentry services.

- Employers receive bonded employees free-of-charge which serves as an incentive to hire hard-to-place job applicants.
- The FBP bond insurance was designed to reimburse the employer for any loss due to employee theft of money or property with no employer deductible.
- This tool has proven to be extremely successful with only 1% of the bonds ever issued resulting in a claim.

## For More Information:

**Federal Bonding Program Homepage**  
<http://www.bonds4jobs.com/index.html>

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REENTRY  
MYTH

BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH: People with criminal records are automatically barred from employment.**

**FACT: An arrest or conviction record will NOT automatically bar individuals from employment.**

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 makes it unlawful to discriminate in employment based on race, color, national origin, religion, or sex. This law does not prohibit an employer from requiring applicants to provide information about arrests, convictions or incarceration. But, employers may not treat people with the same criminal records differently because of their race or national origin. In addition, in the vast majority of cases, employers may not automatically bar everyone with an arrest or conviction record from employment. This is because an automatic bar to hiring everyone with a criminal record is likely to limit the employment opportunities of applicants or workers because of their race or ethnicity.

If an employer is aware of a conviction or incarceration, that information should only bar someone from employment when the conviction is closely related to the job, after considering:

- The nature of the job,
- The nature and seriousness of the offense, and
- The length of time since it occurred.

Since an arrest alone does not necessarily mean that someone has committed a crime, an employer should not assume that someone who has been arrested, but not convicted, did in fact commit the offense. Instead, the employer should allow the person to explain the circumstances of the arrest. If it appears that he or she engaged in the alleged unlawful conduct, the employer should assess whether the conduct is closely enough related to the job to justify denial of employment.

These rules apply to all employers that have 15 or more employees, including private sector employers, the federal government and federal contractors.

**For More Information:**

**EEOC Policy Guidance and Statements on Arrest and Conviction Records**

<http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/convict1.html>

[http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/arrest\\_records.html](http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/arrest_records.html)

<http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/race-color.html#VIB2conviction>

**FTC Guidance on the Use of Arrest and Conviction Records Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).**

The FCRA imposes a number of requirements on employers who wish to use criminal background checks to screen applicants and/or employees. For more information about these requirements, please visit the following websites:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre36.shtm>

<http://business.ftc.gov/documents/bus08-using-consumer-reports-what-employers-need-know>

ADDENDUM

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# REENTRY MYTH

# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH: The Federal Government's hiring policies prohibit employment of people with criminal records.**

**FACT: The Federal Government does not have a policy that precludes employment of people with criminal records from all positions.**

The Federal Government employs people with criminal records with the requisite knowledge, skills and abilities.

Consistent with Merit System Principles, agencies are required to consider people with criminal records when filling positions if they are the best candidates and can comply with requirements.

Individuals seeking admission to the civil service must undergo an investigation to establish suitability or fitness for employment. The principal issues for agencies as they consider hiring people with criminal records involve making determinations related to:

- An individual's character traits and conduct to determine whether employment would or would not protect the integrity and promote the efficiency of the service.
- Whether employment of the individual in the department or agency is consistent with the interests of national security.
- The nature, seriousness, and circumstances of the individual's criminal activity, and whether there has been rehabilitation or efforts toward rehabilitation.

People with criminal records are eligible to work in the vast majority of federal jobs. For a few positions, they may not be deemed suitable or fit for the job, depending on the crime committed.

- A handful of federal laws, like those prohibiting treason, carry with them a lifetime ban on federal employment.
- Others, like the criminal statute for inciting a riot, prohibit federal employment for a certain number of years.
- Previous criminal conduct could potentially render an individual incompatible with the core duties of the job.
- Previous criminal conduct may also affect an individual's eligibility for a security clearance, depending on the level of clearance being sought and the nature of the conviction.

Excepted (Schedule A) Appointing Authority permits employment of individuals in work-release programs when a local recruiting shortage exists.

- Allows agencies, with OPM approval, to employ inmates of federal and state correctional institutions.
- Appointments limited to one year.

## For More Information:

Regarding Federal Regulations, visit: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys)

For Suitability Determinations Criteria, search under 5 CFR 731.202

For Excepted Service Disqualifying Factors, search under 5 CFR 302.203

Regarding the Bond Amendment, visit:

[http://www.dss.mil/about\\_dss/press\\_room/2009/bond\\_amendment.pdf](http://www.dss.mil/about_dss/press_room/2009/bond_amendment.pdf)

Regarding Federal Background Investigations, visit:

<http://www.opm.gov/investigate/>

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# REENTRY MYTH

# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH:** An employer can get a copy of your criminal history from companies that do background checks without your permission.

**FACT:** According to the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), employers must get one's permission, usually in writing, before asking a background screening company for a criminal history report. If one does not give permission or authorization, the application for employment may not get reviewed. If a person does give permission but does not get hired because of information in the report, the potential employer must follow several legal obligations.

## Key Employer Obligations in the FCRA

An employer that might use an individual's criminal history report to take an "adverse action" (e.g., to deny an application for employment) must provide a copy of the report and a document called **A Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act** before taking the adverse action.

An employer that takes an adverse action against an individual based on information in a criminal history report must tell the individual – orally, in writing, or electronically:

- the name, address, and telephone number of the company that supplied the criminal history report;
- that the company that supplied the criminal history information did not make the decision to take the adverse action and cannot give specific reasons for it; and
- about one's right to dispute the accuracy or completeness of any information in the report, and one's right to an additional free report from the company that supplied the criminal history report, if requested within 60 days of the adverse action.

A reporting company that gathers negative information from public criminal records, and provides it to an employer in a criminal history report, must inform the individual that it gave the information to the employer or that it is taking precautions to make sure the information is complete and current.

If an employer violation of the FCRA is suspected, it should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The law allows the FTC, other federal agencies, and states to take legal action against employers who fail to comply with the law's provisions. The FCRA also allows individuals to take legal action against employers in state or federal court for certain violations.

## For More Information:

See **Credit Reports and Employment Background Checks** from the Federal Trade Commission (<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre36.pdf>).

The FTC works to protect consumers from violations of the FCRA and from fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace, and to educate them about their rights under the FCRA and other consumer protection laws.

To file a complaint or get free information on consumer issues, visit [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

Watch a video, **How to File a Complaint**, at [ftc.gov/video](http://ftc.gov/video) to learn more.

ADDENDUM

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REENTRY  
MYTH

BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH: Veterans cannot request to have their VA benefits resumed until they are officially released from incarceration.**

**FACT: Veterans may inform VA to have their benefits resumed within 30 days or less of their anticipated release date based on evidence from a parole board or other official prison source showing the Veteran’s scheduled release date.**

The Veterans Administration (VA) is proactive with ensuring Veterans are receiving their full entitlement of benefits once released from incarceration.

If the evidence is dated no more than 30 days before the anticipated release from incarceration, VA may resume disability benefits prospectively from the anticipated date of release based on evidence received from a parole board or other official prison source showing the Veteran's scheduled release date.

If the release does not occur on the scheduled date, VA will inform the Veteran that benefits will be discontinued or reduced effective from the date of increase without advance notice.

VA staff conduct outreach in correctional facilities across the nation to share this information with Veterans and prison staff in preparation for release.

**For More Information:**

**VA website**  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**eBenefits**  
[www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

**VA Benefits**  
**1-800-827-1000**

**Homeless Hotline**  
**1-877-4AID-VET**

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ADDENDUM

REENTRY  
**MYTH**

**BUSTER!**

*A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council*

**MYTH:** A Veteran with criminal convictions or a history of incarceration is not eligible for VA health care.

**FACT:** An eligible Veteran, who is not currently incarcerated, can use VA care regardless of any criminal history, including incarceration. Only when an otherwise eligible Veteran is currently incarcerated, or in fugitive felon status, is he or she not able to use VA health care.

By regulation, the Veterans Administration (VA) cannot provide health care services to Veterans who are patients or inmates of another government agency's institution, if that agency has a duty to provide the care. Because jails and prisons must provide health care for their inmates, VA cannot treat Veterans while they are incarcerated.

For Veterans who are not currently incarcerated and are otherwise eligible for VA health care, past involvement with the criminal justice system has no impact on their ability to enroll for or to receive health care. The only exception applies to Veterans with an open warrant for a felony offense (fugitive felons), whom VA is prohibited from treating by a separate Federal law.

Because Veterans with criminal histories face additional barriers to employment and other services in their communities, and may be at increased risk for homelessness, VA has two programs designed specifically to reach Veterans involved with the criminal justice system:

- **Health Care for Reentry Veterans**, which provides direct outreach to Veterans nearing release from state and federal prisons, emphasizing rapid linkage to needed health care and other VA and community services; and
- **Veterans Justice Outreach**, which connects Veterans in contact with the "front end" of the system (police, courts and jails) to mental health, substance use, and other treatment resources. Every VA medical center has a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist who serves as the VA's liaison with the local criminal justice system.

**For More Information:**

**VA Benefits Booklet**

[http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp)

**Health Care Eligibility**

<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/>

**Health Care for Reentry Veterans**

<http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/Reentry.asp>

**Veterans Justice Outreach**

<http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp>

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# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH:** Child welfare agencies are required to terminate parental rights if a parent is incarcerated.

**FACT:** Important exceptions to the requirement to terminate parental rights provide child welfare agencies and states with the discretion to work with incarcerated parents, their children and the caregivers to preserve and strengthen family relationships.

The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) requires state child welfare agencies to initiate termination of parental rights if a child is in foster care for 15 out of the previous 22 months, unless one of several exceptions apply. The ASFA exceptions to the mandatory filing rule that are most relevant to incarcerated parents include:

- at the option of the State, the child is being cared for by a relative; and
- the State agency has documented in the case plan... a compelling reason for determining that filing such a petition would not be in the best interests of the child.

These exceptions provide child welfare agencies with flexibility to work within the requirements imposed by ASFA by recruiting relatives as caregivers for children and by developing carefully written case plans that document, as circumstances warrant, that the severance of the parent-child relationship would be contrary to the child's best interests.

Because they are in federal statute, the exceptions provided in the law are available to every state, though not all use them in practice. Some states and the District of Columbia repeat the exceptions in their state statutes, emphasizing their applicability. These states include (as of February, 2010): Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

## For More Information:

### Child Welfare State Policies

[http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/state/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/)

### Child Welfare Statutes

[http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/statutes/groundtermin.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/groundtermin.cfm)

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For more information about the Reentry Council, go to: [www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council)

# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH: Non-custodial parents who are incarcerated cannot have their child support orders reduced.**

**FACT: Half of all states have formalized processes for reducing child support orders during incarceration. Three-quarters of all states have laws that permit incarcerated parents to obtain a reduced or suspended support order.**

Paying child support is an important responsibility for parents and orders usually reflect a support amount based on state guidelines that take into account parents' ability to pay. Debt accumulation is often associated with incarceration because parents have little or no ability to earn income while they are incarcerated. For non-custodial parents leaving prison, studies report child support arrearages in the range of \$15,000 to \$30,000.

Three-quarters of the States have the ability to suspend orders during periods of incarceration and 25 States have implemented formalized initiatives or processes to reduce orders during incarceration. However, the process is not automatic. In most states, incarcerated non-custodial parents have to initiate a request for a review of their order before any adjustment or modification can be made.

Examples of state processes to modify orders for incarcerated parents include:

- Orders set based on actual, not imputed, income during incarceration. (CT)
- If the child support agency is notified that a non-custodial parent is incarcerated, it must review the order to determine whether it is appropriate under the guidelines and may request a modification if warranted. (DC)
- Child support staff meet with inmates at intake, file a modification request, and suspend enforcement. After release, a court hearing reviews order. (MA)
- Order can be reduced to zero if the parent requests modification and is expected to be in prison for at least six more months and earns less than \$200/month. (OR)

## For More Information:

### Repaying Debts

[http://reentrypolicy.org/ic\\_publications/repaying\\_debts\\_full\\_report](http://reentrypolicy.org/ic_publications/repaying_debts_full_report)

### Staying In Jobs and Out of the Underground

<http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/0349.pdf>

### Working with Incarcerated and Released Parents

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2006/guides/working\\_wit\\_h\\_incarcerated\\_resource\\_guide.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/pubs/2006/guides/working_wit_h_incarcerated_resource_guide.pdf)

ADDENDUM

## What is a REENTRY MYTH BUSTER?

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# REENTRY MYTH

# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH:** Eligibility for Social Security benefits cannot be reinstated when an individual is released from incarceration.

**FACT:** Social Security benefits are not payable if an individual is convicted of a criminal offense and confined. However, monthly benefits usually can be reinstated after a period of incarceration by contacting Social Security and providing proof of release.

By law, Social Security benefits are not payable to an individual who is convicted of a criminal offense and confined for more than 30 consecutive days. If an individual was getting Social Security benefits prior to confinement, benefits are suspended until he or she is released. Generally, there is no time limit on the period of suspension.

Upon release, benefits can be reinstated without filing a new claim. The individual must request reinstatement and provide proof of release to a Social Security office. Upon provision of the necessary proof, the Social Security office will reinstate benefits quickly.

Social Security cannot reinstate benefits after release if the individual was not receiving benefits before confinement. Instead, the individual must file a claim and be approved before benefits can be paid. For these individuals, Social Security offers a prerelease application procedure, which enables a claim to be filed several months before the scheduled release date. This process allows benefits to start shortly after the individual is released.

Social Security also administers the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program for aged or disabled individuals who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits are suspended if the individual is incarcerated for a full calendar month or more. If the incarceration is 12 months or less, Social Security can reinstate SSI benefits quickly upon release. For incarceration periods greater than 12 months, SSI eligibility is terminated and a new claim must be filed to reestablish eligibility. The prerelease application procedure expedites the provision of SSI benefits after the individual is released.

## For More Information:

### Social Security's Website

<http://www.ssa.gov/>

### What Prisoners Need to Know

<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10133.html>

### Entering the Community after Incarceration – How We Can Help

<http://ssa.gov/pubs/10504.html#prerelease>

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**MYTH: A parent with a felony conviction cannot receive TANF/welfare.**

**FACT: The 1996 Welfare ban applies only to convicted drug felons, and only eleven states have kept the ban in place in its entirety. Most states have modified or eliminated the ban.**

Section 115 of P.L. 104-193 (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996) imposed a lifetime ban on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (known as TANF or cash/public assistance) benefits for people with felony drug convictions after August 22, 1996, unless their state passes legislation to opt out of the ban. States in which you currently cannot receive TANF if you have a felony drug conviction are Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and West Virginia. All other states have modified the ban or eliminated it entirely.

Thirteen states have enacted laws that allow people with drug felony convictions to receive TANF: Kansas, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, & Wyoming.

Nine states (California, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, and Utah) have amended the ban to allow individuals who are receiving or have completed drug or alcohol treatment to receive benefits.

Other examples of state modifications to the ban include:

- Providing assistance to individuals who have been convicted of drug possession, while banning those convicted of manufacturing, selling, or trafficking drugs (Arkansas, Florida, and North Dakota).
- Restoring an individual's eligibility after a certain time period if they do not violate the terms of their supervision or become convicted of a new crime (Louisiana and North Carolina).
- Imposing successful completion of drug-testing requirements as a condition of eligibility (Minnesota, Virginia, and Wisconsin).

### For More Information

**"State TANF Options—Drug Felon Ban"**

[http://bit.ly/HIRE\\_TANF](http://bit.ly/HIRE_TANF)

**After Prison: Roadblocks to Reentry**

<http://www.lac.org/roadblocks-to-reentry/>

This information was provided by the Legal Action Center based on the *After Prison: Roadblocks to Reentry* report funded by Open Society Institute and a 2010 state survey funded by the Public Welfare Foundation.

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**MYTH:** Individuals convicted of a felony can never receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits.

**FACT:** This ban applies only to convicted drug felons, and only thirteen States have kept the ban in place in its entirety. Most States have modified or eliminated the ban.

Section 115 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 prohibited States from providing Food Stamps (now the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) to convicted **drug** felons unless the State passes legislation to extend benefits to these individuals.

Only the following 13 States have kept the welfare ban entirely in place: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia. All other States have modified the ban or have eliminated it entirely.

The following 18 States and the District of Columbia have eliminated the ban entirely: Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming.

The following 19 States have amended the ban to allow some individuals to regain eligibility by meeting certain additional requirements, like receiving or completing drug or alcohol treatment: California,

Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin.

**For More Information:**

See the SNAP State Options Report at [www.fns.usda.gov/SNAP/government/Policy.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/SNAP/government/Policy.htm)

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# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH: An individual cannot apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits without a valid State-issued identification card.**

**FACT: A person can get SNAP benefits even if he or she does not have a valid State ID.**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) regulations require an applicant to verify his or her identity in order to receive program benefits. A valid State-issued ID is a common document used to prove an applicant's identity, but it is not the only acceptable form of proof. SNAP regulations require that local SNAP offices offer applicants flexibility about the type of documents they can provide to verify their information. A local office is required to accept any document that reasonably establishes the applicant's identity and cannot accept only one type of verification. Other examples of acceptable documents that verify an applicant's identity are:

- A birth certificate
- An ID card for health benefits or another assistance program
- A school or work ID card
- Wage stubs containing the applicant's name

If an applicant cannot obtain sufficient verification on his or her own, the local office is required to provide assistance. If sufficient proof of identity cannot be obtained, the local office can accept a statement from a collateral contact who can confirm the applicant's identity. A collateral contact is a person who is knowledgeable about the applicant's situation and can corroborate information given on the application. Possible collateral contacts include current or former

employers, landlords, probation officers or staff members from other social service agencies.

**For More Information:**

Visit the SNAP website at [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap) for information on application and eligibility requirements.

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**MYTH: An individual cannot apply for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) benefits without a mailing address.**

**FACT: A person can get SNAP benefits even if he or she does not have a mailing address.**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) application process requires applicants to provide an address where they can receive case related notices. Some common documents that clients receive by mail include:

- Electronic Benefit Card (EBT) that clients use to access their benefits at authorized stores
- Reapplication forms
- Eligibility interview appointment information

Individuals and families who do not have a mailing address can still receive SNAP benefits. Applicants without a fixed address should notify an eligibility worker at their local SNAP office about their situation to find out how they can receive program-related correspondence. Some common ways local offices ensure that clients without a mailing address receive notices include:

- Holding correspondence at the local office for pick up;
- Using the address of a local shelter (with the shelter's permission);
- Use the address of a trusted friend or family member (with resident's permission);
- Send correspondence to a local post office as general delivery mail.

Establishing a procedure for applicants without a fixed address to receive timely correspondence helps to ensure that they continue to receive all the SNAP benefits for which they are eligible.

#### For More Information:

Visit the SNAP website at [www.fns.usda.gov/snap](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap) for information on application and eligibility requirements.

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# BUSTER!

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**MYTH:** A person with a criminal record is not eligible to receive federal student financial aid.

**FACT:** Individuals who are currently incarcerated in a federal, state, or local correctional institution have some limited eligibility for federal student aid. In general, restrictions on federal student aid eligibility are removed for formerly incarcerated individuals, including those on probation, on parole, or residing in a halfway house.

- An individual incarcerated in a federal or state institution is ineligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant or federal student loans. Although an individual incarcerated in a federal or state prison is eligible to receive a Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS), he or she is unlikely to receive either FSEOG or FWS due to the FSEOG award priority, which is that the grant must be given to those students who also will receive a Federal Pell Grant, and due to the logistical difficulties of performing an FWS job while incarcerated.
- Those incarcerated in correctional institutions other than federal or state institutions are eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, and FWS but not for federal student loans. Also, it is unlikely that incarcerated individuals in correctional institutions other than federal or state institutions will receive FSEOG or FWS due to school funding limitations and to the logistical difficulties of performing an FWS job while incarcerated.
- Incarcerated individuals may not receive federal consolidation loans.
- Upon release, most eligibility limitations (other than those noted below) will be removed. In addition, you may apply for aid in anticipation of being released so that your aid is processed in time for you to start school.
- You may be able to have your federal student loans deferred while you are incarcerated, but you must apply for a deferment and meet its eligibility requirements. To apply for deferment, contact the servicer of your loan(s). To find out what kind(s) of loan(s) you have, and/or to find contact information for your loan servicer, call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243) or visit [www.nslsds.ed.gov](http://www.nslsds.ed.gov).
- If your incarceration was for a drug-related offense or if you are subject to an involuntary civil commitment for a sexual offense, your eligibility may be limited as indicated in the two bullets below.
- A student convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs may have eligibility suspended if the offense occurred while the student was receiving federal student aid (grants, loans, or work-study). When you complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA<sup>SM</sup>), you will be asked whether you had a drug conviction for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid. If the answer is yes, you will be provided a special worksheet to help you determine whether your conviction affects your eligibility for federal student aid. You may preview the worksheet in the FAFSA Information section at [www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs).
- If you have been convicted of a forcible or nonforcible sexual offense, and you are subject to an involuntary civil commitment upon completion of a period of incarceration for that offense, you are ineligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant.

ADDENDUM

### For More Information:

To learn about applying for federal student aid, visit

[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov).

For details on whether the drug conviction(s) of a particular individual would limit aid eligibility, visit

[www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/pubs) and view the “FAFSA Question 23 Student Aid Eligibility Worksheet” to establish if or when a conviction limits eligibility.

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**MYTH:** Incarceration exempts individuals from the requirement to file taxes, halts the accumulation of federal tax debts, and prohibits the receipt of tax credits and deductions upon release.

**FACT:** Incarceration neither changes one's obligation to pay taxes and tax debts nor prohibits the receipt of tax credits and deductions upon release.

**Filing Taxes and Accumulation of Tax Debt**

All citizens must comply with the federal requirements to file and pay taxes. Collection of tax debts does not stop automatically upon incarceration. Individuals who are unable to pay should contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

**A tax return is necessary when:**

- Applying for housing and providing proof of income to the rental agency or owner.
- Applying for a student loan-- the college/university will ask for proof of income and request to see an individual's most recent tax return.
- Purchasing large items such as homes, cars, etc. that also require proof of income.
- Proving or establishing residency in the United States and providing employers with employment history.

**If the IRS deems an individual unable to pay any tax debt, collection may be delayed until the individual's financial condition improves.** But, delay of collection will *increase* tax debt because *penalties and interest are charged until payment of the full amount.*

- Individuals who owe \$25,000 or less in combined tax, penalties, and interest, can, for a fee, request an installment agreement.
- Additional time to pay taxes in full may be granted, but the payments must be timely.

To make an installment or payment delay request, use the Online Payment Agreement application at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call 800-829-1040.

**Individuals have three years from the due date of a tax return to file a past due return and receive a refund.** Individuals who do not have the necessary documents to prove employment should:

- Call 1-800-829-1040 and request a copy of their Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, or Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, for the year for which the tax return is being filed.
- After receiving the forms, contact the local IRS office or local 211 number to receive free tax return preparation services.

**Before or after incarceration, individuals can visit a Low Income Tax Clinic (LITC) for assistance.** LITCs are independent organizations that provide low income taxpayers with representation in federal tax disagreements with the IRS for free or for a nominal charge.

Free help is available through the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS), an independent organization within the IRS that helps taxpayers who are experiencing economic harm as a result of tax issues. Individuals should contact their local advocates, whose numbers are in the phone book, in [Publication 1546, Taxpayer Advocate Service -- Your Voice at the IRS](#), online at [www.irs.gov/advocate](http://www.irs.gov/advocate), or by calling 1-877-777-4778.

**Tax Credits and Deductions**

After release, a felony conviction does not bar an individual from receiving tax credits or deductions. Tax Credits create a dollar for dollar reduction in tax liability. Tax deductions reduce the level of taxable income.

ADDENDUM

**Common tax credits include:**

- Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) – Individuals who work and have an earned income below the thresholds may qualify for the refundable EITC; the amount is determined by income and family size. **Income received for work performed while incarcerated, in a work release program or while in a halfway house is not included in the calculation of the EITC amount.**
- Child Tax Credit - Individuals with a qualifying child may receive this tax credit which can be claimed in addition to the Child and Dependent Care Credit (see below).
- Child and Dependent Care Credit –Covers a percentage of the expenses paid for the care of children under age 13, or for a disabled spouse or dependent, which enables the taxpayer to work.
- Education Credits—The American Opportunity Tax Credit covers some tuition and related expenses in the first four years of post-secondary education of an eligible student for whom the taxpayer claims an exemption on the tax return. The Lifetime Learning Credit can be claimed for all post-secondary education for an unlimited number of years. Both credits cannot be claimed for the same student in one year.
- Retirement Savings Contribution Credit – May be claimed on a percentage of qualified retirement savings contributions. Eligible individuals must be age 18 or older at the end of the year, not a student or an individual for whom someone else claims a dependency exemption, and have an adjusted gross income below a specified amount.

**Common tax deductions include:**

- Standard Deduction - Consists of the basic standard deduction and any additional standard deduction for age or blindness.
- Exemption – Reduces taxable income. Individuals are entitled to a personal exemption when filing a tax return.

**For More Information:**

[Publication 594, The IRS Collection Process](#), provides valuable information on the collection process.

[Publication 4925, Get Right with Your Taxes](#) and [Get Right with Your Taxes](#), Facilitator’s Guide for Prisoner Reentry Educational Program

For more information on LITC’s see [Publication 4134, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic List](#), this provides information on clinics in local areas.

[Publication 596, Earned Income Tax Credit](#)

[Publication 972, Child Tax Credit](#)

[Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses](#)

[Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education](#)

**Chapter 5 in [Publication 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements \(IRAs\)](#)**

[Publication 501, Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information](#)

For copies of these documents, call toll free at 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-8293676), write or visit a local IRS office. To find a local office, visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

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# BUSTER!

A Product of the Federal Interagency Reentry Council

**MYTH:** An individual with a felony conviction can never vote.

**FACT:** Nearly every state has a restoration process to regain voting rights. Only a few states do not allow re-enfranchisement, and those restrictions only apply to a few specific offenses. Generally, it is not a matter of whether one can vote, but how and when one can vote.

It is a common misconception that all states permanently disenfranchise a person on the basis of a felony conviction. Every state is different with respect to disenfranchisement and restoring one's right to vote. There is no federal law disqualifying people with convictions to vote.

While many states do temporarily take away a citizen's right to vote for a criminal conviction, most states automatically restore that right once a person is no longer incarcerated or once they have completed probation or parole. Thus, in the real sense, most incarcerated individuals have their voting rights suspended. In particular:

- 14 states (including the District of Columbia) suspend a citizen's right to vote only while incarcerated. Those states are DC, HI, IL, MA, MT, NH, ND, OH, OR, PA, and UT.
- 23 states suspend a citizen's right to vote until certain post-incarceration sentences and obligations are satisfied, including probation and parole, and often times the payment of fees and restitution associated with such.
- 12 states require an additional waiting period, ranging from two to seven years, and/or additional requirements, such as applying for clemency or pardon from a governor, parole board, or judge, or even convincing a state legislature to pass a bill specifically designated to re-enfranchise an individual.
- In two states, ME and VT, people with criminal convictions are not disenfranchised. Individuals may vote even while incarcerated.

Some states do permanently disallow the restoration of one's voting rights for certain crimes committed - these include AL, TN, OH, and MD. In these states, even pardons, expunged

records, or other such restoration methods are disallowed. Some sources incorrectly cite VA, KY, IA, and FL as states that permanently disenfranchise individuals for criminal offenses; all of these states actually have restoration processes for all disqualifying criminal convictions, albeit some are lengthy.

**For More Information:**

**The Sentencing Project**

<http://www.sentencingproject.org/template/page.cfm?id=133>

**National Conference of State Legislatures**

<http://www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=16529>

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# BUSTER!

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**MYTH:** Medicaid agencies are required to terminate benefits if an otherwise eligible individual is incarcerated.

**FACT:** States are not required to terminate eligibility for individuals who are incarcerated based solely on inmate status. States may suspend eligibility during incarceration, enabling an individual to remain enrolled in the state Medicaid program, thereby facilitating access to Medicaid services following release.

**Medicaid-eligible individuals may continue to be enrolled in the program before, during, and after the time in which they are held involuntarily in the secure custody of a public institution.**

The statutory Federal Financial Participation (FFP) exclusion applies to Medicaid-eligible inmates of public institutions and only affects the availability of federal funds under Medicaid for reimbursement of medical services provided to an incarcerated individual. **The FFP exclusion does not affect the Medicaid eligibility of an incarcerated individual.** Additionally, Medicaid reimbursement is available for inpatient services provided to an inmate in *medical* facilities.

Prior to release from incarceration, the state may make certain that enrolled individuals in suspended status are placed in payment status to ease the receipt of Medicaid-covered services immediately upon leaving the facility.

Inmates not already enrolled in Medicaid may file an application prior to discharge. Beginning the process before release allows the state time to enroll eligible individuals so that they may receive Medicaid-covered services upon leaving the facility.

The Medicaid letter on the back of this document, dated 4/25/2004 and entitled *Ending Chronic Homelessness*, explains the suspension versus termination dichotomy in greater detail.

### For More Information:

For more information see the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicaid Primer (pp 75- 77), available on the CMS website: [https://www.cms.gov/CommunityServices/downloads/Homeless\\_Primer.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/CommunityServices/downloads/Homeless_Primer.pdf).

ADDENDUM

### What is a REENTRY MYTH BUSTER?

This Myth Buster is one in a series of fact sheets intended to clarify existing federal policies that affect formerly incarcerated individuals and their families. Each year, more than 700,000 individuals are released from state and federal prisons. Another 9 million cycle through local jails. When reentry fails, the social and economic costs are high -- more crime, more victims, more family distress, and more pressure on already-strained state and municipal budgets.

Because reentry intersects with health and housing, education and employment, family, faith, and community well-being, many federal agencies are focusing on initiatives for the reentry population. Under the auspices of the Cabinet-level interagency Reentry Council, federal agencies are working together to enhance community safety and well-being, assist those returning from prison and jail in becoming productive citizens, and save taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.

For more information about the Reentry Council, go to: [www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/reentry-council)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicaid and State Operations  
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG)

**TO:** State Medicaid Directors  
CMS Associate Regional Administrators for Medicaid

**CC:** Charlene Brown, CMSO Deputy Director

**FROM:** Glenn Stanton  
Acting Director  
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG)

**SUBJ:** Ending Chronic Homelessness

**DATE:** May 25, 2004

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, recently chaired by HHS Secretary Thompson, is working to develop and implement a comprehensive national approach to end chronic homelessness in the United States through interagency, intergovernmental, and intercommunity collaborations. CMS has been supporting the efforts of the council in several ways. First, we worked with our federal partners to release a new tool on our website entitled *First Step on the Path to Benefits for People who are Homeless*. The *FirstStep* product is an easy-to-use, interactive tool designed to assist case managers and outreach workers in helping people who are homeless to gain access to mainstream programs. The tool may be found on the CMS website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/homeless/firststep/index.html>.

Second, I am pleased to announce that we have posted a report on our website that is entitled *Improving Medicaid Access for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness: State Examples*. This report focuses on practices that have increased Medicaid access for people experiencing chronic homelessness, including assisting people leaving psychiatric facilities and correctional facilities to obtain Medicaid quickly. We hope this report will provide useful information about state efforts as you address chronic homelessness issues in your state. The report may be found on CMS's website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/promisingpractices/> or at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/homeless/>.

Finally, CMS is encouraging states with this letter to "suspend" and not "terminate" Medicaid benefits while a person is in a public institution or Institute for Mental Disease (IMD). Persons released from institutions are at risk of homelessness; thus, access to mainstream services upon release is important in establishing a continuum of care and ongoing support that may reduce the demand for costly and inappropriate services later.

As a reminder, the payment exclusion under Medicaid that relates to individuals residing in a public institution or an IMD does not affect the *eligibility* of an individual for the Medicaid program. Individuals who meet the requirements for eligibility for Medicaid may be enrolled in

the program before, during, and after the time in which they are held involuntarily in secure custody of a public institution or as a resident of an IMD. The statutory federal financial participation (FFP) exclusion applying to inmates of public institutions and residents of IMDs affects only the availability of federal funds under Medicaid for health services provided to that individual while he or she is an inmate of a public institution or a resident of an IMD.

Thus, states should not terminate eligibility for individuals who are inmates of public institutions or residents of IMDs based solely on their status as inmates or residents. Instead, states should establish a process under which an eligible inmate or resident is placed in a suspended status so that the state does not claim FFP for services the individual receives, but the person remains on the state's rolls as being eligible for Medicaid (assuming the person continues to meet all applicable eligibility requirements). Once discharge from the facility is anticipated, the state should take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that an eligible individual is placed in payment status so that he or she can begin receiving Medicaid-covered services immediately upon leaving the facility. If an individual is not already eligible for Medicaid prior to discharge from the facility, but has filed an application for Medicaid, the state should take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the application is processed in a timely manner so that the individual can receive Medicaid-covered services upon discharge from the facility.

Given the high incidence of substance abuse, mental illness, and physical illness among those who have been incarcerated or otherwise held in involuntary custody, I encourage states to coordinate prison health services and other health care services provided during involuntary confinement with Medicaid services. By working with parole officers and other social services professionals who deal with inmates and residents of IMDs who are to be released, State Medicaid programs can assure that eligible persons are enrolled in Medicaid prior to release and can create an ongoing continuum of care for these individuals, regardless of the source of funding for such care.

In closing, I want to thank you for your ongoing efforts to improve access to Medicaid for all persons, and particularly for those who are homeless.



**I. (2) SUMMARY OF LAC DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**

The Legal Action Center (LAC) is a non-profit public interest law firm and policy organization that specializes in fighting discrimination and protecting the rights of people with alcohol or drug problems, HIV/AIDS or criminal records.

The LAC offers a variety of free publications, webinars, advocacy toolkits and more, intended for the previously incarcerated, their families, and the professionals working with them to assist in reintegration back to society.

A summary of some publications are outlined below. Visit the LAC website at [www.lac.org](http://www.lac.org) to view all available materials.

**General Reentry**

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[After Prison: Roadblocks to Reentry](#)

Comprehensive study of the legal barriers in all 50 states that people with criminal records must overcome in order to lead productive, law-abiding lives and successfully rejoin society. Documents state laws and policies that prevent qualified individuals with arrest and conviction records from obtaining employment, housing, food stamps & public assistance, and drivers' licenses, and from voting and becoming adoptive and foster parents; grades states on whether their laws and policies help or hinder the ability of people with criminal records to reenter society successfully; and provides policy recommendations.

**Documents**

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[How to Obtain Important Documents](#)

How to apply for and obtain important documents in NYS, including driver's licenses, non-driver I.D. cards, social security cards, birth certificates, voter registration, naturalization cards and passports. These documents are vital to obtain employment, housing, public assistance, etc.

**Employment**

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[Occupational Licensing Survey](#)

Provides information about statutory restrictions placed on NYS-issued occupational licensure of individuals with criminal records and about the procedures available to appeal a denial of licensure, registration, or certification based on individual's criminal history.

[Lowering Criminal Record Barriers: Certificates of Relief/Good Conduct and Record Sealing](#)

Explains eligibility for case sealing, Certificate of Relief from Disabilities or a Certificate of Good Conduct. Provides information on how to apply for these Certificates.

[Employment Laws Affecting Individuals with Criminal Convictions](#)

Describes the employment laws that govern people with criminal records.

[Your New York State Rap Sheet: A Guide to Getting, Understanding, & Correcting Your Criminal Record](#)

Explains how to obtain copies of a criminal record and how to correct inaccuracies. Explains how and what information employers get about criminal records and when they can get it.

**Housing**

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[Housing Laws Affecting Individuals with Criminal Convictions](#)

Describes the federal public housing laws that govern the admission and eviction of people with criminal histories into federally assisted housing.

ADDENDUM





## **II. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

For individuals facing a temporary financial shortfall, the programs listed below are designed to assist individuals & families in need, to avert eviction and/or shut-off of utility services.

### **1. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Building L, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-2020

#### **TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (TANF)**

Variety of federal and state cash assistance programs for individuals and families.

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-3100

#### **FOOD STAMPS / SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)**

Food Stamps, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), enables low-income households to purchase food at authorized retail food stores using an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) "debit" card.

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-3100

#### **HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)**

Federally-funded program that provides a utility payment benefit directly to the utility service provider for low income, elderly and/or disabled consumers.

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-3480 (During the HEAP Season Nov-April); (845) 364-3100 (Outside the HEAP Season); if you are 60 years of age or older and/or disabled, please contact (845) 364-2108.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Visit [www.MyBenefits.ny.gov](http://www.MyBenefits.ny.gov) for eligibility guidelines.

### **2. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF HEALTH (DOH)**

Building J, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD VOUCHERS - WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC)**

Free, federally-funded nutrition program for women who are pregnant or nursing and for children under the age of five. Participants who qualify, based on financial, medical or nutritional needs, receive vouchers (coupons) to purchase supplemental, nutritious foods such as milk, eggs, cheese, juice and cereal.

**CONTACT:** DOH offers the following 5 WIC application sites (Must call first):

1. Monsey - Dept. of Social Services, 23 Robert Pitt Dr. (845) 426-6351 [Mon-Fri]
2. Haverstraw - 26 New Main St. (845) 429-5525 [Wed-Thu]
3. Spring Valley - DOH Spring Valley 14 North Main St. (845) 426-0971 [Tue/Wed/Fri]
4. Nyack - The Nyack Center, 58 Depew Ave. (845) 353-6037 [Mon]
5. New Square - Community residence 9 Jackson Ave. (845) 364-3329 [Mon/Tue/Thurs]

### **3. SALVATION ARMY**

179 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 352-9577

#### **PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - ELECTRIC/GAS UTILITY O&R NEIGHBOR FUND ADMINISTRATOR**

Administers The Neighbor Fund program on behalf of Orange & Rockland Utilities. Evaluates Neighbor Fund applications and distributes grants from October through June each year. The Neighbor Fund is an emergency utility assistance payment program.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Residents who have exhausted all governmental resources available for financial assistance.



**PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - WATER UTILITY  
UNITED WATER UW-CARES FUND ADMINISTRATOR**

Administers The UW Cares program on behalf of United Water Utility. Evaluates applications and distributes grants under the program.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Applicants must demonstrate a temporary financial need and a history of good-faith payments with United Water.

**PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - RENT ARREARS  
EVICTION ASSISTANCE - RENT PAYMENT PROGRAM**

Oversees a limited rent arrears assistance program for individuals/families who have fell behind on their rent.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Strict eligibility requirements. Documentation required.

**4. CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF ROCKLAND**

78 Hudson Avenue, Haverstraw NY 10927 (845) 942-5791

**PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - RENT ARREARS/OTHER  
EVICTION ASSISTANCE - RENT PAYMENT PROGRAM/EMERGENCY RELIEF**

Offers case management and emergency relief funds to assist those facing eviction. One-time financial assistance may also be available to individuals that have emergency basic needs, such as utility bills, furniture, funeral assistance, prescriptions, etc. Emergency relief funds are limited by availability.

**5. NYS DEPT. OF PUBLIC SERVICE**

3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 1-888-Ask-PSC1 (1-888-275-7721)

**DISCOUNT PROGRAM - PHONE SERVICES LANDLINE / WIRELESS  
LIFELINE ACROSS AMERICA**

Federal public assistance programs that help to ensure that telephone service is available & affordable to low-income subscribers. Lifeline provides discounts on monthly phone service charges landline or wireless. Link Up provides a discount on the cost of commencing phone service.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Qualification based on household income. Recipients of Public Assistance, HEAP, Food Stamps, SSI, Medicaid or Veteran's Disability pension, are typically eligible.

**CONTACT:** Visit [www.LifeLine.gov](http://www.LifeLine.gov) for information about the program & links to authorized providers (some NY regional providers listed below). Visit the [www.USAC.org](http://www.USAC.org) or call 1-888-641-8722 OR contact your local phone service provider, state public service commission or the FCC at 1-888-CALL-FCC.

**MULTIPLE DISCOUNT CELL PHONE PROVIDERS LISTED BELOW**

Provides eligible households with a free wireless cell phone, unlimited 911 access and 250 minutes of free talk-time per month. Eligibility reviewed yearly.

- **SAFELINK WIRELESS** [www.safelink.com](http://www.safelink.com) (800) SAFELINK
- **ASSURANCE WIRELESS** [www.AssuranceWireless.com](http://www.AssuranceWireless.com) (888) 898-4888
- **XCHANGE TELECOM, INC.** [www.xchangetele.com](http://www.xchangetele.com) (877) 853-8350



**ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

*II. (1) SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENT – OTDA Informational Letter*



**NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY  
ASSISTANCE**

40 NORTH PEARL STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12243-0001

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
*Governor*

**Informational Letter**

**Section 1**

<b>Transmittal:</b>	12-INF-03
<b>To:</b>	Local District Commissioners
<b>Issuing Division/Office:</b>	Center for Employment and Economic Supports, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
<b>Date:</b>	March 9, 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	Temporary Assistance (TA) and Medicaid (MA) Benefits For Infants Residing With Their Incarcerated Mothers
<b>Suggested Distribution:</b>	Temporary Assistance Directors Medicaid Directors Child Support Enforcement Coordinators Support Collection Unit Supervisors IV-D Attorneys Fair Hearing Staff Staff Development Coordinators
<b>Contact Person(s):</b>	Temporary Assistance Bureau 1-800-343-8859, extension 4-9344 Medicaid Local District Support Upstate: (518) 474-8887 NYC: (212) 417-4500
<b>Attachments:</b>	<a href="#">Attachment A – Confidentiality Agreement</a>
<b>Attachment Available On – Line:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ADDENDUM

**Filing References**

Previous ADMs/INFs	Releases Cancelled	Dept. Regs.	Soc. Serv. Law & Other Legal Ref.	Manual Ref.	Misc. Ref.
95 ADM-4, 00 INF-6		18 NYCRR 350; 360-2.2			

*OTDA 12-INF-03 (Rev. 3/2012)*



**Section 2**

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this release is to clarify policy and protocols that social service districts (SSDs) must adhere to when processing applications on behalf of infants who are born to incarcerated mothers at a State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) facility.

**II. Background**

In 1995, OTDA released 95 ADM-4 which advised SSDs that there are programs within the State prison system which allow infants who are born to incarcerated mothers to remain with the mothers and that such infants may be eligible for Temporary Assistance (TA) and Medicaid (MA) benefits.

Currently there is one nursery in a DOCCS prison within the State. There are less than 27 children (bed capacity) residing in this nursery.

Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Westchester County, New York houses the oldest prison nursery in the country. Pregnant inmates are given prenatal care and parenting classes. In an effort to create bonds between mother and child, some women are permitted to keep their infants with them in prison for up to 18 months after birth. An inmate with an infant in the facility nursery may apply and be found eligible for TA and MA benefits for the child.

OTDA has recently received inquiries from SSDs and DOCCS regarding the procedures established in 1995 for this facility.

This release clarifies the TA and MA policy and protocols contained in 95 ADM-4.

**III. Program Implications**

**Temporary Assistance**

The State correctional facility from which SSDs may receive applications is:

**Bedford Hills Correctional Facility**  
247 Harris Road  
Bedford Hills, New York 10507-2400

When the infant of the incarcerated inmate needs to apply for assistance, the mother of the infant, with the assistance of a DOCCS counselor, will complete an application on behalf of such infant. SSDs are no longer required to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DOCCS allowing DOCCS staff to conduct eligibility interviews on behalf of the SSD. Rather, SSDs should work with DOCCS staff to coordinate the application and eligibility determination process. If necessary, SSD staff may interview the incarcerated parent by phone or arrange for teleconferencing.

Each SSD must advise OTDA by April 15, 2012, of a local contact who will work with DOCCS staff to accommodate the application and documentation of eligibility with respect to these applications. If OTDA is not notified by that date, the TA Director of the SSD will be established as the contact person. A list of SSD contacts will then be furnished to DOCCS. Contacts may be sent to Greg Nolan at [Greg.Nolan@otda.state.ny.us](mailto:Greg.Nolan@otda.state.ny.us).





## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

### ***II. (1) SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENT – OTDA Informational Letter***

The DOCCS primary contact is:

Marlyn Kopp  
ADSP (Assistant Deputy Superintendent for Programs)  
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility  
247 Harris Road  
Bedford Hills, NY 10507-2400

Phone: (914) 241-3100  
Email: [Marlyn.Kopp@doccs.ny.gov](mailto:Marlyn.Kopp@doccs.ny.gov)

DOCCS secondary contact is:

Joseph Joseph  
DSP (Deputy Superintendent for Programs)  
Bedford Hills Correctional Facility  
247 Harris Road  
Bedford Hills, NY 10507-2400

Phone: (914) 241-3100  
Email: [Joseph.Joseph@doccs.ny.gov](mailto:Joseph.Joseph@doccs.ny.gov)

Training on the TA application and documentation process was recently completed for DOCCS staff by SUNY Rockefeller.

SSDs must be aware of the following regarding TA applications:

- Normal TA application, eligibility and documentation guidelines apply to these applications. However, since the child and mother are in the care and custody of DOCCS, many eligibility variables may be easier to verify than normal.
- DOCCS staff will provide the three informational books to the parent. These are:
  - LDSS-4148A, Book 1, “What You Should Know About Your Rights and Responsibilities.”
  - LDSS-4148B, Book 2, “What You Should Know About Social Services Programs.”
  - LDSS-4148C, Book 3, “What You Should Know If You Have An Emergency –Book 3.”
- The application date is the date that the SSD receives the signed, completed application form from the designated person at the correctional facility.
- The application and accompanying documentation, including the Child Support Enforcement Referral, proof of the child's birth, a signed confidentiality release, a Social Security card or proof that an application for a Social Security number for the child has been



## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

### ***II. (1) SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENT – OTDA Informational Letter***

made will be forwarded by the designated person at the correctional facility to the SSD. That SSD must accept and file the application, review the documentation and then determine eligibility for the child.

Please note that the current LDSS 2860 “Child Support Enforcement Referral,” will soon be replaced with the new LDSS 4882 “Information About Child Support Services and Application/Referral for Child Support Services,” which should be provided to the inmate to complete and returned to the child support program in the “district of fiscal responsibility” (DFR).

- In the rare instances that there is a delay in obtaining verification of birth, a statement from DOCCS as to the date of birth and relationship of the child to mother will constitute verification of age, citizenship and relationship until documentation may be obtained by the SSD. This is because in all instances, the child will be in the care of DOCCS or another penal institution at the time of birth. This is consistent with previously established OTDA alternative verification procedures (see 00 INF-6).
- The DFR for the infant continues to be the mother's district of residence at the time of her sentencing. At the time of application, DOCCS will verify the mother's district of residence on behalf of the SSD.
- The TA category of the infant will be Family Assistance unless otherwise not eligible (for example, by reason of application of the 60 month time limit).
- Even though the child may have been born in the SSD where the correctional facility is located, that SSD will not be the DFR unless it is the county where the mother resided at the time of her sentencing.
- Please note that the child support program in the DFR may contact the DOCCS contacts provided in the release to provide assistance in contacting the inmate regarding the referral and information about putative father's/noncustodial parents and, if necessary, to coordinate telephonic testimony in court paternity and support proceedings.
- In the event of an unresolved interjurisdictional dispute, the SSD in the county where the facility is located must accept and process the application. The SSD may request a fair hearing to resolve the dispute.
- Assigned authorization and certification periods on the Welfare Management System (WMS) will be 12 months. Recertification for the child while residing in the prison nursery will not be required unless the child is there beyond the 12 months: this will be a very small percentage of cases in the nursery. Most newborns will be in DOCCS care for 12 months or less.
- Because the mother of the child is incarcerated, she is not eligible to receive TA for herself. The standard of need for the child will be based on a not-for-profit negotiated room and board rate plus the \$45 personal needs allowance (PNA). It is suggested that the room and board maximum (the total of the one person Basic, Home Energy Allowance, Supplemental Home Energy Allowance and Shelter maximum (with child rate)) for the district the facility

*OTDA 12-INF-03 (Rev. 3/2012)*



## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

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is located within should be the rate set. For Bedford Hills Correctional Facility (Westchester County) this amount is \$506 (\$45 PNA and \$461 room and board). Only the child should be included for the Household (HH) and Case (CA) counts in ABEL (Please use ABEL shelter code 12 in the interim until a not-for-profit room and board code is developed).

- Since inmates are normally paid less than the standard \$90 work disregard, SSDs must enter \$90 in the earnings field on ABEL and then exempt it with the standard disregard. It is not necessary to obtain verification of these wages unless DOCCS notifies the SSD that there has been an increase over the \$90.
- The room and board payment must be made to the DOCCS facility and the PNA must be paid into the inmates account. The PNA must be provided to the inmate on behalf of the child for the child's incidental needs. The child support pass-through when one is appropriate will be paid to the inmate.
- The payments should be associated name payments (use screen 7 of the DSS- 3209). The pay type for the PNA is E-9 and the room and board payment type is 40.
- Copies of requests for information and client notices that are sent to the mother must also be provided by the SSD to the designated person in the correctional facility.
- DOCCS will be responsible for notifying the SSD whenever there is a change in the parent's or child's circumstances including the date the child is discharged from the nursery.

#### **Food Stamp Implications**

Children living with their incarcerated mothers are ineligible for food stamps since they are considered boarders.

#### **Medicaid Implications**

For Medicaid purposes, SSDs are no longer required to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DOCCS. Rather, as mentioned, SSDs should work with DOCCS staff to coordinate the application and eligibility determination process.

#### **Application**

An incarcerated mother with an infant in the facility nursery may apply for TA/MA or MA-only for the infant. In most instances, MA will be authorized as a result of the infant's eligibility for TA. Infants determined ineligible for TA must have their eligibility for MA determined separately as required by Department Regulation 360-2.2 using standard procedures. Infants who qualify/apply for MA-only should have their eligibility determined as if the infant was residing in the community, as a household of one. The infant is considered to be living in the home of an ADC-Related (ADC-R) relative since the mother of an infant in a correctional facility nursery is involved in the day-to-day care of the child and in the decision making about the child. The case category will be ADC-R based on the deprivation of continued absence of the infant's father.



## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

### ***II. (1) SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENT – OTDA Informational Letter***

To apply for Medicaid only, the mother or her authorized representative with the assistance of a DOCCS social worker will complete the State-prescribed form, the DOH 4220, Access NY. To apply for TA/MA the mother or her authorized representative with the assistance of a DOCCS social worker, will complete the State-prescribed form, the DSS 2921: “Application for Temporary Assistance, Medical Assistance, Food Stamps, Services,” on behalf of the infant applying for assistance.

For Medicaid purposes, a face-to-face interview is not required.

Any corrections staff designated to act as an authorized representative must complete the Confidentiality Agreement (Attachment A).

The application date is the date that the SSD receives the signed, completed application form from the designated person at the correctional facility.

Each application forwarded to the District of Fiscal Responsibility (DFR) must include the name and telephone number of the designated person at the correctional facility.

The application and accompanying documentation, including the Child Support Enforcement Referral, proof of the child’s birth, a signed confidentiality release and an SS-5: “Application for a Social Security Card” completed for the infant or proof that application for a Social Security number has already been made for the infant must be forwarded to the DFR by the designated person at the correctional facility. The DFR must accept the application and accompanying documentation and determine eligibility for the infant.

#### **DFR**

The DFR for an infant residing with an incarcerated mother continues to be the district where the mother most recently legally resided prior to incarceration. At the time of application, DOCCS will verify the mother’s district of residence on behalf of the SSD. Even though the infant may have been born in the SSD where the correctional facility is located, that SSD is not the DFR unless it is the county where the mother resided at the time of her sentencing. In the event that the mother did not have a legal residence at the time of sentencing, the where-found district (that is, the sentencing district), is the district of fiscal responsibility.

#### **Notification of Change**

DOCCS will be responsible for notifying the SSD whenever there is a change in the parent’s or infant’s circumstances, including release dates.

#### **Information Requests and Notices**

Copies of requests for information and client notices that are sent to the mother must also be provided by the SSD to the designated person in the correctional facility.

#### **Managed Care Implications**

Infants residing with their incarcerated mothers are excluded from Medicaid Managed Care. When an application for TA/MA or MA-only is submitted to the SSD, the SSD must insure that the



## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

### ***II. (1) SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENT – OTDA Informational Letter***

unborn/newborn is coded with a 90 exclusion code (using "INCAR" in the worker field) in the Restriction/Exception subsystem to prevent managed care enrollment or reenrollment. This exclusion should have an end-date equal to the period approved for the infant to remain with the incarcerated mother in the facility.

If the SSD finds a case of an unborn/newborn with a Medicaid managed care enrollment already in place, the managed care enrollment line should be deleted in the Prepaid Capitation Plan (PCP) subsystem. If the baby has already been born, the deletion of the enrollment line should be followed by a request to the plan to void any managed care premiums they received on behalf of the newborn. The current rules regarding recovery of payment from plans apply.

#### **Issued By**

**Name:** Phyllis Morris

**Title:** Acting Deputy Commissioner

**Division/Office:** Center for Employment and Economic Supports

ADDENDUM



**III.(I) HOUSING - EMERGENCY HOUSING/SHELTER**

*Emergency Family Shelter, Teenage Runaway/Crisis Shelter, Domestic Violence Shelter, Overnight Homeless Winter Shelter Program, Homeless Veterans Assistance,*

**1. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS) - HOUSING UNIT HOMELESS SHELTER / EVICTION ASSISTANCE**

Building L, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-3150

The DSS Housing Unit conducts emergency housing assessments for individuals and families currently homeless or about to become homeless, due to an eviction, foreclosure or other circumstance. Assists individuals and families by:

- Working with landlords to negotiate payment of rent arrears and coordinating with legal services to avert impending evictions.
- Placing homeless individuals/families with family members or friends on a temporary basis while staff locate temporary/permanent housing.
- Placing individuals/families in the County's Emergency Family Shelter when appropriate. \* Individual males are not placed in the Family Shelter. Alternative arrangements are made with neighboring counties.

After-hours emergency, call Sheriff (845) 638-5400.

**2. THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE - PROJECT TURNING POINT / CRISIS YOUTH SHELTER**

Office - Walgrove Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522 (914) 693-0600 / \*\*Confidential Shelter Address\*\*

Provides crisis shelter services for runaway/homeless youth and at-risk youth requiring crisis intervention and/or respite services in Rockland County.

24-Hour Teenage Runaway Hotline (845) 623-6939

**3. ROCKLAND FAMILY SHELTER (RFS) - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER**

Office - 9 Johnsons Lane, New City, NY 10956 (845) 634-3391 / \*\*Confidential Shelter Address\*\*

Maintains a safe and confidential, residential emergency shelter for women and their children who are survivors of domestic or dating violence and abuse. Shelter staff on site 24 hours a day.

24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline (845) 634-3344

**4. HELPING HANDS - SAFE HAVEN FOR THE HOMELESS**

**\*\*\* Winter Months Only \*\*\***

Outreach Office @United Church of Spring Valley  
11 E. Church St., Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 667-2588

Through a partnership of 18 houses of worship, warm shelter is provided during the winter months for Rockland's homeless. Only for Ages 21+. A shower and washer/dryer available for use.

**5. US DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (USVA) - CALL CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS**

New York Regional Office, 245 W Houston Street, New York, NY 10014 [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

The VA Home Front assist homeless veterans, or those at risk of becoming homeless.

24-Hour Veteran's Crisis Hotline (800) 273-8255





**III.(2) HOUSING - MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITIES**  
**Section 8 Housing Complexes**

There are five Municipal Housing Authorities in Rockland County that operate Public/Low-Income Housing Complexes within their own jurisdiction. There are separate waiting lists for each complex. Waiting lists may be closed or may be several years long.

**1. NYACK HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15 Highview Court, Nyack NY (845) 358-2476

**DEPEW MANOR**

60 Depew Avenue, Nyack  
48 low-income units for seniors and families.

**WALDRON TERRACE**

15 Highview Court, Nyack  
88 low-income units for seniors and families.

**PINE STREET HOME APARTMENTS**

15 Highview Court, Nyack.  
28 low-income units for persons with mobility-impairment disabilities.

**2. RAMAPO HOUSING AUTHORITY**

One Pondview Drive, Suffern NY (845) 357-7171

**HILLCREST APARTMENTS (CATAMOUNT)**

Catamount Drive, Spring Valley  
79 units for seniors and families.

**AIRMONT APARTMENTS (PONDVIEW)**

38 Pondview Drive, Suffern  
121 units for seniors and families.

**3. SPRING VALLEY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

76 Gesner Drive, Spring Valley NY (845) 352-7677

**FRANKLIN COURT APARTMENTS**

Franklin Street, Spring Valley  
20 units for families.

**GESNER GARDENS**

Gesner Drive, Spring Valley  
75 units for families.

**HARVEST HOUSE**

14 Union Road, Spring Valley  
51 units for seniors.

**4. KASER HOUSING AUTHORITY**

15 Elyon Road, Monsey NY (845) 352-2932

**SECTION 8 Apartments**

17 Phyllis Drive, Kaser  
4 units primarily for Seniors

**5. NEW SQUARE HOUSING AUTHORITY**

766 North Main St., New Square NY (845) 354-1000





### **III.(3) HOUSING - GOVERNMENT & OTHER HOUSING RESOURCES**

**1. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING & SUPPORT: CHANDEL 1 HOME - REENTRY GROUP HOME  
NEW BEGINNINGS DIGNITY SERVICES**

230 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 426-6626

The Chandel 1 Home is a transitional living program for previously incarcerated men. Family style home offers supportive living environment. Services help residents make a successful transition back to community life. Services include life skills training, employment preparation & assistance, seminars, referrals to social services & community agencies.

**2. SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER  
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

Building K, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-3939

Administrates a NYS Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program within the County for individuals who already have vouchers. A waiting list for new vouchers may be available, but may be several years long. The office does not own or operate any low-income/Section 8 housing properties.

**3. SUBSIDIZED HOUSING – RENTAL AND LOW COST HOMES  
ROCKLAND HOUSING ACTION COALITION (RHAC)**

120-126 North Main Street, Annex - 1st Floor (845) 708-5799

[www.rhachomes.org](http://www.rhachomes.org) - Website that offers information about the housing projects of RHAC. RHAC constructs rental complexes and for-sale homes in Rockland County for low/moderate income individuals and families.

**4. INTERNET HOUSING RESOURCE DIRECTORY  
NYS DIVISION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL (DHCR)**

NY Regional Office, 25 Beaver Street, NY, NY 10004 (866) ASK-DHCR

[www.NYHousingSearch.gov](http://www.NYHousingSearch.gov) - Website that offers information about affordable rental housing in NYS. The interactive website allows user to search by County. For NYSDHCR-funded projects only.

**5. INTERNET HOUSING RESOURCE DIRECTORY  
US DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**

NY Regional Office, 26 Federal Plaza, Suite 3541, NY, NY 10278 (212) 264-8000

[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) - Website that offers information about HUD subsidized/low-income housing. The interactive website allows user to search by state, county or zip code throughout the U.S.

**6. US DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (USVA)**

New York Regional Office, 245 W Houston Street, New York, NY 10014 (800) 827-1000

The USVA partners with HUD to develop housing for veterans. A limited number of Section 8 Housing Vouchers are set aside specifically for use by Veterans.

Contact Rockland's Local Veteran's Agency for additional support (845) 638-5244.





**III.(4) SUPPORTIVE HOUSING REFERRALS**

Individuals often face circumstances when they can no longer live alone, but don't know how to start looking for alternate living arrangements. The resources below outline the primary resources available to individuals requiring supportive living environments.

- 1. GROUP HOMES/SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR ADULTS - FAMILY TYPE HOMES  
 FOSTER CARE PROGRAM FOR ADULTS  
 COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
 Building C, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-3561**

The Foster Care Program for Adults makes referrals for individuals interested in placement to a Family-Type Homes which provide care for individuals who do not require medical or skilled nursing, but who may require room, board, and certain personal care services such as laundry and housekeeping. Family-Type Homes are operated by individuals within their own home, and are subject to inspection and oversight by DSS.

- 2. SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS  
 COUNTY OF ROCKLAND OFFICE FOR THE AGING  
 Building B, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-2110**

Provides detailed information on the range of residential options for seniors:

- Subsidized/low-income senior complexes
- Adult Residential Homes
- Nursing Homes
- Assisted Living facilities

- 3. CHILDREN AND ADULTS w/MENTAL ILLNESS - SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS (SPOA)  
 COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF MENTAL HEALTH  
 Building F, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-2150 Assessment Center**

The Single Point of Access (SPOA) is a centralized intake process for referrals for high-intensity mental health services for children and adults. Placement to supportive residential housing is made when appropriate.

- 4. INFORMATION AND REFERRAL - DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
 HUDSON VALLEY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY SERVICES OFFICE (HVDDSO)  
 9 Wilbur Road, Thiells, NY 10984 (845) 947-6000**

Case management services including residential placement services in intermediate care facilities, community residences, individual residential alternative and family care, home and community-based services waiver, care at home waiver for children who are medically fragile, family reimbursement, respite, OPWDD (formerly OMRDD) eligibility determination, information and referral, advocacy and rehabilitation services, NYS-CARES wait list for residential placement opportunities, NYS-OPTS (Opportunities for People through Services).





**IV. ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

**INFORMATION & REFERRAL - DUAL DIAGNOSIS**

**COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH)**

Building F, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-2286 Anne Calajoe, Director Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services

**TREATMENT PROVIDERS**

**1. DAYTOP VILLAGE, INC.**

620 Route 303, Blauvelt, NY 10913 (845) 353-2730, 1-800-2-DAYTOP

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS + ADULTS

- Comprehensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic
- Intensive Day Rehabilitation Program
- Dual Diagnosis/Psychiatric Services
- Suboxone Maintenance Treatment
- Support Groups – Individual & Families
- Residential Placement (Out of County)
- Preparatory School (for adolescents with substance abuse issues)
- Family Therapy/Family Meetings
- Impaired Drivers

\* Recovery After Prison (RAP) - Specialized program for ex-offenders

**2. GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL - CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY INPATIENT UNIT/T5**

255 Lafayette Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901 (845) 368-5242

- Comprehensive Inpatient Services
- Inpatient Detoxification
- Dual Diagnosis/Psychiatric Services
- Methadone/Suboxone Maintenance Treatment
- Support Groups

\* CBT legal track for Reentry clients.

**3. LEXINGTON CENTER FOR RECOVERY, INC.**

100 Route 59, Suite L1, Airmont, NY 10901 (845) 369-9701

45 Route 9W South, Samsondale Plaza Haverstraw, NY 10927 (845) 947-3810

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS + ADULTS

- Comprehensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic
- Intensive Day Rehabilitation Program
- Dual Diagnosis/Psychiatric Services
- Methadone Maintenance Treatment
- Gambling Addicted Services
- Support Groups (Individual & Families)
- Impaired Drivers

\* Specialized programming for Latino clients, adolescents and women.

\* CBT Program. Anger management.





## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

### **ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

#### **4. MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ROCKLAND COUNTY, INC. RECOVERY SERVICES / PROJECT RAINBOW**

706 Executive Boulevard, Suite F, Valley Cottage, NY 10989 (845) 267-2172

##### CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS + ADULTS

- Comprehensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic
- Dual Diagnosis/Psychiatric Services
- Aggression Replacement Training – Anger Control
- Services for Children of Alcoholics and Substance Abusers
- Support Groups – Individual & Families
- Impaired Drivers

\* Recovery After Prison (RAP) - Specialized program for ex-offenders

\* CBT Program; DBT for Adults & Adolescents

#### **5. NYACK HOSPITAL - RECOVERY CENTER FOR CHANGE**

160 North Midland Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 348-2070 Information & Admissions  
110 Bethune Boulevard, Spring Valley NY 10977 (Outpatient Satellite)

##### ADULTS

- Comprehensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Clinic
- Comprehensive Inpatient Services
- Inpatient Detoxification
- Dual Diagnosis/Psychiatric Services
- Support Groups
- Impaired Drivers

\* Special programs for families, women, older and younger adults & professionals.

#### **6. RUSSELL E. BLAISDELL ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER**

Rockland Psychiatric Campus, Orangeburg, NY 10962 (845) 359-8500

##### ADULT MALES

- Comprehensive Inpatient Services
- Dual Diagnosis/Psychiatric Services
- Methadone Maintenance Treatment

\* Specialized Traumatic Brain Injury program

### **RESIDENTIAL SERVICES**

#### **1. LOEB HOUSE**

Multiple Rockland County Locations

Admin Office - One Blue Hill Plaza, Pearl River, NY 10965 (845) 735-0515

Transitional supportive residences for consumers with dual-diagnosis. MICA – Mental illness & Chemical addiction. SPOA referral required.

#### **2. OPEN ARMS, INC.**

Multiple Rockland County Locations

Case management services provided in supported residential environment for persons (male and





## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

### **ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

female) in early recovery from chemical dependency, who no longer require 24-hour staff support.

#### **RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT (MEN)**

57-59 Sharp Street, Haverstraw, NY 10927 (845) 429-9514

#### **RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT (WOMEN)** (845) 271-3787

74 Hudson Avenue, Haverstraw, NY 10927

#### **SUPPORTED RESIDENCES (MEN & WOMEN)** (845) 429-0945

12 E. Kensington Circle, GARNERVILLE, NY 10923

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION, SUPPORT SERVICES, HOTLINES**

#### **1. ROCKLAND COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM & OTHER DRUG DEPENDENCE (RCADD)**

25 Smith Street, Suite 101, Nanuet, NY 10954 (845) 215-9788 [www.rcadd.org](http://www.rcadd.org)

##### **INFORMATION, REFERRAL & ADVOCACY**

Helps addicted persons, their families and concerned others to access recovery services.

- Local area meeting information (self-help meeting schedules/locations).
- Specialized teen intervention & diversion programs.
- Substance abuse education; Reference library of materials.
- Events – public awareness campaigns, wellness fairs.
- Prevention education & training programs.

##### **PEER RECOVERY PROGRAM – ‘RECOVERY COACHES’**

Peer based, non-clinical recovery support service. Recovery Coaches serve as a personal mentor for individuals in recovery and promoting addiction-free lives.

#### **2. ROCKLAND INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER**

##### **PEER RECOVERY CENTER – ‘REACH ONE’**

873 Route 45, Suite 110, New City NY 10956 (845) 624-1366

- Peer Support Program
- Serves Individuals with Substance Abuse and/or Mental Health Issues
- Goal to Prevent Hospitalization/Recidivism
- Benefits/Entitlements Advisement
- Goal Setting – Personal, Employment, Family
- Social & Recreational Activities

#### **3. NYS OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES (OASAS)**

NYS HOPELINE 24x7 Hotline 1-877-8-HOPENY or 1-877-846-7369 [www.oasas.state.ny.us](http://www.oasas.state.ny.us)

Follow-up calls within 48 hours

#### **4. ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

Rockland Chapter 24x7 Hotline [www.rocklandnyaa.org](http://www.rocklandnyaa.org)

National Organization website [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

Local & online support groups (845) 352-1112

#### **5. SAMHSA’S CENTER FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT**

24-Hour Toll-Free Treatment Referral Helpline (800) 662-HELP or (800) 662-4357

[www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov](http://www.findtreatment.samhsa.gov)





## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

***ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES***

### **6. NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**

Local Rockland Chapter [www.rocklandna.org](http://www.rocklandna.org)

Regional Information website [www.newyorkna.org](http://www.newyorkna.org)

National Organization website [www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

Local support groups (212) 929-6262 Volunteer staffed hotline. Leave message for info & call back.

Literature request/alternate contact (212) 929-7117

### **7. NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCE**

Toll-Free information (800) NCA-CALL or (800) 622-2255

[www.ncadd.org](http://www.ncadd.org) Email: [national@ncadd.org](mailto:national@ncadd.org)



Prepared by **INFORMATION ROCKland**



**V. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES**

**PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES**

**1. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF MENTAL HEALTH (DOMH)**

Building F, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-2150 Assessment Center  
(845) 364-2200 24 x 7Crisis Service  
[www.rocklandgov.com/departments/mental-health/](http://www.rocklandgov.com/departments/mental-health/)

**COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS + ADULTS

- Outpatient Mental Health Clinic Services, Counseling & Support
- Psychiatric Evaluation & Treatment
- Medication Evaluations & Monitoring
- Crisis Intervention; Involuntary Commitment when Needed
- Psychiatric Inpatient Unit (Short-term/Acute - Adults)
- Psychiatric Day Treatment - Adults
- Supportive Residential Placement (SPOA)

**2. MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ROCKLAND COUNTY**

140 Route 303, Valley Cottage, NY 10989 (845) 267-2172  
[www.mharockland.org](http://www.mharockland.org)

**COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS + ADULTS

- Psychiatric Case Management – Adults & Children (SPOA referral)
- PROS – Psychiatric support services – Adults
- Residential Services (SPOA referral) – Adults
- Mentoring & Peer Advocacy for One-to-One Support – Adults
- Network Family Support - Service Coordination for children & adolescents (ages 3-21) with emotional, behavioral and learning challenges
- Children’s Respite Program
- Substance Abuse Services for Adults and Children (see Substance Abuse Section)
- Drop-in Social & Recreational Programs – Adults
- Parent Support Groups, Education, Workshops
- Self-Help Clearinghouse - Information & Referral to Self-help/Mutual Support Groups

**3. GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL - FRAWLEY OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH UNIT**

3 Campbell Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901 (845) 368-5222  
[www.goodsamhosp.org](http://www.goodsamhosp.org)

**OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Monsignor Patrick J. Frawley Mental Health Clinic provides specialized outpatient evaluation and treatment of emotional disorders and psychiatric problems in adults, geriatrics, adolescents and children five years and older. Treatment plans are individualized and can include medication, individual, marital, family and group therapies.



## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

**MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **4. ROCKLAND PSYCHIATRIC CENTER (RPC)**

140 Old Orangeburg Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962 (845) 359-1000  
[www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/facilities/rppc/facility.htm](http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/facilities/rppc/facility.htm)

#### **INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC - ADULTS**

State psychiatric hospital providing treatment, rehabilitation and support to adults with serious mental illness. Residential psychiatric hospitalization programs provide intermediate and extended inpatient treatment, rehabilitation, and support to adults 18 and older with severe and complex mental illness.

### **5. ROCKLAND PSYCHIATRIC - NYACK OUTPATIENT SUPPORT CENTER**

18 Church Street, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 358-1677

Continued psychiatric treatment and support provided to adults post hospitalization discharge. Programs include outpatient clinic services, medication monitoring, day treatment & intensive day treatment and intensive case management.

### **6. ROCKLAND CHILDREN'S PSYCHIATRIC CENTER (RCPC)**

2 First Avenue, Orangeburg, NY 10962 (845) 680-4000  
[www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/facilities/rcpc/facility.htm](http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/facilities/rcpc/facility.htm)

#### **INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC – CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS**

State psychiatric hospital. Residential hospitalization program provides crisis stabilization for children and adolescents experiencing an acute episode of mental illness or life crisis. Provides full weekday schedule of treatment activities including school and other therapies. After-school, evening and weekend activities provided.

### **7. FOUR WINDS HOSPITAL**

800 Cross River Road, Katonah, NY 10536 (800) 528-6624 Toll Free Referral 24x7  
[www.fourwindshospital.com](http://www.fourwindshospital.com)

#### **INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC / PARTIAL HOSPITALIZATION**

Provides a comprehensive range of inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment services for children (5-12 years), adolescents (13-17 years) and adults (18 and older). Inpatient hospital treats a full spectrum of psychiatric disorders including dual diagnosis, eating disorders, psychological trauma/abuse, & behavioral & anxiety disorders. Detoxification provided when necessary)

Partial hospitalization programs for children, adolescents & adults.

\* Admissions can be voluntary or involuntary and are accepted 24x7.

### **8. NATHAN S. KLINE INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHIATRIC RESEARCH (NKI)**

140 Old Orangeburg Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962 (845) 398-5583 [www.rfmh.org/nki](http://www.rfmh.org/nki)

#### **PSYCHIATRIC CLINICAL TRIALS - CHILDREN & ADOLESCENTS**

NKI offers free psychiatric evaluations for any child/adolescent above the age of 6 years to diagnose emotional, behavioral, or developmental disorders. Children with specific diagnoses may be offered research participation opportunities, including clinical trials using investigational medications.

Evaluations & treatments performed by psychiatric professionals.

Referrals provided to mental health clinicians/agencies for ongoing care.

\* No costs. No insurance needed. \* Compensation or travel reimbursement available.





## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

### **MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES**

#### **MENTAL HEALTH – COMMUNITY CLINICAL SERVICES**

Federally-funded community health centers offer licensed outpatient mental health support services. Each of the clinics listed below have licensed psychiatrists to perform evaluations and provide medication management. Psychotherapists are typically available for ongoing therapy. Ages served, wait lists and insurances accepted vary by center.

**1. ARC OF ROCKLAND – HEALTH SERVICES**

25 Hemlock Drive, Congers, NY 10920 (845) 267-2500 [www.arcofrockland.org](http://www.arcofrockland.org)

**Serves:** Children, adolescents and adults. Specialty is working with developmentally disabled people, but practice is open to all.

**2. REFUAH HEALTH CENTER**

728 N. Main Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 354-9119 [www.refuahhealthcenter.com](http://www.refuahhealthcenter.com)

**Serves:** Practice is limited to current primary care patients of health center and limited in scope.

**3. COMMUNITY MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE INC.**

**Site 1:** 40 Robert Pitt Drive, Monsey, NY 10952 (845) 352-6800

**Site 2:** 175 Route 59, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 426-5800

**Serves:** Adults only. Wait list.

**4. JAWONIO HEALTH CENTER**

[www.jawonio.org](http://www.jawonio.org)

260 North Little Tor Road, New City, NY 10956 (845) 634-4648

**Serves:** Ages 14 and older. Specialty is working with developmentally disabled people.

**PERSONALIZED RECOVERY ORIENTED SERVICE (PROS)**

Outpatient mental health treatment services.

Jawonio Tech - 775 N. Main Street, New Hempstead, NY 10977 (845) 708-2000

**5. WEST HUDSON PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY (845) 638-6992**

152 Prospect Street, Nanuet, NY 10954 [www.nyspsych.org/about/districtbranches](http://www.nyspsych.org/about/districtbranches)

**\*\* PRIVATE PRACTICE REFERRALS\*\***

For private practice psychiatric referrals, contact the West Hudson Psychiatric Society, the local district branch of the American Psychiatric Association serving Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Delaware Counties.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH - COMMUNITY COUNSELING & SUPPORT AGENCIES**

**1. ROCKLAND FAMILY SHELTER**

9 Johnsons Lane, New City, NY 10956 (845) 634-3344 Hotline 24x7 [www.rocklandfamilyshelter.org](http://www.rocklandfamilyshelter.org)

Immediate crisis services and intervention for domestic violence/sexual assault victims. Comprehensive services for victims including emergency residential shelter, 24x7 hotline and free walk-in counseling, advocacy & court assistance – see “Section 9. Family Support Services”.

**2. ROCKLAND JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE**

450 West Nyack Road, Suite 2, West Nyack, NY 10994 (845) 354-2121 [www.rjfs.org](http://www.rjfs.org)

Provides short and long term counseling, psychotherapy and crisis intervention for individuals, couples, and families. Clinical social work - individuals, families, or groups. Psychotherapy, group counseling sessions, and educational workshops.







## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

***MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES***

### **3. NAMI-FAMILYA OF ROCKLAND COUNTY**

Rockland Psychiatric Center, Bldg. 57 140 Orangeburg Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962  
(845) 359-8787 [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

Serves families of people with mental illness through support, education, and advocacy. Offers a peer-to-peer mental health education program for consumers. Offers a 12-week educational & support course for families who have relatives with severe mental illnesses. Information on medications, treatment, problem solving techniques, advocating/navigating within the system.

### **4. VCS INC.**

77 South Main Street, New City, NY 10956 (845) 634-5729 [www.vcs-inc.org](http://www.vcs-inc.org)

Professionally trained lay counselors provide accessible & affordable general counseling for individuals, couples and families. Counseling is offered for a variety of life issues & concerns. Services are not appropriate for individuals with serious psychiatric disorders.

### **5. ROCKLAND INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER**

873 Route 45, Suite 110, New City NY 10956 (845) 624-1366 [www.rilc.org](http://www.rilc.org)

Peer Support Program that serves individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Goal to prevent hospitalization/recidivism. Services include benefits advisement; Personal, employment and family goal setting; Social & Recreational Activities.

### **6. ACCESS COUNSELING LLC**

99 Main Street, Suite 118, Nyack NY 10960 (914) 980-8909

Private MSW practice offering classes and lecture series on the following 2 topics:

- Anger Management
- Domestic Violence



## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

**EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

### **VIII. EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

#### **1. TOMORROW'S WORKPLACE**

1 Perlman Drive, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 356-5100 [www.tomorrowworkplace.org](http://www.tomorrowworkplace.org)

##### **COMPREHENSIVE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES \*REENTRY COORDINATOR ASSISTANCE**

Partners with the NYS Dept. of Labor to provide comprehensive job assistance-center services to individuals looking for employment. Offers high-tech tools & resources needed for career development, training and employment opportunities. Provides assistance with writing resumes, preparing for job interviews, training, employment counseling, job search and placement. Maintains online job leads board.

\*Specialized services available for previously incarcerated.

**CONTACT:** Disability & Offender Workforce Development Specialist (845) 356-5100 x119

#### **2. NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION (Formerly NYS Division of Parole)**

97 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 (518) 473-9400 [www.parole.ny.gov](http://www.parole.ny.gov)

##### **CERTIFICATE OF RELIEF FROM DISABILITIES / CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT**

Issues "Certificates of Relief from Disabilities" or "Certificates of Good Conduct" for eligible ex-offenders to remove mandatory legal bars to employment or licensure. Website contains comprehensive explanation of Certificates and how to apply.

**CONTACT:** Download application online or contact Certificate Review Unit, NYS Dept of Corrections & Community Supervision, 97 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206 (518) 485-8953.

#### **3. NATIONAL REENTRY RESOURCE CENTER**

[www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org)

##### **INFORMATION & ADVOCACY - POLICY FACT SHEETS "REENTRY MYTHBUSTERS"**

Provides education, training, and technical assistance to agencies working on prisoner reentry. See Section I.(1) for Summary of Fact Sheets, e.g. "Reducing Barriers to Employment".

#### **4. LEGAL ACTION CENTER (LAC)**

5 Varick Street, New York, NY 10014 (212) 243-1313 [www.lac.org](http://www.lac.org)

##### **INFORMATION & ADVOCACY – FREE PUBLICATIONS RE: REENTRY ISSUES**

Offers free publications, advocacy toolkits and more, intended for the previously incarcerated, their families, and the professionals working with them to assist in reintegration back to society. See Section I.(2) for Summary of LAC Publications addressing specific employment issues, e.g. "NYS Occupational Licensing Survey" & "Employment Laws Affecting Individuals with Criminal Convictions".

#### **5. ADULT CAREER AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES - VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (ACCES-VR, Formerly VESID)**

Pascack Plaza, 15 Perlman Drive, 2nd Floor, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 426-5431 Rockland Office / (914) 946-4634 Voice/TDD [www.vesid.nysed.gov](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov)

##### **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION – PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Offers vocational rehabilitation services to eligible individuals with disabilities. Services include vocational assessment: (i) identification of skills, abilities & interests; (ii) physical and/or psychological examinations; (iii) driver evaluation and training; and (iv) vocational & general counseling, guidance and support. Training can include college and/or university programs, trade and business schools,





## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

**EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

and job coaching services. Job-seeking skills training, job placement and follow-up services are provided.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Not an entitlement program. Requires documented medical diagnosis regarding a physical, developmental, cognitive, learning or emotional disability.

\*Note- Legally blind individuals are served by the NYS Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired.

\*Note- Individuals who are deaf/hearing impaired can utilize VP (866) 326-4052 or IP 149.10.253.105

### **6. BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (BOCES)/ADULT EDUCATION**

131 Midland Ave, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 348-3500 [www.rocklandboces.org](http://www.rocklandboces.org)

#### **ADULT LITERACY RESOURCE CENTERS**

Free courses offered to adults 21yrs and older who do not have an American high school diploma. Instruction offered in:

- Academic Basic Skills to improve reading, writing, and math achievement
- Examination Preparation for GED Diploma, including home study (GRASP)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Life Management Skills • Family Education
- Career Planning • Work Experience • Citizenship Preparation

#### **CAREER TRAINING CENTER – VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

Offers professional development courses in areas of Nursing, Allied Health, Office and Computer skills, Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Auto Technology and Construction Trades. Students prepared for licensing and certification.

### **7. ROCKLAND INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER**

873 Route 45, Suite 110, New City NY 10956 (845) 624-1366 [www.rilc.org](http://www.rilc.org)

#### **PEER RECOVERY CENTER – “REACH ONE”**

Peer Support Program that serves individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Program includes employment & education advice and guidance.

\* Employment specialist on site to assist with resume prep and job counseling. Peers offer assistance in obtaining GED, applying for vocational/trade schools etc.

\* Serves Reentry clients.

### **8. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

Building B, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-2107 [www.co.rockland.ny.us/Age](http://www.co.rockland.ny.us/Age)

#### **SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)**

Program where SCSEP trainees are placed in County/NYS departments and non-profits as additional temporary manpower for no cost to the organization. In exchange, SCSEP trainees work and receive on-the-job training for 20 hours/week.

\* SCSEP trainees are paid at least the current minimum wage through Federal or State grant funds.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Some age and income limitations

### **9. ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE (RCC)**

145 College Road, Suffern, NY 10901 (845) 574-4000 [www.sunyrockland.edu](http://www.sunyrockland.edu)

#### **SUNY ASSOCIATE DEGREE / CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Community college operating under the program of the State University of New York (SUNY). The 2-year academic institution offers 40 different associate's degrees and 12 one-year certificate programs. Continuing Education Division offers range of courses to prepare students for new careers or to learn, maintain and upgrade professional skills.





## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

***EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & VOCATIONAL SERVICES***

### **10. RB SEARCH SERVICES, INC**

873 Route 45; Suite 206A, New City, New York 10956 (845) 425-4727

#### **EMPLOYMENT SEARCH FIRM**

A private job search firm. Will serve previously incarcerated.



**VII.A. CLINICS - COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS**

**1. HUDSON RIVER HEALTH CARE**

31 West Broad Street, 3rd Fl, Haverstraw, NY 10927 (845) 429-4499

2 Perlman Drive, Ste 101, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 573-9860

[www.hrhcare.org](http://www.hrhcare.org)

- General Medical Clinic – Family Medicine
- Women’s Health - Gynecology, Family Planning
- HIV Counseling, Testing & Case Mgmt
- Dental Clinic

**2. MONSEY FAMILY MEDICAL CENTER/ BEN GILMAN**

175 Route 59, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 352-6800

40 Robert Pitt Dr., Monsey, NY 10952 (845) 352-6800

- General Medical Clinic – Family Medicine
- Women’s Health - Gynecology, Obstetrics, Family Planning
- Mental Health Services
- Dental Clinic

**3. JAWONIO HEALTH CENTER**

260 North Little Tor Road, New City, NY 10956 (845) 708-2000

[www.jawonio.org](http://www.jawonio.org)

- General Medical Clinic – Family Medicine
- Women’s Health - Gynecology
- Mental Health Services / Psychiatry
- Audiology / Hearing Aid Dispensary
- Rehabilitative Services – PT, OT, Speech
- Dental Clinic
- Podiatry

**4. ARC HEALTH RESOURCES OF ROCKLAND**

25 Hemlock Drive, Congers, NY 10920 (845) 267-0110

[www.arcofrockland.org](http://www.arcofrockland.org)

- General Medical Clinic – Family Medicine
- Mental Health Services / Psychiatry
- Rehabilitative Services – PT, OT, Speech
- Podiatry

**5. REFUAH HEALTH CENTER**

728 North Main Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 354-9300

5 Twin Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977

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

- General Medical Clinic – Family Medicine
- Women’s Health - Gynecology, Obstetrics
- Mental Health Services / Psychiatry
- Dental Clinic
- Multiple Specialties – Optometry, ENT, Urology, Cardiology + more

**6. PLANNED PARENTHOOD HUDSON PECONIC (PPHP)**

25 Perlman Drive, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (800) 230-7526 (845) 426-7577

[www.plannedparenthood.org/udsonpeconic](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/udsonpeconic)

- Women’s Health - Screenings
- Family Planning – Birth Control
- STD Testing
- HIV Testing





## **VII.B. CLINICS - PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS**

### **1. ROCKLAND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Building A, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970

[www.rocklandgov.com/health](http://www.rocklandgov.com/health)

#### **(1) INFECTIOUS DISEASE (ID) CLINIC (AIDS/HIV)**

The Infectious Disease (ID) Clinic provides comprehensive medical services, nutrition counseling and case management services to people over the age of 18 who are living with HIV/AIDS. Medical clinics provide physician monitoring, lab work, nursing, nutrition counseling and medical case management. Referrals to supportive services.

**CONTACT:** Telephone (845) 364-2570

#### **(2) PPD/TB TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC / CHEST CLINIC**

The Chest Clinic evaluates and treats persons with active tuberculosis, as well as their contacts and other persons at high risk for TB. Services are free. The TST clinic performs tuberculin skin tests for a fee, to check for Tuberculosis (TB) infection.

**CONTACT:** Call (845) 364-2995, 2841 Chest Clinic; Call (845) 364-2525, 2997 Skin test

#### **(3) SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD) CLINIC**

A completely confidential, walk-in clinic for men and women which offers testing and treatment for a variety of sexually transmitted infections.

\* Free HIV testing is also available by appointment on an anonymous or confidential basis.

\* Offers Hepatitis A, B and HPV (Gardasil) vaccines free of charge to clinic patients.

**CONTACT:** Call (845) 364-3771 Walk-ins accepted

#### **(4) FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES CLINIC**

Offers comprehensive clinical health services for women (teens to pre-menopause) and some clinical services for their partners. Services include confidential gynecological and reproductive health care services such as:

- Physical exams for men and women.
- Routine gynecological screenings for women - breast exams, pelvic exams, pap tests, etc.
- Family planning services - pregnancy testing, birth control counseling, emergency contraception.
- STD testing and treatment, HIV testing and counseling.
- Counseling services are available individually or for couples.

Clinics in Pomona and Spring Valley.

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-2531 Pomona Clinic for appointment.

#### **(5) PUT IT OUT ROCKLAND - SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM**

"Put It Out Rockland" is a comprehensive tobacco prevention & education program. Free nicotine replacement therapies for eligible applicants.

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-2651

#### **(6) ADULT & FOREIGN TRAVEL IMMUNIZATION CLINIC**

Adults and those traveling to foreign countries can obtain immunizations to prevent a variety of illnesses, including Hepatitis A & B, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, pneumococcal, meningococcal, typhoid and yellow fever.

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-2517, 2519 or 2520 Prescriptions required



## **ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE**

*Clinics – Public Health Clinics*

### **(7) CHILD & ADOLESCENT IMMUNIZATION CLINIC**

Immunizations available for common childhood diseases for children. Ages 5-18.

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-2517, 2519 or 2520

### **(8) CHILD HEALTH CLINIC (WELL BABY)**

Provides regular health exams and immunizations to well infants and pre-school children (newborn to five years old). A nurse and/or doctor assesses each child's physical and mental growth and answers parents' questions about health concerns. Lead screening is available for children nine-months to 5-years-old.

**CONTACT:** (845) 364-2646, 2516

## **2. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND VETERANS CLINIC**

20 Squadron Boulevard, Suite 480 New City, NY 10956

(845) 638-5244 Agency Main, (845) 634-8942 Clinic

[www.rocklandgov.com/vets/veterans.html](http://www.rocklandgov.com/vets/veterans.html)

Provides comprehensive medical care at no cost or reduced cost for Veterans on an outpatient basis.

**CONTACT:** Call the clinic for an appointment at (845) 634-8942 or (800) 269-8749

**ELIGIBILITY:** Veterans



## **VIII. HEALTH INSURANCE, DENTAL & PRESCRIPTION PROGRAMS**

### **1. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Building L, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-2020

#### **MEDICAID & LONG TERM CARE MEDICAID (CHRONIC CARE) NYS HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM**

Health care coverage for people who have income and resources below a certain level determined by New York State. The Chronic Care Unit serves customers who require nursing home placement or have other long-term care needs.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Go to [www.mybenefits.ny.gov](http://www.mybenefits.ny.gov) to determine initial eligibility, or call for more information.

**CONTACT:** Medicaid: (845) 364-3040; Chronic Care: (845) 364-3990

#### **MANAGED CARE - NY MEDICAID CHOICE PROGRAM MEDICAID/FAMILY & CHILD HEALTH PLUS MANAGED CARE PROGRAMS**

**OVERVIEW:** The NY Medicaid Choice Program provides Managed Health Care education, enrollment, disenrollment and customer service for all Medicaid/Family Health Plus managed health care beneficiaries. The NYS Managed Care Enrollment Broker administrates the program for Rockland County residents.

**CONTACT:** MAXIMUS, NYS's Enrollment Broker for Managed Health Care (800) 505-5678

### **2. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)**

Building J, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970

#### **FAMILY HEALTH PLUS (FHP) / CHILD HEALTH PLUS (CHP) NYS HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM**

The State of NY provides a variety of public health insurance programs for residents who do not have access to private health insurance plans and have incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid. \* Child Health Plus - for uninsured children under the age of 19. \* Family Health Plus - for uninsured adults between the ages of 19 and 64.

**ELIGIBILITY:** \* Residents of NY State that are U.S. citizens or fall under a legal immigration category. Go to [www.mybenefits.ny.gov](http://www.mybenefits.ny.gov) to determine initial eligibility, or call for more information.

**CONTACT:** DOH offers the following FOUR application sites: (Call for appointment)

1. Pomona - Bldg J, Robert Yeager HC (845) 364-3312 - DOH Insurance Counseling Office
2. Haverstraw - The Haverstraw Center, 50 Broad St. (845) 429-5731
3. Spring Valley - Louis Kurtz Civic Center, 9 N. Main St. (845) 364-3312
4. Nyack - The Nyack Center, 58 Depew Ave. (845) 353-6037

### **3. SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

240 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 (866) 755-4334 Rockland Office Main  
(800) 325-0778 TDD/TTY Operator-Assisted (800) 633-4227 Medicare Hotline 1-800-MEDICARE

#### **MEDICARE - FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)**

The Social Security Administration oversees the federal Medicare health insurance program for people over 65 and for people under 65 with certain disabilities.

#### **MEDICARE INFORMATION LINE [www.medicarerights.org](http://www.medicarerights.org)**

The Medicare Rights Center is the largest independent source of health care information and assistance for people with Medicare.

**CONTACT:** Medicare Rights Center (800) 333-4114





**4. COUNTY OF ROCKLAND OFFICE FOR THE AGING**

Building B, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (945) 364-2110 [www.rocklandgov.com/Age](http://www.rocklandgov.com/Age)

**HEALTH INSURANCE - MEDICARE COUNSELING**

**HIICAP/EPIC - HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION, COUNSELING & ASSISTANCE**

The Health Insurance Information Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP) is a NYS Health Insurance Assistance Program that educates people about Medicare, associated managed care programs, EPIC, and other related health insurance options. HIICAP provides information on Medicare topics.

**CONTACT:** Rockland HIICAP Office (845) 364-2118 or NYS HIICAP Hotline (800) 701-0501

**5. HEALTH ECONOMICS GROUP, INC (HEG) - DENTEMAX**

(800) 752-1547 DENTEMAX Customer Service  
(800) 666-6690 Ext. 505 HEG Plan Administrator - Toll free  
[www.heginc.com/dentemax-NYSAC.html](http://www.heginc.com/dentemax-NYSAC.html)

**DENTAL SERVICES - NEGOTIATED NETWORK PLAN**

**DENTEMAX DENTAL NETWORK PROGRAM**

DENTEMAX is a dental network card program that provides cardholders with information they can use to locate dentists who have agreed to charge relatively low fees for dental services. DENTEMAX is not insurance. Dentists that participate in the program agree to accept negotiated fees for services.

**CONTACT:** Use the HEG website to download enrollment forms and see a list of participating dentists & their associated fees by zip code.

**6. PROACT PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCOUNT CARD**

(877) 776-2285 [www.NYRxDiscountCard.com](http://www.NYRxDiscountCard.com)

**DISCOUNT PROGRAM - PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

The ProAct Prescription Drug Discount Card program helps residents save money on their prescription medications any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance. The card may be used at any participating retail pharmacy. Discount cards are available for download on the ProAct website. For residents unable to print a card, contact Information Rockland to have a card mailed to you.

**7. NYS DEPT. OF HEALTH**

(800) 788-6917 NY Prescription Saver Application; (800) 290-9138 TTY Application Assistance  
<https://nyprescriptionsaver.fhsc.com/>

**DISCOUNT PROGRAM - PRESCRIPTION DRUGS**

**NY PRESCRIPTION SAVER PROGRAM (NYP\$)**

A free prescription card to eligible NY residents that provides negotiated discounts on the retail prices of certain drugs. Discounts vary based upon drug. Needs to meet the following 3 requirements: (1) NY State resident; (2) Ages 50-64; or Persons determined disabled by Social Security Administration; (3) Have an annual household income less than \$35,000 (single) or \$50,000 (married).





## **IX. FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

### **1. FAMILY CONNECTIONS - PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED PARENTS & THEIR CHILDREN ROCKLAND PARENT CHILD CENTER (RPCC)**

1 South Broadway, Suite B, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 358-2702

Family Connections provides a range of reentry support services to incarcerated parents and their children. \*See 'Section I. Reentry Support Programs' for detailed descriptions of services provided by RPCC for the previously incarcerated and their families.

### **2. FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES – PREVENTIVE SERVICES COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

Building L, Sanatorium Road, Pomona 10970 (845) 364-2020 Information Rockland

Provides Preventive Services to avoid placement of children and youth outside their homes. Family-focused case management services help to keep families intact and to avoid problems that may cause children to be at risk. Information Rockland performs intakes for three types of Preventive Services: (i) Family Preventive (General); (ii) PINS ('Persons in Need of Supervision' for children and adolescents at risk of juvenile justice involvement); and (iii) Teenage Services (for pregnant or parenting teens).

### **3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELING & SUPPORT GROUPS ROCKLAND FAMILY SHELTER**

9 Johnsons Lane, New City, NY 10956 (845) 634-3391 Office / (845) 634-3344 Hotline 24 x 7

Comprehensive services for victims of domestic or dating violence and abuse. Immediate services include confidential emergency residential shelter, 24x7 hotline and free walk-in counseling, advocacy & court assistance. Ongoing support available through support groups, and individual & group counseling. Advocacy & accompaniment services available for interactions with hospitals, police, courts, or social service agencies, as needed. Crime victims compensation application assistance.

### **4. PARENT EDUCATION, PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS, COUNSELING SERVICES VCS INC.**

77 South Main Street, New City (845) 634-5729

A community-based, family and community service agency that offers a wide range of counseling services, workshops and parenting/kinship support groups for people from adolescence to older adulthood. Counseling and support is available for individuals, couples and families.

Offers professionally facilitated, parent education and mutual parent support groups. Separate groups available for mothers, fathers and other kinship caregivers who are experiencing challenges in parenting their children. Spanish speaking support is available.

### **5. FAMILY SKILLS EDUCATION - STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM CANDLE (COMMUNITY AWARENESS NETWORK FOR A DRUG-FREE LIFE & ENVIRONMENT)**

120 N. Main St., Suite 301, New City (845) 634-6677

A six-week behavioral skills training program for children and parents/caregivers held at various sites throughout the community. Topics for children include anger management, peer pressure, parental rules, problem solving, effective communication, consequences of substance abuse. Parents meet separately to explore topics such as clear communication, effective discipline, substance use, problem solving and limit setting.



**6. MULTIPLE PROGRAMS - PARENTING EDUCATION, CHILDREN'S SUPPORT PROGRAMS  
MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF ROCKLAND COUNTY, INC. (MHA)**

140 Route 303, Valley Cottage, NY 10989 (845) 267-2172

**COMMON SENSE PARENTING**

Evidence-based parenting education curriculum. This multi-session program is held at various sites throughout the community at various times at different community venues and facilitated by a child psychiatrist. Program includes topics such as positive behavior reinforcement, communication & self-control techniques.

**CHILDREN'S RESPITE SERVICES**

Offers free respite services to children & adolescents ages 5-17 who have recently been seen in an ER or crisis center due to emotional difficulties. Professionally trained workers provide one-to-one respite, including recreational and socialization activities.

See the following two sections for additional family support services offer by MHA:

- See Section IV. Alcohol & Substance Abuse Services for Support Group for Children of Addicted Parent(s)/Caregiver(s); and
- See Section V. Mental Health Services for Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (aka 'Network').

**7. SUBSIDIZED EARLY EDUCATION / PRESCHOOL SERVICES  
HEAD START OF ROCKLAND**

117 Rt. 9W, Haverstraw, NY 10927 (845) 429-4122 Main Office

Federally authorized and funded early childhood and preschool education, plus nutrition, health and family services for low-income children ages birth to five and their families provided at multiple sites throughout Rockland County.

**8. DAY CARE SUBSIDIES  
COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)**

Building L, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-3797

DSS Day Care Unit authorizes day care subsidies for working parents receiving public assistance, low-income working parents not receiving public assistance, teenage parents enrolled in high school and families who need help to prevent a child's out-of-home placement.

**9. INFORMATION & REFERRAL - CHILD CARE/ DAY CARE SERVICES  
CHILD CARE RESOURCES OF ROCKLAND**

235 North Main Street, Suite 11, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 425-0009

Assists families in making informed choices for childcare. Information on licensed childcare programs & childcare centers, preschool programs, school-age care programs (after school), group family care, and more. Specialized referral information available for children with special needs.

**10. PARENTING WORKSHOPS  
EVERY PERSON INFLUENCES CHILDREN (EPIC)**

461 Viola Road, Spring Valley (845) 352-9105

Offers free community-wide workshops on topics of interest to parents, including presentations by experts in the fields of child development, sexuality, health and education. Topics include conflict resolution, communication strategies, alternatives to punishment, etc.





**11. MULTIPLE PROGRAMS – CHILDREN’S SUPPORT & MENTORING PROGRAMS  
BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY**

65 North Main Street, New City, NY 10956 (888) 412-2447 Toll free

**MENTORING PROGRAM - BOYS & GIRLS**

Provides mentoring programs for at-risk children & youth 7-18 years of age living in single-parent homes. Program seeks to promote academic achievement, support positive goal setting, foster resistance to negative peer influences, and teach avoidance of harmful attitudes & activities such as anti-social behaviors, alcohol/substance abuse, street/gang violence and criminal behaviors.

**COURT ORDERED SUPERVISED VISITATION (COSV)**

Coordinates Family Court mandated, supervised visitation between non-custodial parents and children. Visits are supervised in a structured environment.

**PREVENTION EDUCATION FOR DELINQUENT YOUTH**

Weekly intervention mentoring program provides life skills, academic tutorial, career preparedness to youth referred by the Spring Valley Judicial Court system as an alternative option to incarceration.

**12. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERPRIVELAGED  
SHAWN CARTER FOUNDATION**

Email contact only: [info@shawncartersf.com](mailto:info@shawncartersf.com) [www.shawncartersf.com](http://www.shawncartersf.com)

Offers scholarship opportunities to underprivileged students including single mothers, children who attend alternative schools, students who have earned a GED, students with grade point averages of 2.0 and students who have previously been incarcerated.

**13. ROCKLAND 21C COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

65 Parrott Road - Building 10, West Nyack (845) 627-5437

Oversees a network of school-based Family Resource Centers and other child-centered agencies to build and sustain a relationship between school communities, parents, children, community groups, public officials and leaders from all sectors. The 21C funds & supports FRC programming for children & parents throughout the school year, such as after-school enrichment, homework clubs, and more. Programs vary by location. Contact your child’s school for more information on programs offered.

**14. OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES**

**CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT UNIT - SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)**

2 New Hempstead Road, 2nd & 3rd Floors, New City, NY 10956  
(888) 208-4485 Toll-free automated inquiries (845) 638-5917 Appointments

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES - SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)**

Building C, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970  
(800) 635-1522 Mandated Reporters (800) 342-3720 Non-Mandated Reporters  
(845) 364-3512 Rockland CPS Unit

**COUNTY OF ROCKLAND FAMILY COURT**

1 Main Street, New City, NY 10956  
(845) 483-8210 Family Court Main





## ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE

### FOOD PANTRIES & SOUP KITCHENS

#### X. FOOD PANTRIES & SOUP KITCHENS

Food/Meal programs operate for **limited hours/days**. Always call to confirm times & availability. Agencies also offering a meal are noted below with **\*\*SOUP**.

Some agencies only offer Food Pantry or Soup, some offer both. Program names/aliases are indicated below in parentheses (**Program Names/Alias**).

1. **MEALS ON WHEELS**  
**Home Delivered Meal Program**  
121 West Nyack Road, Nanuet, NY 10954  
(845) 624-6325
2. **AIDS-RELATED COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
86 East Route 59, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 356-0570  
ELIGIBILITY: Agency clients only.
3. **BEREA 7TH DAY ADVENTIST**  
67 South Broadway, Nyack NY 10960  
(845) 358-6825, Alternate (845) 270-4932  
**\*\*SOUP** - Soup kitchen once weekly.  
ELIGIBILITY: Priority to Nyack residents
4. **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES**  
78 Hudson Avenue, Haverstraw, NY 10927  
(845) 942-5791
5. **CHARISMATIC CHURCH OUTREACH**  
87 Hudson Ave, Haverstraw NY 10927  
(845) 429-8903
6. **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RAMAPO**  
65 Washington Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901  
(845) 357-1615  
**\*\*SOUP** - Soup kitchen 7 days a week.
7. **CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
169 Route 9W, Haverstraw, NY 10927  
(845) 429-9696  
ELIGIBILITY: Haverstraw Residents & DSS referral.
8. **CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY**  
**(Project Hope Food Pantry)**  
251 Rte 59, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 596-4572
9. **COUNTY OF ROCKLAND DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES**  
Building L, Sanatorium Road, Pomona, NY 10970 (845) 364-3100  
ELIGIBILITY: DSS consumers by referral.
10. **FAIRMONT BAPTIST CHURCH**  
39 Division Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 429-5835
11. **FAITH TEMPLE CHURCH**  
130 Bethune Boulevard, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 578-9673  
**\*\*SOUP** - Lunch once weekly.
12. **FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF NYACK**  
**(Soup Angels)**  
18 South Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960  
(845) 358-5518  
**\*\*SOUP** - Weekly dinner program.
13. **FRENCH SPEAKING BAPTIST CHURCH**  
80 North Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 425-8676
14. **GREENBUSH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**(Shirley's Cupboard)**  
614 Western Highway, Blauvelt, NY 10913  
(845) 359-4666  
ELIGIBILITY: Orangetown residents.
15. **HAITIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATION (HACSO)**  
24 West Street, Spring Valley NY 10977  
(845) 352-5897  
\*\* Distribution at 32 Grove Street \*\*
16. **HEAD START OF ROCKLAND**  
117 Rt. 9W, Haverstraw, NY 10927  
(845) 429-4122  
ELIGIBILITY: Head Start parents.
17. **IGLESIA LA MISSION**  
11 Division Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960  
(845) 358-1481
18. **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**  
26 John Street, Stony Point, NY 10980  
(845) 786-2742



## ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE

### *FOOD PANTRIES & SOUP KITCHENS*

19. **LIVING CHRIST CHURCH**  
([Sunday Suppers](#))  
151 South Broadway, Nyack NY 10960  
(845) 358-3125  
**\*\*SOUP** - Sunday dinner program.
20. **MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
405 Piermont Avenue, Piermont, NY 10968  
(845) 359-4690  
ELIGIBILITY: Piermont residents.
21. **MARTIN LUTHER KING MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER (MLK)**  
110 Bethune Blvd. Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 425-8910
22. **NEW GENERATION CHURCH OF GOD**  
25 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 721-8736
23. **OPEN BIBLE CHURCH**  
146 S. Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980  
(845) 461-9589
24. **PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**  
121 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 (845) 623-4900
25. **PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH**  
80 North Franklin Avenue, Nyack, NY 10960  
(845) 358-3978 Alternate (845) 353-1255  
**\*\*SOUP** - Hot lunch every Friday.
26. **ROCKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
145 College Road, Suffern, NY 10901  
(845) 574-4000  
ELIGIBILITY: RCC community.
27. **ROCKLAND COUNTY JAIL OUTREACH MINISTRIES**  
([Upper Room House of Worship](#))  
118 Bethune Blvd, Spring Valley NY 10977  
(845) 371-7141
28. **ROCKLAND JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE**  
([Rhonda Bloom Kosher Food Pantry](#))  
450 West Nyack Road, Suite 2, West Nyack, NY 10994 (845) 354-2121
29. **SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
125 Lafayette Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901  
(845) 357-0035  
ELIGIBILITY: Suffern residents.
30. **SALVATION ARMY** ([Mobile Canteen](#))  
179 N. Main Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 352-9577  
**\*SOUP** - Meals once weekly.
31. **SINAI FRENCH 7th DAY ADVENTIST**  
7 Johnson Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 426-2256
32. **SLOATSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
93 Orange Turnpike, Sloatsburg, NY 10974  
(845) 753-2059  
ELIGIBILITY: West Ramapo residents.
33. **SPRING VALLEY 7TH DAY ADVENTIST**  
18 Paikin Drive, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 352-4806
34. **SPRING VALLEY FOOD BANK**  
Ramapo Cultural Arts Center, 64 N. Main Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 821-3917 Operations Manager Cell
35. **ST. AEDAN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
23 Reld Drive, Pearl River, NY 10965  
(845) 735-8468
36. **ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
([St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry](#))  
33 Jefferson Street, Nyack, NY 10960  
(845) 358-4707  
ELIGIBILITY: Nyack residents.
37. **ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
26 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 356-1857  
**\*SOUP** - Soup kitchen twice monthly.
38. **ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
82 Lake Road West, Congers, NY 10920  
(845) 268-4464  
\* Distribution at St. Paul's School at 365 Kings Highway, Valley Cottage, NY
39. **ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
115 Broadway, Haverstraw NY 10927  
(845) 429-2196
40. **ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
84 Erhardt Road, Pearl River, NY 10920  
(845) 735-8888



## ROCKLAND COUNTY REENTRY TASKFORCE

### *FOOD PANTRIES & SOUP KITCHENS*

- 41. TOMCHE SHABBOS OF ROCKLAND**  
301-E Spook Rock Industrial Park  
(845) 357-5885
- 42. TOUCH-TOGETHER OUR UNITY CAN HEAL, INC.**  
209 North Route 9W, Congers, NY 10920  
(845) 268-8023
- 43. TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
[\(North Rockland Food Pantry\)](#)  
49 East Street, Stony Point, NY 10980  
(845) 942-2232  
ELIGIBILITY: North Rockland residents
- 44. UNITED CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY**  
[\(Rockland Interfaith Breakfast Program\)](#)  
11 East Church Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 356-2863  
*\*SOUP* - Serves breakfast Mon-Fri 7am.
- 45. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SPRING VALLEY**  
[\(Community Breakfast\)](#)  
2 South Madison Avenue, Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 356-0238  
*\*SOUP* - Community Breakfast Saturdays.
- 46. WEST STREET CHILD CARE**  
96 North Street, Spring Valley, NY 10977  
(845) 425-2379  
ELIGIBILITY: West Street Program Families



## **XI. THRIFT SHOPS & CLOTHING DONATION CENTERS**

*PLEASE CALL FOR HOURS & ELIGIBILITY*

1. **BARGAIN BASKET**  
79 S. Liberty Dr., Stony Point, NY 10980 (845) 429-5830
2. **BUDGET BAZAAR THRIFT SHOP (CONSIGNMENT)**  
96 Maple Avenue, New City, NY 10956 (845) 634-8880
3. **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RAMAPO THRIFT SHOP**  
65 Washington Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901 (845) 357-1615 Ext. 15
4. **GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF GREATER NY THRIFT SHOP**  
130 West Route 59, Nanuet, NY 10954 (845) 624-0187
5. **GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH THRIFT SHOP**  
10 South Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 358-7488
6. **NYACK HOSPITAL THRIFT SHOP**  
Nyack Antique Mall, Franklin Street, Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 358-7933
7. **PEOPLE TO PEOPLE**  
121 West Nyack Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 (845) 623-4900  
\*\* Clothing distribution free of charge to those who meet eligibility requirements.
8. **RSVP THRIFT SHOP**  
185 N Main St., Spring Valley, NY 10977 (845) 356-6818
9. **SLOATSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH THRIFT SHOP**  
93 Orange Turnpike, Sloatsburg, NY 10974 (845) 753-2059
10. **FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH THRIFT SHOP**  
128 Parrott Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 (845) 634-4957
11. **ST. MARGARET'S THRIFT SHOP**  
34 N. Magnolia Street, Pearl River, NY 10965 (845) 735-6169
12. **TAPPAN ZEE THRIFT SHOP**  
454 Main Street, Piermont, NY 10968 (845) 359-5753
13. **TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
49 East Main Street, Stony Point, NY 10980 (845) 942-2232  
\*\* Limited supply of clothes for children aged 12 and under. Closed for the summer.
14. **TWO ANNYS**  
70 Lafayette Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901 (845) 368-4512
15. **URBAN CONSIGNMENT**  
17 N. Franklin St., Nyack, NY 10960 (845) 535-3303
16. **VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
\*\*Accepts donations of clothing & household items. Residential pick-up service.  
[www.PickUpPlease.org](http://www.PickUpPlease.org) or 1-800-775-8387