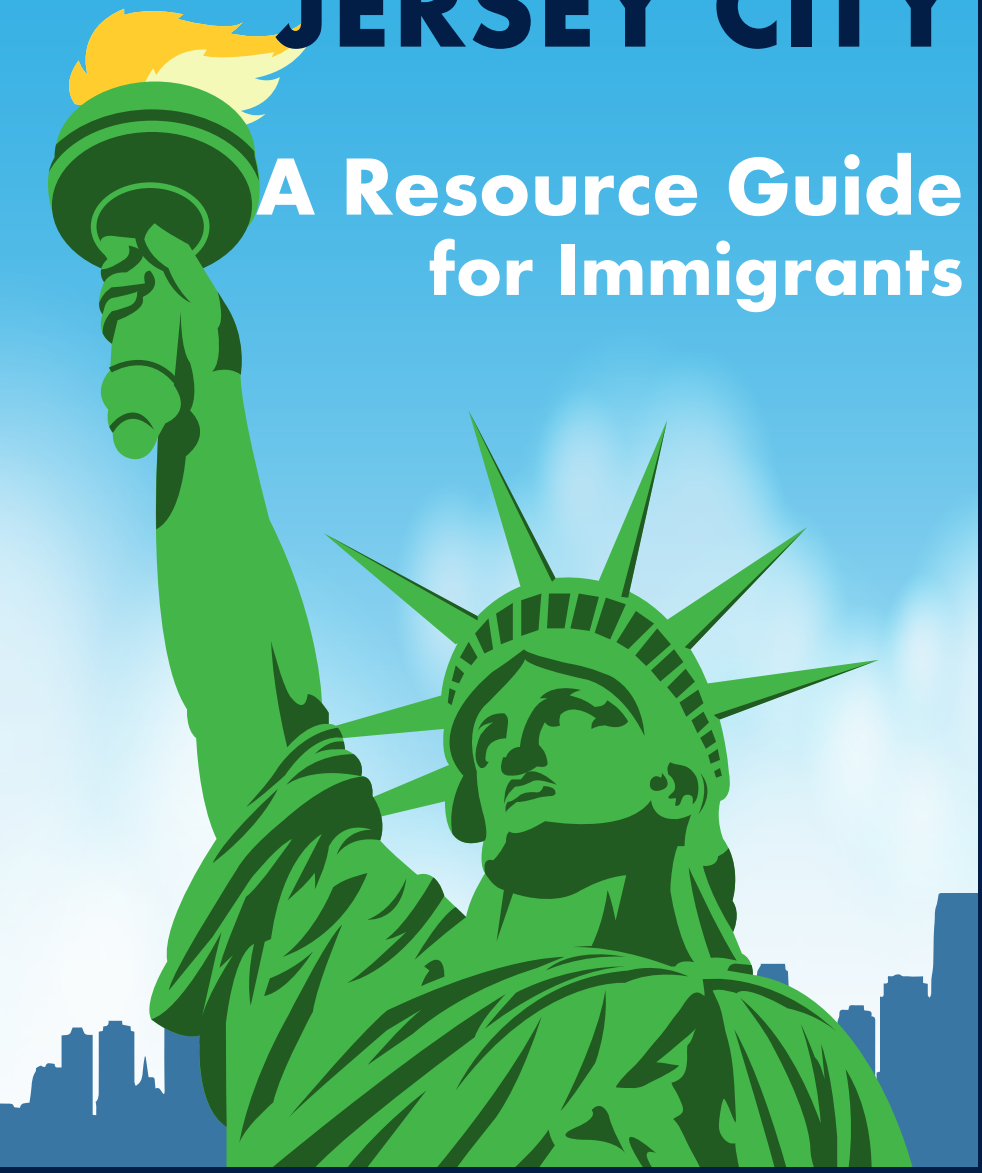
FREE

# WELCOME TO JERSEY CITY

## A Resource Guide for Immigrants



#HealthierJC

DIVISION OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DR.MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CITY HALL ANNEX
1 JACKSON SQUARE | JERSEY CITY, NJ 07305

# The New Colossus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, with conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand a mighty woman with a torch, whose flame is the imprisoned lighting, and her name Mother of Exiles.
From her beacon-hand glows
world-wide welcome;
her mild eyes command the
air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she with silent lips.
"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless,
tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"
-Emma Lazarus
November 2nd, 1883

Ellis Island, located in the New York harbor between the states of New York and New Jersey, was once a port of entry that functioned as an immigrant inspection site from 1982 to 1954. Ellis Island served as a gateway to new beginnings for immigrants coming from Europe.

Alongside Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty was one of the first things immigrants travelling to the United States would see. The Statue of Liberty stands high as a symbol of freedom in the Hudson River. Lady Liberty was a gift from France, to honor the alliance between France and United States during the American Revolution. The monument continues to serve as a beacon of hope shining bright for all newcomers from all over the world.

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon any single source of information.

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# A Message from Mayor Steven M. Fulop

Over 12 million immigrants first stepped foot on U.S. soil right here in Jersey City. It's an exclusive part of our country's history that only we can claim. For decades, Ellis Island served as an immigration station, welcoming newcomers of various ethnicities and backgrounds to become part of the local community. I am proud that this tradition lives on, that America's Golden Door remains open, and that Jersey City is a home that offers sanctuary, opportunity, and hope to so many.

Building a life in a new home can often be met with struggle and hardship. My parents had many obstacles to overcome when they fled Romania to begin a new life in New Jersey. My two brothers and I worked in our father's delicatessen, while my mother went on to open an office to assist immigrants in Newark. My parents are a reminder for me that everyone deserves the opportunity for a better life.

Today, my work as Mayor allows me the opportunity to help people in various ways, including efforts to assist immigrants trying to make a new life for themselves and their families. One of my proudest examples is when I signed an executive order making Jersey City a Sanctuary City, but those important protections only work in conjunction with robust services and compassionate support. This Resource Guide for Immigrants that you hold in your hands symbolizes our pledge that we will work with our community partners, to assist in all that we can, and to invite you to build Jersey City together.

Sincerely,

**Steven M. Fulop**
Mayor
City of Jersey City

# A Message from Stacey Lea Flanagan

**Director of the Department of Health and Human Services**

As Director of the Health Department, there is nothing more important than the health and wellbeing of Jersey City's residents. But health is more than what we eat or how much we exercise. Our overall health is determined by every part of our daily lives: our jobs, our homes, our air, our sense of security. For new immigrants, trying to exist in a way that promotes health can be uniquely challenging.

The Department of Health and Human Services recognizes that you are essential to the health of Jersey City, which is why the Division of Immigrant Affairs is part of our organization. Your use of public and non-profit services, your engagement with city government, your contributions to our society help us all stay healthy and happy. In a city where two of every five residents were born in another country, the health of immigrants is a barometer of the city's public health at large. Your success is Jersey City's success.

This Resource Guide for Immigrants encourages you to take full advantage of the many services our city has to offer. Our Division of Immigrant Affairs team has compiled this guide because we understand that your needs are diverse, and your potential to prosper is limitless. Your health is much more than diet and exercise, and your future is tied to the future of Jersey City, a city where all are welcome.

Sincerely,

**Stacey Lea Flanagan**
Director
Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services

# A Message from Mike McLean

**Director of the Division of Immigrant Affairs**

Jersey City is a city of immigrants in a nation of immigrants. This is your city, and your integration and success help us all. No matter where you are from, what language you speak, or your immigration status, Jersey City is a city that welcomes you.

The Division of Immigrant Affairs and our community partners are eager to assist and accompany you on your journey. Behind every organization described in this Resource Guide, there are people ready to help you. Within every informational panel, there is knowledge you can use to help yourself and your community.

- ✓ Take this guide with you.
- ✓ Use this guide to navigate your new community.
- ✓ Share this guide with your friends and family.
- ✓ Do not hesitate to make phone calls and visit offices.

And as always, you are welcome to call Division of Immigrant Affairs team. When you seek help, it helps us all.

Sincerely,

**Mike McLean**
Director
Divison of Immigrant Affairs

SOCIAL SECURITY

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# Government Services

## 9-1-1 Emergency Telecommunications Service

9-1-1 is the telephone number you should call when there is any kind of emergency. Examples of emergencies include fire, serious injury, difficulty breathing, violence, and robberies.

- Call 9-1-1 for emergency help only
- If you do not speak English, say the name of the language you speak to the operator
- Give the location and description of the emergency
- Stay on the phone until help arrives

Free

Emergency Calls Only: 9-1-1
Non-Emergency calls to the Jersey City Police Department: **201-547-5477**

## Who should I call if there is an emergency?

In the case of an emergency, it is always best to call **9-1-1** for assistance. A call to a 9-1-1 can be made from any phone and is always free. Text messages can also be sent to 9-1-1, but a phone call is the most typical and reliable way to contact emergency services. Tell the operator your exact location and describe the emergency. Depending on your type of emergency, a police car, ambulance, and/or fire truck will be sent to your location. Do not hang up the phone until emergency services arrive.

All people are encouraged to call 9-11 where there is an emergency. You will not be asked your immigration status when calling. If you are unable to communicate in English, say the language you speak and an interpreter will be provided.

### Who else may respond in an emergency?

United Rescue Jersey City is a team of volunteer paramedics with specialized training and equipment who can respond to medical emergencies on foot or in their private vechicles. They are very valuable, because they can often respond before an ambulance arrives. For more information, see **www.UnitedRescue.us**. Another local organization is the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is made up of volunteers who respond to large-scale emergencies like natural disasters. For more information, contact **jwoods@hcnj.us** or **201-369-5200**.[1]

### What if I need the police, but it isn't an emergency?

If you would like to contact the police for an issue that is not an emergency, you should call the Jersey City Police Department at **201-547-5477**. To report non-emergencies like noise complaints or a flooded road, contact the Public Safety Department at **201-547-4239**. If you have information that could be used to stop a crime but want to remain anonymous, contact the Jersey City Police Tip Line at **201-547-5245** or **policetips@njjcps.org**.[2]

A Jersey City police car can arrive on the scene of your emergency. Jersey City police will not ask your immigration status.

When you call 9-1-1 with a medical emergency, a United Rescue volunteer responder might arrive before an ambulance.

## Jersey City Police Department Non-Emergency Dispatcher

The Jersey City Police Department Non-Emergency Dispatcher is the phone number you should call for non-emergencies that require police attention. Call to report noise, domestic disturbances, or suspicious activity. You will NOT be asked your immigration status when contacting the Jersey City Police. If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1.

- Report non-emergency problems to the police
- Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood
- Report any information that can be used to prevent crime or danger

**201-547-5477**

**policetips@njjcps.org**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Additional Services Available

## Division of Immigrant Affairs (DIA)–City of Jersey City

The Division of Immigrant Affairs (DIA) is dedicated to assisting and welcoming all immigrants living in Jersey City. In addition to publishing this Resource Guide, we offer free limited assistance with some citizenship applications and Green Card renewals. We cannot give legal advice, but we can connect you with non-profit legal assistance and many other services.

- Get free assistance completing immigration forms for citizenship
- Connect with many services
- Access free information and resources for the citizenship exam

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City Hall Annex
1 Jackson Square,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-547-6800**

**JCDIA@jcnj.org**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Why is the U.S. Census so important?

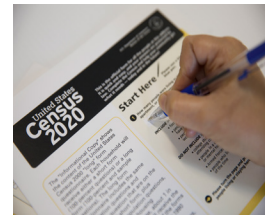
The census is when the government makes a complete count of every person who lives in the United States. The census is conducted every 10 years, and counts all people, regardless of their immigration status. The government then uses the census count to determine how much money it should give to cities for schools, police, fire departments, and public health. The government also uses the census count to determine how many elected representatives are needed for a given population. Non-profit organizations use the census count to determine how to serve vulnerable groups. Even corporations use the census count to plan where to build stores, offices, and restaurants. When residents fail to fill out census forms, their community might lose its fair share of resources and compromise its future.[4]

### What if I am not a citizen, or I don't have proper immigration documents?

First, if you reside in the United States, you are required by law to fill out a census form, even if you are not a citizen or a documented immigrant. Second, according to Title 13 of federal law, the information you put on your census form may not be published, used in court, or accessed by any government agency other than the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau may only use the census information to provide statistical counts and broad analyses of data; it is not permitted to use your individual information.[5]

### How can I complete a census form?

The census begins April 1, 2020, and is repeated every 10 years. You can complete the census online or by phone or mail in several different languages. Because your response is required by law, the Census Bureau will send a representative to your home to collect the necessary data if you do not submit.




Make yourself count. Fill out your census form by mail, phone, or online.

JERSEY CITY 2020 CENSUS
#JCMAKEITCOUNT @JERSEYCITYCENSUS @CENSUSJC

## Hudson County Department of Family Services (DFS)

The Department of Family Services provides public benefits to residents who meet certain eligibility requirements. Help with food, housing, health insurance, childcare, child support, elderly care, transportation, and employment are all offered at DFS. For a detailed list of public benefits, read the "What are public benefits?" information panel.

- Apply for food stamps
- Enroll in government-supported health insurance
- Apply for rental assistance if you are a family facing eviction
- Receive cash assistance for families with children under 18
- Find free and low-cost childcare
- Apply for child support if you are a single parent
- Register for free full-time ESL classes and job training through the Work First program
- Enroll in free health insurance (Medicare) and home health care if you are over 65

257 Cornelison Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**201-420-3000**

**hudsoncountynj.org/department-of-family-services**

Mon–Fri: 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m

Free

Spanish, Arabic, Other Foreign Languages

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

# What are public benefits?

Public benefits are programs funded by the government that help people pay for basic needs like food, housing, and medical care. If you do not have proper immigration documents, you will not be approved for most public benefits. It is important to note that each program has its own set of requirements and renewal processes.[6]

## How can public benefits help me buy food?

If you are approved for the **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**, you will be given an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which can be used to buy food at stores with signs that say "EBT accepted". EBT cards have a fixed value that is automatically replenished every month, as long as the cardholder renews membership in SNAP.[7]

## How can public benefits help me find a job?

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF; "Work First New Jersey")** temporarily provides cash, childcare, and job training to low-income families. To extend TANF benefits, you must have a job or be enrolled in school.[8]

## How can public benefits help me pay rent?

The **Section 8** voucher program assists the poor, elderly, or disabled with paying for a rented home. Generally, Section 8 recipients must pay 30% of their income toward rent, and the balance is paid directly to the landlord by the government.[9] Recipients must find a landlord that is willing to accept Section 8 vouchers. You can apply for Section 8 and other public housing benefits by contacting the **Jersey City Housing Authority** at **201-706-4676** or **www.jerseycityha.org**.[10]

## How can public benefits help me pay for medical care?

**Medicaid** is a state and federal benefits program that provides free or low-cost health insurance to families with low income.
**Medicare** is a federal program that provides health coverage if you are 65 years of age or older, or if you are disabled.[11]
**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** provides monthly cash assistance to people with blindness and other disabilities.
**Supplemental Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)** provides monthly assistance to workers who can no longer work as a result of a disability or illness. Any person can apply for SSDI if they have been paying into Social Security for at least 10 years.[12] **NJ Family Care** is a program that helps eligible children and adults gain access to health care.[13]

## Where do I go to apply for public benefits?

To apply for most of the Hudson County DFS benefits programs listed here, you must go to their office (at 257 Cornelison Avenue) on a weekday (Monday through Friday) before it opens at 8:00 a.m. You will need documents like proof of immigration status, proof of Hudson County address, proof of income, and identification for all members in your household.

If you are awarded SNAP benefits, you can use this EBT card to purchase food at local stores that accept SNAP.

Visit the Hudson County Department of Family Services to apply for assistance with health care, housing, and food.

## Jersey City Community Solutions
## Jersey City Municipal Court

Jersey City Community Solutions (JCCS) is a court-based program the seeks alternatives to incarceration for people who commit low-level, nonviolent offenses. JCCS can be helpful if someone is facing criminal charges such as drug possession or shoplifting. JCCS develops sentences that incorporate community service and rehabilitation programs instead of having individuals serve jail time.

- Learn about community service and rehabilitation options in the court system
- Receive guidance when facing a low-level, nonviolent criminal charge

365 Summit Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-209-6734**

**communitysolutions@jcnj.org**
**www.jerseycitynj.gov/CityHall/law/municipalcourt/JCCS**

Free

Documents and Preparation Required

## Jersey City Division of Affordable Housing

The Division of Affordable Housing is where renters can go if they suspect their landlord is neglecting to provide a safe home or might be violating the Housing Code. Here, you can also find the **Office of Landlord/Tenant Relations**, which can help you ensure your landlord is following the law on rent control and rental agreements. The Division of Affordable Housing can also give you information about housing options and your rights as a renter.

- Report landlord misconduct or negligence
- Ask questions about rental agreements and tenants' rights
- Learn about rent control protections

342 Martin Luther King Drive,
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**201-547-5127**

If you have a problem with your rented home, you can go to the new Division of Affordable Housing at 342 Martin Luther King Dr.

## Jersey City Resident Response Center (RRC)

The Resident Response Center is a centralized department you can call to report a community concern and receive information and assistance related to city services. An RRC representative will listen to your questions and concerns and will connect you with the city department that can best assist.

- Report a problem in your neighborhood
- Connect with city agencies

280 Grove Street, Room 106,
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**201-547-4900**

**www.jerseycitynj.gov/community/rrc**

Free

Spanish

Additional Services Available

A Resident Response Center representative will listen to your questions and concerns and connect you with the city department that can best assist.

## Social Security Administration—Jersey City Office

The Social Security Administration provides financial assistance to many people who are retired or disabled. Even if you do not receive these benefits, a Social Security card is an essential document that you will need to work, pay taxes, and interact with most government agencies. You can apply for one at the 325 West Side Avenue office. You will need proof of your immigration status.

- Apply for a Social Security card
- Ask about disability and retirement benefits

325 West Side Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**1-800-772-1213**

**www.ssa.gov**

Documents and Preparation Required

A Social Security number and card are what nearly all United States residents use to identify themselves to employers, government offices, and many private institutions like banks and health insurance providers.

## US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Newark Asylum Office

The USCIS Newark Asylum Office (located in Lyndhurst) is where USCIS officials conduct interviews for immigrant petitions related to asylum, suspensions of deportation, and other cases. Nearly all business at this office must be scheduled by appointment. Individuals without an appointment can arrive at the office on Fridays.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

- Attend your asylum or immigration interview
- Schedule an appointment regarding your asylum or suspension of deportation case

USCIS Newark Asylum Office
1200 Wall Street West, 4th Floor,
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

**201-508-6100**

**newarkasylumofficemailbox@uscis.dhs.gov**

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Newark District Office

USCIS is the federal government agency that handles all citizenship and immigration applications. A specific USCIS form must be carefully completed and submitted for every immigration adjustment or petition. Most USCIS forms require a fee, but many forms can be submitted with a Fee Waiver, which would reduce or eliminate the need to pay. Visiting a USCIS field office is usually only necessary for interviews and special appointments.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Completing a USCIS application:**

- Find a licensed attorney or accredited representative to help you understand and complete USCIS forms
- Never submit anything to USCIS that is not complete, true, and correct
- Check the USCIS website for the correct address before sending mail; different forms may need to be sent to different addresses

**Visiting the USCIS field office**:

- Only go to USCIS when you have been informed of an appointment by mail
- To request an appointment, use the InfoPass tool on the USCIS website
- Bring all necessary documents; citizenship interviewees need to bring an NJ state ID, passport, and Green Card

USCIS Field Office,
Peter Rodino Federal Building
970 Broad Street,
Newark, NJ 07102

**1-800-375-5283**

**www.USCIS.gov**

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

# Legal Services

## Who can help me with my immigration legal problem?

### ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES

An accredited representative has specialized training and is authorized by the U.S. Dept. of Justice to provide legal assistance to immigrants. Accredited representatives must work for a non-profit organization that is recognized by the Dept. of Justice. They often help at public events and community centers. **Immigrant Hope** in Clifton has accredited representatives on staff.

### "PRO BONO" IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

A pro bono lawyer is a licensed immigration attorney who agrees to provide legal services for free. Like all licensed attorneys, pro bono lawyers must have graduated from law school and hold a license from the State Bar Association in the state where they are practicing law. **Northeast New Jersey Legal Services** is a pro bono legal agency that provides free services.

### LOW-COST IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

Sometimes called "low bono", low-cost immigration lawyers work for non-profit organizations and offer professional legal services at a fraction of the cost of private attorneys. Some "low bono" agencies will ask for proof of income and might favor those who earn less. **The Center for Immigrant Representation** at 35 Journal Square is a low-cost immigration legal agency.

## What forms of help might I be cautious about?

### PRIVATE IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

Private lawyers can ask for any fee to help with your immigration legal case. Although many private attorneys are excellent, some abuse their clients by providing poor legal services at very high prices. It is common to find a private attorney through a trusted recommendation. Private attorneys are not listed in this guide.

### "NOTARIOS"

"Notarios" are typically not authorized to help you with an immigration legal problem, and you may put yourself at significant risk by trusting one. Unlike in Latin America, a "notario" may not practice law in the United States. Those who are authorized to practice law usually advertise themselves as lawyers. Please read elsewhere in this section about "notarios".

## American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Immigrants' Rights Program

The AFSC Immigrants' Rights Program offers free and low-cost legal services to immigrants who are in detention, facing deportation, seeking to reunite with families, or in need of protection. AFSC also engages is many efforts to advocate for the protection and support of immigrant communities.

- Ask questions about legal cases
- Meet with a lawyer about your deportation case
- Advocate for immigrant rights and protections

89 Market Street, 6th Floor,
Newark, NJ 07102

**973-643-1924**

**irpnewark@afsc.org**
**www.afsc.org/office/newark-nj**

Free, Low-Cost

Spanish

Additional Services Available

## American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)

AILA is a national association of attorneys and law professors who practice and teach immigration law. AILA members represent clients seeking permanent residence, asylum, and other immigration statuses, often on a pro bono basis. While AILA cannot be contacted for direct assistance, they can provide valuable information and connect you to other attorneys.

- Find information about your immigration questions
- Ask for a list of pro bono attorneys

1331 G Street NW, Suite 300,
Washington, DC 20005

**202-783-7853**

**www.aila.org**

Additional Services Available

## Who can I trust with immigration legal services?

Only licensed immigration attorneys or accredited representatives are authorized to help you with your immigration legal case. For information on avoiding immigration legal scams, go to **www.uscis.gov/avoid-scams**.[1]

**Pro bono** immigration attorneys provide legal services to immigrants without asking for fees or compensation, but they will usually ask you to prove that your income is low.[2] The term "pro bono" is derived from Latin and means "for the public good". To find pro bono attorneys, visit **www.justice.gov/eoir/file/ProBonoNJ**.

**"Low bono"** is a modification of the term "pro bono" and describes licensed attorneys that work for non-profit agencies and provide legal services at low costs. If you have an income that does not qualify you for a pro bono attorney, but you still can't afford a private attorney, a "low bono" attorney could be your best option.[3]

### What is an accredited representative?

Accredited representatives are not attorneys, but have received a special authorization from the U.S. Dept. of Justice to provide legal services to immigrants. After being accredited, they can represent immigrants in court and when engaging with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Accredited representatives must work for non-profit organizations that are recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Justice and may only provide legal services on a pro bono or "low bono" basis.[4]

### What should I know about for-profit attorneys?

Attorneys must attend law school, earn a law degree, and be licensed by the State Bar Association in the state where they are practicing law. If you choose a for-profit attorney, it is important to ensure that none of their authorizations have been revoked or suspended. You can visit **www.njcourts.gov** and click "Licensed Attorneys" to check. Before entering into an agreement with an attorney, you can first speak with them about the details of your case and have a clear understanding of the costs.[5]

If you need legal advice, make sure the person is a licensed attorney or an accredited representative to avoid falling victim of immigration scams.

## Bishop Francis Center for Legal Immigration Services Catholic Charities

The Bishop Francis Center for Legal Immigration Services helps immigrants by offering legal assistance in most cases of immigration and naturalization proceedings. The initial consultation fee is $60.

- Meet with a lawyer
- Ask questions about legal cases
- Receive help with your TPS, DACA, or U, VAWA, and T Visa
- Receive help with family petition and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

976 Broad Street, 1st Floor,
Newark, NJ 07102

**973-733-3516**

**www.ccannj.com/refugee_immigration.php**

Free, Low-Cost

Spanish, French-Creole

Documents and Preparation Required

## Centro Comunitario CEUS
## Legal Services for Immigrants (LSI) Program

Centro Comunitario is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping immigrants in New Jersey with low-cost legal services.

- Receive help with your TPS, VAWA, and NACARA applications
- Receive help with applying for political asylum
- Get help with family petitions and citizenship

4214 John F. Kennedy Boulevard,
Union City, NJ 07087

**201-617-2466**

**info@ceusnj.org**
**www.ceusnj.org**

Low-Cost

Spanish

Documents and Preparation Required

## The Center for Immigrant Representation

The Center for Immigrant Representation is a non-profit law agency that provides a wide range of low-cost immigration legal services, with an excellent record of success.

- Meet with an immigration lawyer or accredited representative
- Apply for citizenship, family petitions, U and VAWA Visas, and other immigration statuses
- Seek legal assistance as a victim of domestic abuse or human trafficking

35 Journal Square, Suite 827 (8th floor),
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-884-2290**

**thecenter@justicecorps.org**
**www.thecenterimmigration.org**

Free

Spanish, Mandarin

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## What makes Jersey City a "Sanctuary City"?

Many cities in the United States call themselves "Sanctuary Cities" because they enact local policies to welcome immigrants. Even though these local policies are, at times, very different from federal or state policies, it is important to know that no city—not even a "Sanctuary City"—can excuse immigrants from federal enforcement by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). Federal immigration officers can question and detain anyone in the United States, even if they live in a "Sanctuary City".

Jersey City first called itself a "Sanctuary City" in 1996 and reaffirmed this title in 2017, when Mayor Steven M. Fulop directed the city government to follow careful procedures to welcome and protect immigrants. One major "Sanctuary Policy" is that Jersey City police officers may not cooperate with federal immigration agents and must treat everyone the same, regardless of immigration status.[6]

Mayor Fulop, signing the Sanctuary City Order

## Columbia University Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic

The Immigrants' Rights Clinic at Columbia Law School provides free legal services to immigrants in need, including unaccompanied minors who have been detained at the U.S. border and those facing deportation.

- Ask questions about legal cases
- Meet with a lawyer or accredited representative
- Meet with law students who are supervised by a lawyer
- Get help if facing deportation

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

435 West 116th Street,
New York, NY 10027

**212-854-4291**

**clinicstaff@law.columbia.edu**

Free

Appointment Required

## What should I know about "notarios"?

In many Latin American countries, a "notario" is a lawyer that can provide many legal services. However, in the United States, only licensed attorneys or accredited representatives can provide the services associated with Latin American "notarios". Many businesses in the United States call themselves "notarios" and offer legal services that they are not qualified or authorized to provide. Unfortunately, many immigrants trust "notarios" or "multi-service centers" and later find themselves paying fees for incorrect legal advice from a fraudulent representative.[7] The abuse of immigrants by "notarios" is so well documented that in November 2018, the State of New Jersey fined dozens of these offices for providing fraudulent legal services.[8] It is extremely important to verify that someone offering legal services is a licensed attorney or accredited representative by checking at **www.njcourts.gov** and clicking "Licensed Attorneys".[9] You can also find more information on immigration scams on **www.uscis.gov/avoidscams**.[10]

"Notarios" might not be authorized to help you with your immigration legal case. Many "notarios" have abused vulnerable immigrants.

## HealthRight International

HealthRight International provides psychological, medical, and gynecological evaluations for foreign-born survivors of torture and other human rights abuses for use in immigration proceedings. Your legal representative must refer you to HealthRight in order for you to receive an evaluation.

- Obtain a psychological or physical evaluation as evidence in support of an application for asylum or other immigration relief

14 East 4th Street, 3rd Floor,
New York, NY 10012

**212-226-9890**

**www.healthright.org**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Additional Services Available

## Immigrant Hope—Clifton

Immigrant Hope provides legal advice and assistance for immigrants in need. Immigrant Hope is affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church of America. The Clifton office is located on the Grace Church campus and is able to service people in Spanish, Portuguese, Albanian, and Turkish. The consultation fee is $40.

- Receive help with your immigration forms
- Ask questions about legal cases
- Receive help with your DACA renewal
- Find English language classes

45 Hazel Street,
Clifton, NJ 07011

**973-928-4103**

**info.clifton@immigranthope.org**
**immigranthope.org/location/clifton-new-jersey/**

Low-Cost

Spanish, Portuguese, Albanian, and Turkish

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Division of Immigrant Affairs—City of Jersey City

In addition to publishing this Resource Guide, the Division of Immigrant Affairs offers free, limited assistance with applications for citizenship and Green Card renewals. We can help you read instructions, organize documents, and prepare forms. If you have any other questions about any of the services mentioned in this guide, please call.

- Receive free, limited assistance with preparing citizenship and Green Card renewal applications
- Connect with other services
- Receive information and resources for the citizenship exam

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City Hall Annex
1 Jackson Square,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-547-6800**

**JCDIA@jcnj.org**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Additional Services Available

## Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

KIND offers free legal representation to unaccompanied immigrant and refugee children who face deportation. Services are only available to unaccompanied minors who are under 18.

- Receive free legal representation (only for unaccompanied minors under 18)
- Meet with a lawyer to ask questions about your case and learn about your rights

**862-926-2117**

**infonewark@supportkind.org**
**www.supportkind.org**

Free

Spanish, French, Chinese

Appointment Required

Additional Services Available

## Legal Office for Refugees and Asylum Seekers Church World Service (CWS)

The CWS Legal Office provides legal services to refugees, asylees, and other immigrant groups. To meet with an attorney, there is a consultation fee of $75, and other services cost low fees, as well.

- Meet with an immigration lawyer
- Apply for U Visa, adjustment of status "Green Card", or citizenship
- Receive help with your asylum case or family petition
- Renew your DACA status
- Apply for and renew Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 700,
New York, NY 10115

**212-870-2814**

**www.cwsglobal.org/legal-services**

Low-Cost

Appointment Required

Additional Services Available

# THE JERSEY CITY DIVISION OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS IS HERE TO HELP!

## Free Help with Citizenship and Green Card Renewal Applications*

- Reading instructions
- Organizing documents
- Completing forms

*Although we can gladly help with the needs listed above, please keep in mind that our staff are not immigration professionals and our ability to assist is limited. We cannot interpret laws of application requirements, nor can we provide any legal advice. You may require the help of a licensed immigration attorney.

## Free Help with Finding Services

- Finding non-profit health services
- Finding non-profit lawyers
- Problems with your landlord

All are welcome, regardless of immigration status. Your privacy will be protected.

## Call for an Appointment and Information:

En español and English: 201-547-5107
In العربية and English: **201-547-5118**
Email: **JCDIA@jcnj.org**

## Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services, Jersey City Division of Immigrant Affairs

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City Hall Annex
1 Jackson Square,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

# What should I know about my Green Card?

If you are a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), your Green Card is the most important document that proves your right to live and work in the United States. When your Green Card expires, you will still be an LPR, but holding an expired card will make it difficult to apply for jobs and services, travel abroad, and interact with most government agencies. You should know the expiration date of your Green Card and make careful plans to renew six months before it expires.[11] As a Green Card holder, you are required to complete an AR-11 Change of Address form every time you move. For information, go to **www.uscis.gov/AR-11**.[12]

## How do I renew or replace my Green Card?

You can submit a form called I-90 to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The I-90 requires you to provide personal information and a photocopy of your expired (or almost-expired) Green Card. If you lose your Green Card, you can report it to your local police station. If the police cannot file a report, you can ask to submit a "written affidavit" and ask for a copy. Not only can this document be used in your application for a replacement Green Card, it can also be used if your lost Green Card is found.[13,14]

## How do I apply for a fee waiver?

The full fee for Green Card renewal or replacement is usually $540, and the wait time is generally six months.[14] If you qualify for an I-912 Fee Waiver, you will not have to pay any application fee, but you will need proof of receiving government assistance like Medicaid or SNAP ("food stamps") or of earning a very low income. A full list of requirements can be found at **www.uscis.gov/i-912**.[15]

## Who can help me?

If you live in Jersey City and need help with your Green Card renewal, you can contact the Division of Immigrant Affairs (located at 1 Jackson Square, Jersey City, NJ 07305) to set up an appointment by calling **201-547-4328**.

It is important to renew your Green Card as early as six months before the expiration date.

## Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) Immigration Representation Project

Legal Services of New Jersey provides free legal services to low-income New Jersey residents for a variety of civil and immigration matters. LSNJ helps undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers and those facing deportation, human trafficking victims, torture survivors, and LGBTQ people. To qualify for help from LSNJ, you must meet the low-income eligibility guideline.

- Meet with a licensed pro bono attorney
- Receive help with adjustment of status, DACA, TPS, and VAWA applications
- Receive deportation defense and representation in courts
- Attend advocacy meetings and "know your rights" presentations

P.O. Box 1357,
Edison, NJ 08818

**732-572-9100** ext. 8782

**legalhelp@lsnj.org**

Free

Spanish, Bengali, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese

Additional Services Available

## Make the Road New Jersey

Make the Road builds the power of immigrant and working-class communities to achieve dignity and justice through community organizing, legal and support services, and transformative education. For a free immigration legal services consultation, you are asked to attend at least one community meeting in Elizabeth on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., or in Passaic on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. Also, see Make the Road's listing in the Education and Immigrant Youth sections of this guide.

- Apply for citizenship and other immigration petitions
- Learn about various classes and programs

42 Broad Street,
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

**info@maketheroadnj.org**
**www.maketheroadnj.org**

Free

Spanish, Portuguese

Additional Services Available

## North Hudson Community Action Corp (NHCAC) Immigration and Naturalization Services

NHCAC helps immigrants with completing USCIS immigration forms, translating important documents, and connecting with lawyers. NHCAC partners with other community organizations to offer ESL and financial literacy classes for immigrants. They can also connect you to a civil surgeon doctor who can complete the I-693 medical exam for your Green Card application.

- Get help filling out immigration forms
- Set an appointment with a civil surgeon for your I-693 medical exam
- Request translations of foreign language documents into English
- Connect with lawyers

7007 Polk Street,
Guttenberg, NJ 07093

**201-210-0333** ext. 22101 or 22102

**www.nhcac.org**

Mon–Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Free

Spanish

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Northeast New Jersey Legal Services (NNJLS)

Northeast New Jersey Legal Services provides free non-criminal civil legal help to low-income immigrants in Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic Counties who meet certain eligibility requirements. NNJLS can assist with a range of immigration matters, including visa renewals, citizenship applications, adjustment of status, and family petitions. NNJLS also provides legal help with other civil legal matters, including housing, public assistance, domestic violence, sexual assault, veterans, seniors, education, expungement of New Jersey criminal records, federal tax matters, and HIV/AIDS.

- Meet with a lawyer
- Ask about many legal concerns

574 Summit Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-792-6363**

**NNJLS@lsnj.org**
**www.northeastnjlegalservices.org**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, Bangla, Korean, Turkish, Other Foreign Languages

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Rutgers University School of Law, Newark Immigrant Rights Clinic

The Immigrant Rights Clinic at Rutgers University School of Law provides legal services to immigrants with problems related to asylum, deportation, and certain crimes.

- Meet with a lawyer
- Ask questions about legal cases

123 Washington Street,
Newark, NJ 07102

**973-353-5292**

**www.law.rutgers.edu/legal-clinics**

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## Seton Hall Law School Immigrants' Rights/International Human Rights Clinic

The Immigrants' Rights/International Human Rights Clinic at Seton Hall Law School provides pro bono legal services for economically disadvantaged residents, asylum seekers, and individuals facing deportation.

- Meet with a lawyer or with a law student supervised by a lawyer
- Get help with your asylum case or U Visa
- Seek help with deportation defense

833 McCarter Highway,
Newark, NJ 07102

**973-642-8700**

**CSJ_Reception@shu.edu**
**law.shu.edu/clinics**

Free

Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

# How can I become a U.S. citizen?

If you are eligible to become a naturalized U.S. citizen, you will need to submit an N-400 Citizenship Application, record your fingerprints and "biometrics", pass the citizenship exam and interview, and take an oath.

### What are some of the requirements for the N-400 Citizenship Application?

- You have been a lawful permanent resident (Green Card holder) of the United States for at least five years. If you marry a U.S. citizen, the requirement is three years, instead of five.
- You are at least 18 years old at the time of filing.
- You have not traveled outside of the United States for more than a total of 12 months in the last five years.
- You have not traveled outside of the United States for more than six months during one trip in the last five years.
- You have lived within the same state where you are claiming residence for at least three months.[16]
- For a complete list of citizenship requirements, go to www.uscis.gov/n-400."

### What are the fees? Can I apply for a fee waiver?

The N-400 Citizenship Application requires a fee of up to $725. If you qualify for the I-912 Fee Waiver, you will not have to pay any application fee, but you must show proof of receiving government assistance like Medicaid or SNAP ("food stamps") or of earning very low income. A full list of requirements can be found at **www.uscis.gov/i-912**.[17]

### What can prevent me from becoming a citizen?

Excessive travel outside of the United States can interfere with the continuous residence requirement mentioned above. Failing to pay taxes, lying to the government, or being convicted of a crime can have a negative impact on the "good moral character" requirements. If you have these problems, you can consult with an immigration attorney before starting the application process.[18] Also, most applicants must understand, speak, and write basic English. For free assistance with starting the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, you can contact the Jersey City Division of Immigrant Affairs at **201-547-6800**.

If you have been a permanent resident for five years, you could be eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.

Call the Division of Immigrant Affairs for information about naturalization classes to help you prepare for your citizenship exam.

The final step to becoming a naturalized citizen is the Oath of Allegiance, which usually takes place at the USCIS Newark District Office in the Peter Rodino Federal Building.

## We Are One New Jersey—Hudson County

We Are One New Jersey offers assistance with applications for citizenship (N-400), Green Card renewals (I-90), employment authorization documents (I-765), Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals renewal (DACA), and citizenship certificate replacements. We Are One can assist you in reading instructions, organizing documents, and preparing forms. You can also ask We Are One for assistance with a dispute with your landlord. Services are free for all Hudson County residents.

- Receive help with applications for citizenship, Green Card renewal, and employment authorization documents
- Receive help with your DACA renewal
- Receive help with your voter registration application
- Also, see information on We Are One's ESL and citizenship classes in the Education section of this guide

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite A401,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-209-2839**

**info@weareonenj.org**
**www.weareonenj.org**

Free

Spanish, French

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## WomenRising

WomenRising is an organization that helps victims of domestic violence and their families by providing social services and advocating for women's rights.

- Seek assistance with restraining orders and other legal matters
- Call an emergency hotline to report domestic abuse
- Stay in an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence
- Receive counseling for victims of domestic violence
- Connect with support group services

270 Fairmount Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-333-5700**

**info@womenrising.org**
**www.womenrising.org**

Free

Spanish

Additional Services Available

# What can I do if ICE stops me?

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) ensures that only properly documented immigrants enter and live in the United States. It is important to know that even though Jersey City calls itself a "Sanctuary City", ICE can still enforce federal immigration laws within the city. If ICE stops or questions you, you should never lie, run, show false documents, or resist physically.[19]

## What rights do I have if I am stopped by ICE?

You can ask ICE officers for a warrant to search your home or make an arrest. A **warrant** is a legal document that is signed by a judge that gives ICE permission to arrest someone and search their home. If there is no warrant, or if the warrant is not signed by a judge, you have the right to refuse consent for searches of yourself, home, and car. You also have the right to remain silent.[20]

## What can I do if a friend or loved one is arrested by ICE?

You can contact the **Jersey City Division of Immigrant Affairs** at **201-547-6800**, and we can connect you with non-profit lawyers, counselors, and other professionals who can help.[21] It is important to have information about your encounter with ICE agents, including the date, time, and location. If anyone is arrested, you will need their full name, date of birth, country of origin, and their Green Card number to locate them. **American Friends Service Committee** is a non-profit law office that specializes in legal defense for immigrants who have been detained by ICE. Their phone number is **973-643-1924**.[22]

## How can I help a family member who is being held in ICE detention?

If you are searching for someone in ICE detention, you can use the ICE Detainee Locator website, **locator.ice.gov**.[23] You can also contact ICE's Public Advocate at the ICE Community Helpline: **1-888-351-4024**.[24] **First Friends of NJ & NY** is a non-profit organization that specializes in supporting immigrant detainees being held in the Jersey City area with visits and essential materials. Their phone number is **908-965-0455**.[25]

# Medical Services

## Alliance Community Healthcare

Alliance Community Healthcare provides medical, dental, and other services and counseling. The clinic accepts insured and uninsured patients. They provide discounts and payment plans for individuals with low income.

- See a doctor or a dentist
- Bring your children to see a pediatrician
- Connect with a mental health specialist
- Receive counseling for a variety of needs
- Enroll in a prescription drug discount program
- Get help with applying for Medicaid if you qualify

115 Christopher Columbus Drive,
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**201-451-6300**

**www.alliancecommunityhealth.org**

Mon, Wed, & Thur: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Tue & Fri: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sat & Sun: Closed

Low-Cost,
Accepts Uninsured Patients

Spanish

Accepts Walk-ins

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

You can take advantage of free health screenings and fairs that offer free testing for HIV, cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure.

# Where can I get free preventive health services in Jersey City?

Preventive health services are routine checkups and tests performed by medical professionals, including immunizations and vaccinations, screenings for illnesses, and patient counseling to prevent diseases or other health problems.[1] Different divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services offer free preventive health services to Jersey City residents. These include:

**The Jersey City City Clinic** provides free immunization and flu vaccines to uninsured children and free flu vaccines for seniors. If you are 13 years or older, you can be tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), screened for HIV, and connected with treatment services—parental consent is not required. Call **201-547-5535**.[2]

**The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program** provides food vouchers to pregnant women and new mothers. The vouchers can be used in most supermarkets to buy food that is marked "WIC approved".[3] To receive WIC vouchers, you must meet federal income standards. New mothers can also receive iron-fortified formula and jars of nutritious baby food. Call **201-547-6842**.[4]

**The Division of Community Health and Wellness** has a team of community health educators who share information about pressing health issues and host free health screening events. Call **201-547-4578**.

**The Division of Environmental Health** conducts lead screening for uninsured children under the age of six. Call **201-547-4743**.[5]

These free services are not substitutes for your personal doctor. If you have a health problem, you should see a doctor.

All services are conveniently located in the City Hall Annex, at the Department of Health and Human Services at 1 Jackson Square.

Vaccines are offered at the Jersey City Ctity Clinic to uninsured children 2 months to 18 years old who live in Jersey City.

# Jersey City Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP)

CLPPP provides prevention, screening, and treatment of lead poisoning to uninsured or underinsured children between nine months and six years old. CLPPP also provides education and awareness on the hazards of lead poisoning.

- Receive lead screening for children between nine months and six years old
- Receive education and information about lead poisoning

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City Hall Annex
1 Jackson Square,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-547-4743**

Free

Spanish

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Jersey City City Clinic

If your child is between 2 months and 18 years old, you can accompany them to receive free immunizations, even if you are uninsured. Free flu vaccines are given to seniors and children 6 to 59 months old. If you are 13 years old or older, you and your partner can be tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and screened for HIV for free, and you can be connected with treatment services; parental consent is not required. To be served at the City Clinic, call for an appointment, and bring a photo ID and proof of Jersey City residence.

- Get your children vaccinated for free (2 months to 18 years old)
- Get a free flu shot (6 to 59 months old and seniors)
- Get screened for HIV and tested for STDs for free
- Get treatment and counselling for STDs

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City Hall Annex
1 Jackson Square,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-547-5535**

Mon–Fri: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Free, Accepts Uninsured Patients

Spanish, Korean

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Jersey City Crisis Counseling and Chaplain Program

Residents who are experiencing trauma or severe emotional distress can receive help from the Crisis Counseling and Chaplain Program. Counselors and chaplains are specially trained to provide emotional support and to connect you with medical and mental health specialists. To access this service, call the phone number below and ask about mental health first aid.

- Talk with a counselor or chaplain if you are experiencing trauma or profound stress
- Get trained in mental health first aid

Jersey City Division of Injury Prevention
Jersey City Department of Health & Human Services
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City Hall Annex
1 Jackson Square,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-547-6800**

Free, Accepts Uninsured Patients

Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Hindi, Gujarati

Additional Services Available

# What does it mean to have health insurance?

To be insured, or to "have coverage", means that you are a member of a health insurance plan. Membership in a health insurance plan usually requires you to pay a fee every month to a private corporation that administers the plan. When you need medical services, the insurance plan will pay for some or all of the fees.[6] There is currently a New Jersey state law requiring all people to have some form of health insurance.[7]

## Are all health insurance plans the same?

No. Some insurance plans require very high monthly fees, some require low fees, and some are free. Typically, an expensive insurance plan will pay for more medical services and specialized medical procedures. A cheaper plan will typically require you to pay larger portions of fees and will sometimes require you to pay the entire fee for specialized medical procedures. When an insurance plan pays for all of your medical fees, this is fee is **"fully covered"**. When you are asked to pay medical fees that the insurance plan will not pay this fee is called **"out of pocket"**.[8]

## How can I get health insurance?

One way of joining a health insurance plan is by having a full-time job with an employer who offers to share the insurance membership costs with its employees. This usually means that your portion of the membership costs are automatically taken from your paycheck every two weeks or once a month.[9] If you do not work for an employer that offers a shared health insurance plan, you can pay for membership in an insurance plan directly. This is usually called a **"private plan"**. You can also apply for a health insurance plan that is paid for by the government. The most popular form of government-supported health insurance is called Medicaid and requires you to prove that you have a low income.[10] Remember that having health insurance is required by state law.

## If I have health insurance, how do I use it?

The insurance plan provider sends membership cards to its members, and you present the card every time you need medical services. If you need medical care that is not an emergency, you can schedule an appointment with a private doctor's office. (Going to a hospital for a non-emergency is not customary and usually expensive.) It is important to tell the doctor's office staff the name of your insurance plan before seeing the doctor, and ask if the services are "covered". You can usually ask all of these questions over the phone, when you are scheduling your appointment. When you visit the doctor's office, you will often need to pay a **copay**, which is a fixed portion of a medical service fee that plan members must pay to the medical service provider. The monthly costs of being an insurance plan member should stay the same, no matter how many medical services you use throughout the year.[11]

Having health insurance is currently required by law in New Jersey. It is essential to accessing medical care.

## Jersey City Medical Center

The Jersey City Medical Center is a multi-service hospital that provides medical services for individuals and their families. The center specializes in women and infants, cardiac care, and medical emergencies. It also has a Comprehensive Care Center location that specializes in HIV treatment, counseling, and medical case management.

- Receive emergency medical treatment
- Receive prescription medications and medical referrals
- Connect with a specialist
- Receive treatment and testing
- Receive comprehensive care and counseling for HIV treatment (Greenville Location)

355 Grand Street,
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**201-915-2000**

**www.rwjbh.org/jersey-city-medical-center**

Comprehensive Care Center, Greenville Location
1825 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, 1st Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-204-0004**

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Accepts Walk-ins

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## MASSH/PATH Program—Jersey City Medical Center

The Medical and Social Services for the Homeless (MASSH) and the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) programs provide homeless and at-risk individuals with access to many social and medical services. To receive help from the programs, you must be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, or have a mental disorder diagnosis. All services are free to people who qualify.

- See a doctor
- Find mental health and substance abuse treatment services
- Receive job training and placement
- Get help applying for social service programs
- Get help finding a temporary or permanent place to live

1825 John F. Kennedy Boulevard,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-204-0004** ext. 1049

Free, Accepts Uninsured Patients

Spanish

Additional Services Available

# What if I cannot afford to see a doctor?

The cost of medical services in the United States is very high, and there is an ongoing debate over how to increase access to quality medical services. The following are some programs you might apply for to make sure you can receive medical services even if you cannot afford them.

## What is New Jersey Medicaid?

NJ Medicaid provides health insurance to adults, children, and disabled individuals who meet the program's requirements.[12] To qualify for Medicaid, or a similar program called "NJ Family Care", you must live in New Jersey and demonstrate that you earn a low income. To enroll, go to **www.NJFamilycare.org** or visit the Hudson County Department of Family Services at 257 Cornelison Avenue.[13] You can also call a Medicaid specialist at the Jersey City Division of Community Health and Wellness at **201-547-4578**.

## Can immigrants receive New Jersey Medicaid?

To enroll in NJ Medicaid, you must be a Lawful Permanent Resident who has both lived in the U.S. and had a Green Card for five years. Children under 18 years old and some immigrant groups, like refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking, are exempt from the five-year waiting period. Pregnant women residing in New Jersey who meet certain requirements may receive NJ Medicaid during their pregnancy and for 60 days following delivery or the date that the pregnancy ends.[14]

## What is the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace?

Those who do not qualify for Medicaid can apply for membership in a health insurance program that is offered by a private insurance agency by visiting the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace at **www.healthcare.gov**. You can enroll in low-cost health insurance plans on the Marketplace website between November 1 and December 15, and your coverage will begin January 1. However, there are exceptions called "special enrollment periods" that might allow you to enroll at any time. To apply for health coverage through the Marketplace, visit **www.healthcare.gov** or call **1-800-318-2596**.[15]

## What are Charity Care and "Sliding Scale"?

Charity Care and "Sliding Scale" are discount programs available to uninured and low-income patients. If you meet certain income requirements, some or all of your medically necessary services might be paid for you. Charity Care and "Sliding Scale" programs are administered independently at each hospital and medical office.[16,17]

## What is the Emergency Payment Program for Aliens?

Immigrants who do not qualify for Medicaid because of their immigration status or because they are undocumented can apply for the Emergency Payment Program for Aliens at 257 Cornelison Avenue within three months of a severe medical emergency.[18]

? If you are a member of Medicaid, carry this Health Benefits Identification Card (HBID), especially when seeing a doctor.

# Metropolitan Family Health Network

The Metropolitan Family Health Network provides adult medical services for people ages 19 and older. An on-site social worker can also help you apply for welfare benefits. Both centers accept Medicaid and offer a sliding scale payment option for people without insurance.

- See a doctor
- Get a prescription for medication
- Receive counseling services for your medical needs
- Apply for Medicaid, SNAP ("food stamps"), and other services

**Bergen Avenue Location:**
857 Bergen Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-478-5859**

**www.metropolitanfhn.com**

Mon, Wed, Thurs, & Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tues: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Garfield Avenue Location:**
935 Garfield Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07304

**201-478-5800**

**www.metropolitanfhn.com**

Mon, Wed, Thurs, & Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tues: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Low-Cost, Accepts Uninsured Patients

Spanish

Accepts Walk-ins

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

# North Hudson Community Action Corporation (NHCAC) Community Health Center

The NHCAC Community Health Center offers accessible medical and other health-related services. This clinic accepts all patients regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay. For uninsured patients, a sliding scale payment option is available, which will take into consideration your household size and household income. Fees for doctor visits range from $20 to $80.

- See a doctor or dentist
- Take your kids to receive vaccinations
- Get a blood test
- Get a referral to see a medical specialist
- Receive counseling for your medical needs
- Get a prescription for medication

**Jersey City location:**
324 Palisade Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07307

**201-459-8888**

**www.nhcac.org**

Mon, Tue, Wed, & Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thur: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**North Bergen location:**
1116 43rd Street,
North Bergen, NJ 07047

**201-330-2632**

**www.nhcac.org**

Mon, Tue, Wed, & Fri: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thur: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Low-Cost, Accepts Uninsured Patients

Spanish

Accepts Walk-ins

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Parkside Medical Center—Khaleidoscope Health Center, Inc.

The Parkside Medical Center provides affordable primary health care and accepts insured and uninsured patients. First appointments are $75 and follow-ups are $50. Patients referred by Parkside Medical Center to the on-site test lab receive a 70% discount on blood work and other lab work. The Center provides treatment and counselling for individuals who suffer from drug and alcohol addiction.

- See a doctor
- Get a prescription for medication
- Get blood and other lab tests
- Receive treatment for drug and alcohol addiction
- Get methadone and Suboxone treatment

Low-Cost, Accepts Uninsured Patients

Spanish

Accepts Walk-ins

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

**Lafayette Street Location:**
121 Lafayette Street,
Jersey City, NJ 07304

**201-434-1111**

**www.khcpmc.org**

Mon–Fri: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sat & Sun: Closed

**Harrison Avenue Location:**
75 Harrison Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07304

**201-451-5425**

Mon–Fri: 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sat & Sun: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m

## South Asian Mental Health Initiative & Network (SAMHIN)

SAMHIN assists South Asian immigrants living in Northern New Jersey who suffer from mental health illnesses, addiction, and experiences with suicide. SAMHIN can connect you to the appropriate mental health care providers, support groups, and recovery plans.

SAMHIN

- Connect with a mental health care professional through an online mental health provider directory
- Learn about mental illnesses and addiction
- Join a South Asian Alcoholics Anonymous group
- Join Janani, a free support group for anyone who has lost someone by suicide

**732-902-2561**
**908-280-2833**

**info@samhin.org**
**www.samhin.org**

Free

Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi

Services Available

# Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

The Women, Infants, and Children Program offers vouchers for buying food and infant formula, plus a network of essential supports. These services are available to eligible pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and families with children five years old and younger. To apply, bring identification and proof of income to the Jersey City WIC office. If you have them, bring proof of receiving Medicaid and proof of pregnancy. WIC is welcoming of all immigrants, regardless of status.

- Receive vouchers for nutritious food and infant formula
- Learn about childhood nutrition
- Learn about immunization requirements for infants and children
- Connect with health care providers
- Receive educational breastfeeding support

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City Hall Annex
1 Jackson Square,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-547-6842**

**help@jcwic.org**
**www.jcwic.org**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

Visit the Jersey City WIC office for help with your child's nutrition.

Get your "WIC Approved" fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and baby food at a supermarket that accepts WIC vouchers.

# Housing and Jobs

## Jersey City Division of Environmental Health

The Division of Environmental Health keeps Jersey City healthy by overseeing all food and health-related businesses and addressing health problems in public places. The Division also gives out summonses to people or organizations that do not comply with health rules. To file a complaint, call **201-547-5285**.

- Report problems with your landlord
- Report bedbug, rodent, and insect infestations
- Report sewage or garbage problems
- Report problems with restaurants, grocery stores, or beauty and hair parlors

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. City Hall Annex
1 Jackson Square,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-547-5285**

Free

Spanish, Tagalog, Other Foreign Languages

Additional Services Available

The Division of Environmental Health conducts inspections of all businesses serving food to the public.
Call **201-547-5285** to report a problem.

# How can I keep my home safe?

### Call 9-1-1 if you smell gas.

The gas that is used to power cooking stoves and water heaters is flammable and can cause serious health problems if breathed in. If any of the gas pipes in your home are leaking, you should be able to smell a distinct odor similar to rotten eggs, which is intentionally added to help detect a leak. If you believe there is a gas leak, open your windows, do not touch electrical devices, go outside, and call 9-1-1 immediately.[1]

### Install and test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are small electronic devices that sound an alarm if there is a fire or a deadly gas in your home. It is important to know that carbon monoxide does not contain the noticeable odor that is added to cooking gas, and it can kill anyone who breathes it in for an extended period of time. These detectors are affixed to walls and ceilings, and are typically powered by replaceable batteries. If you rent your home, your landlord is required to provide detectors, but you must test the devices and ensure that the batteries do not need to be replaced.[2] To ask about free smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, call the Jersey City Fire Prevention Office at **201-547-4255**.

### Be careful of lead poisoning, especially for children.

Lead is a chemical proven to be poisonous, especially to children, and has been heavily restricted in the United States for decades. The most common source of lead poisoning is damaged or peeling paint found in apartments and homes built before 1978. New immigrant children are more likely to have been exposed to lead.[3] For a free lead screening for children nine months to six years old, call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at **201-522-4395**.[4]

### Keep insects and rodents out of your home.

Cover or close all holes in your walls to prevent insects and rodents from getting in, store food in sealed containers, and throw out the trash as often as you can.[5] If you are a renter and your landlord does not address an infestation, you can call the Landlord Tenant Relations Office at **201-547-5127** and the Division of Environmental Health at **201-547-5285**.

### Weatherize your home.

Puertorriqueños Asociados for Community Organization (PACO) Weatherization is a program offered to people with low income to help them reduce utility bills and increase energy efficiency at home. PACO can help by offering energy-saving light bulbs and appliances, sealing doors and windows, and providing information about subsidies for heating bills. To apply for weatherization, please call **844-722-6432**. You will be asked to fill out an application and provide some supporting documents.[6]

Test alarms monthly by pressing and holding the test button.

If you are struggling to pay your utility bills, call PACO to ask about their weatherization and LiHEAP program.

## Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCETP)

JCETP helps Jersey City residents find jobs and appropriate job training. If you are between the ages of 14 and 24, you can receive occupational skills training and financial literacy education. To access services, you will need to be unemployed or underemployed.

- Get help finding a job
- Get help creating a cover letter and résumé
- Use a computer for job searching
- Receive job training and placement

248 Summit Avenue, 1st Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-795-8800**

**jcetp.org**

**Martin's Place:**
398 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**551-222-4323**

Free
Spanish
Appointment Required
Additional Services Available

## Jersey City Housing Authority

The Jersey City Housing Authority helps qualified low-income families and seniors find affordable and safe housing. The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) is designed to assist low-income individuals in paying rent and moving towards economic self-sufficiency. To qualify for the program, you must meet the income requirements, be a U.S. citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident, and be able to prove that you are a good tenant.

- Apply for the Housing Choice Voucher Program
- Apply for public housing

400 U.S. Highway #1,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-706-4600**

**www.jerseycityha.org**

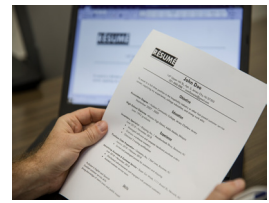
Free
Spanish
Appointment Required
Documents and Preparation Required
Additional Services Available

# How can I find a good job?

The most common way to find a job is by asking people you know if they can share recommendations. You can also find listings in the "jobs" section of a local newspaper or by reviewing posters at a supermarket. Businesses that are hiring typically put signs in their windows that read "Help Wanted". You can also find many job postings on the Internet.

## What is "part-time" versus "full-time"?

**"Part-time"** means working fewer than 30 hours per week at one job. Part-time jobs typically do not offer job benefits, like paid vacation or employer contributions to a health insurance plan. **"Full-time"** means working at least 40 hours per week at one job and typically includes job benefits. However, each employer defines the terms of "part-time" and "full-time", so it is important to ask about job benefits before you are hired.[7]



Having a printed résumé is a cultural requirement when applying for most skilled jobs.

## What documents do I need to get a job?

The most common form of work authorization is a Social Security card, but an Employment Authorization Document or Green Card is also sufficient. Nearly all employers will provide you with a formal job application and ask you to complete it with your personal information, previous jobs, history of education, and a list of job references. Job references are people who can tell a new employer that you will be a reliable employee. Typically, they are your former employers or former co-workers, and not your family. For most skilled jobs, you will also need to create and submit a résumé. A résumé is a unique document that lists your name, contact information, skills, previous jobs, and history of education.[7]

## What should I be careful about when getting a job?

Some criminals seek to harm people looking for jobs. An employer should never require payment to read your application or to train you for the job. You should never accept a job without speaking to the employer directly and completing a job application. Also, do not share personal information, like your Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), unless you are certain the employer is legitimate. Never work "off the books"—not only is this illegal, but it also puts you at risk of being abused by employers.[7]

## What does it mean to "climb the ladder"?

"Climbing the ladder" means seeking better jobs after building experience and trust at your current job. Doing this is essential to success in the United States and requires you to ensure that your current employer will serve as a good job reference for future jobs. If you are a good employee, you will likely be paid more or earn the job references and experience you need to find a better job. If you are planning to leave a job, it is a cultural requirement to tell your employer a minimum of two weeks beforehand. If you do not do this, your employer will be unlikely serve as a job reference. Asking your employer for more responsibility or returning to school for diplomas and degrees are also good ways to "climb the ladder".[8]

## Who can help me with all this?

The Division of Immigrant Affairs (DIA) can connect you with resources to help with your job search: **201-547-4328**. Additionally, the Jersey City Employment and Training Program (JCEPT) offers free assistance with job skills: **201-795-8800**.[9] You can also visit **www.usa.gov/find-a-job**.

## One-Stop Career Center—New Jersey Career Connections

The One-Stop Center in Jersey City is part of New Jersey Career Connections and can help you find a job, find training for specialized jobs, and prepare for interviews. The Center can also help with benefits enrollment and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

- Get professional help finding a job
- Get training for specialized jobs
- Seek assistance writing your résumé

438 Summit Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-217-4899**
**201-217-7008**

**www.careerconnections.nj.gov**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## PACO (Puertorriqueños Asociados for Community Organization, Inc.)

PACO helps people pay for their utility bills, helps them find ways to conserve heat and energy in their homes, and inspects homes for exposures to lead. These services are available to both renters and owners and have income eligibility requirements. You can apply for home energy assistance and weatherization at the Central Avenue location. Other social services are available at the PACO Multi-Service Center, like document translation, senior assistance, and summer art camp for youth.

- Apply for help to pay your utility bills
- Have your home inspected for heating and insulation improvements
- Get your home inspected for lead
- Get help applying for Medicare and other public benefits
- Register your children for summer youth programs

**Home Energy and Weatherization Office:**
346 Central Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07307

**844-722-6432**

**liheap@pacoagency.org**
**www.pacoagency.org**

**Executive Office and Multi-Service Center:**
390 Manila Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**844-722-6432**

**info@pacoagency.org**

Free, Low-Cost

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

# What are my rights and responsibilities as a tenant?

A **tenant** (or "renter") is anyone who lives in a property they do not own and makes monthly payments to the property owner, or **"landlord"**. The agreement between a tenant and a landlord is typically called a **lease**, which is a signed document that describes the monthly payment, special requirements of the tenant and the landlord, and the dates that the lease starts and end.[10]

## What must a tenant do?

The most important responsibility of any tenant is to pay the full rental payment to the landlord on or before the monthly due date written in the lease. Rent payments must be made before the coming month of renting; they are almost never paid after a month of renting. Generally, a tenant who rents a home or apartment is required to keep the property clean, avoid disrupting neighbors, and place trash and recyclables at the curb on specific days. Tenants are typically not required to make repairs to a rented property, and it is always best to report any damage to the landlord in writing. Most leases will include other tenant requirements that are more specific, like if a tenant is permitted to smoke inside the property or own pets.[11]

? Never rent without having a signed lease. Never pay rent without having a documented record of payment.

## What must a landlord do?

The most important responsibility of any landlord is to maintain the "warranty of habitability". This is a legal requirement to provide the tenant with drinkable water (both hot and cold), a functioning heating system in the winter, and the supply system for electricity and gas. Generally, the landlord is also required to fix any major problems with the property, like leaking pipes, broken windows, infestations of mice or insects, or any safety hazards. Generally, the landlord is not responsible for supplying appliances, like a refrigerator, stove, or washing machine. If these appliances come with the rented property, they should be written in the lease.[11]

## What is a security deposit?

A **security deposit** is a payment that a tenant makes at the beginning of a rental agreement that the landlord can use to repair parts of the property that the tenant breaks, but only after the tenant moves out. A security deposit is a one-time payment, and according to New Jersey law, it cannot be larger than one-and-a-half month's rent payment. Also required by New Jersey law, the landlord must store a tenant's security deposit in a special bank account or investment account using the tenant's name.[12]

## What are some important tips for tenants?

Before renting, you should always ask for a written lease from the landlord and read it carefully, using a translator if needed. It is a good practice to also seek the advice of a lawyer before signing a lease. Tenants should never make any cash payments to a landlord without keeping a record of having paid or receiving a written receipt from the landlord. Finally, keep in mind that your landlord might serve as a reference for future jobs or rental applications, so be sure to maintain as positive a relationship as you can.[10]

# Urban League of Hudson County

The Urban League of Hudson County Employment Program provides occupational training and job placement assistance to people who already receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). They also provide General Educational Diploma (GED) classes.

Urban League of **Hudson County**

- Receive occupational and job readiness training
- Receive job placement assistance
- Enroll in GED classes

253 Martin Luther King Drive,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-451-8888**

**info@ulohc.org**
**www.ulohc.org**

Free

Spanish

Additional Services Available

# FIND MORE ONLINE

## GET HEALTHY, GET STARTED TODAY

### HEALTHIER JC SERVICES NETWORK

- Search more than 2,000 free and low-cost services for all your needs
- View a map of all free services available in your neighborhood
- Share service providers with your friends and family

**HealthierJC.AuntBertha.com**

### PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHIER JERSEY CITY

- View the community calendar of free and low-cost events
- Read live Twitter feeds from federal and state health agencies
- Any organization that serves Jersey City can become a Healthier JC Partner and apply for grants
- Learn about urgent health priorities

**www.HealthierJC.com**

For more information, e-mail **mkelleher@jcnj.org** or **jpinkney@jcnj.org**.

JERSEY CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
MAYOR STEVEN M. FULOP

# ESL and Continuing Education

## Action 21

Action 21 is a volunteer-based multi-service organization that provides English as a Second Language (ESL) and civics/citizenship classes, as well as after-school tutoring for children. Action 21 also hosts Know Your Rights workshops.

- Register to take an English class
- Register to take a civics/citizenship class
- Bring your children for homework help

366 Central Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07307

**973-980-8745**

**njaction21@yahoo.com**

Low-Cost

Spanish, Spanish Sign Language (LSE)

Additional Services Available

## Adult Education Program at Jersey City Public Schools

The Adult Education Program provides free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and General Education Diploma (GED) classes in English or Spanish for Jersey City residents. Day classes (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) are available at Ferris High School, and evening classes (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.) are available at Public School #11. To enroll, you must have a Social Security number, photo ID, and proof of address. Classes are offered between October and June. Pre-registration and placement tests are required.

- Register for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- Register for General Education Diploma (GED) classes in English or Spanish

**Daytime Learning Program:**
Ferris High School, Building A (1st Floor)
35 Colgate Street,
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**201-915-6614**

**Evening Learning Program:**
Public School #11
886 Bergen Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-915-6521**
**201-915-6227**

**pchristen@jcboe.org**
**www.jcboe.org**

Free

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## The American English Program
## New Jersey City University (NJCU)

NJCU offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to students of all English levels, with a special focus on students preparing for college and working adults. Classes are available on weekday mornings, afternoons, and evenings, and on Saturdays. The tuition is approximately $75.00 per week.

- Register to take highly focused ESL classes
- Focus on college-level English, business English, American culture, and pronunciation

2039 Kennedy Boulevard PS #414,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-200-3423**

**learnenglish@njcu.edu**
**www.njcu.edu/learnenglish**

Documents and Preparation Required

## Centro Comunitario CEUS

CEUS offers English as a Second Language (ESL) and Spanish Literacy classes. Students will be evaluated to determine their levels before being placed in the appropriate class. Classes cost $80 for each semester.

- Attend English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
- Attend Spanish Literacy classes
- Participate in English Conversation classes

4214 John F. Kennedy Boulevard,
Union City, NJ 07087

**201-617-2466**

**info@ceusnj.org**
**www.ceusnj.org**

Low-Cost

Spanish

Documents and Preparation Required

## English as a Second Language Program
## Vroom Street Church

Vroom Street Church provides five levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in winter, spring, and fall. You must be evaluated before registering for classes. Classes are free, but you will have to pay $45 for study materials and books.

- Get evaluated on your English language skills
- Register for an English class
- Attend ESL classes based on your English language ability

155 Vroom Street,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-332-7841**

**esl.vroom.terry@gmail.com**
**vroomstreetchurch.org/free-esl-classes-in-jersey-city**

Low-Cost

Spanish

Documents and Preparation Required

## English Connect
## Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offers a free English as a Second Language (ESL) class on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You are welcome to come any Thursday for a conversational review class. If you would like to attend on Tuesday, you will need to call the number below and pay $5 for a workbook. You can also take a "Self-Reliance for Immigrants" class on Thursday nights from 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. that teaches skills for personal and professional success. All classes are free.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

- Join an English Conversation class on Thursday nights
- Enroll in a 25-week English class on Tuesday nights
- Take a "Self-Reliance for Immigrants" class

140 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**973-906-9680**

Free

Additional Services Available

## Families for Literacy Program
## Saint Peter's University (SPU) and New City Kids

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SPU's Families for Literacy Program, in collaboration with New City Kids, offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL), music, and art, as well as tutoring, employment training, and financial literacy. All classes are free of charge and held twice a week. Childcare is provided during daytime classes. This is only open to Jersey City residents who are not native English speakers and who have a school-aged child in grade K–12.

- Register for free ESL classes
- Learn how to communicate with your child's school
- Learn how to connect with employers and develop a résumé
- Enroll your children in after-school classes and tutoring
- Learn the basics of financial management

**For Enrollment in Families for Literacy Program:**
240 Fairmount Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-915-9896**

**joshe@newcitykids.org**

**For English as a Second Language (ESL) Information:**
O'Toole Library, 3rd Floor and Basement
99 Glenwood Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-761-6184**

**asansone@saintpeters.edu**
**www.saintpeters.edu/celac**

Free

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Greater Bergen Community Action (GBCA)

Greater Bergen Community Action offers English as a Second Language (ESL) and citizenship classes for the parents of children who qualify for the Head Start Program. You can apply for your infant or toddler to join the Head Start Program, which provides prekindergarten classes and nutrition counseling.

- Enroll in ESL classes if your child is enrolled in Head Start
- Enroll in U.S. citizenship classes
- Apply for your children to attend prekindergarten and kindergarten

93 Nelson Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07307

**201-884-1050**

**www.gbcaheadstart.org**

Free

Spanish

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Hudson County Community College (HCCC)

HCCC is a public community college that offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for students who are not full-time college students. To enroll, you will need a photo ID and a payment of $310. The two-hour class is held mornings and evenings for 10 weeks, including Sundays.

- Register for a 10-week ESL course

119 Newkirk Street,
Building 1, Room 106,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-360-4179**

**www.hccc.edu/eslbilingual**

Documents and Preparation Required

## Hudson County Schools of Technology

The Hudson County Schools of Technology offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in the evening from Monday to Thursday. Registration takes place from July to January.

200 85th Street,
North Bergen, NJ 07047

**201-631-6361**

**hudsontechnical@hcstonline.org**
**www.hcstonline.org**

Documents and Preparation Required

## The Latino Family Literacy Project
## Jersey City Public Schools

The Latino Family Literacy Project at Jersey City Public Schools provides a way for parents to be involved with their children's school activities. The literacy program helps develop family reading routines by encouraging parents to read with their children. In order to participate in the program, your child must be in Public School #17.

- Receive reading materials in English and Spanish for you and your children
- Read and share family stories with your child
- Learn to help your children with their reading

Joseph H. Brensinger School - P.S. #17
600 Bergen Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-915-6120**

Free

Spanish

Aa

## Literacy Program at the Jersey City Public Library

The Jersey City Public Library provides low-cost classes in English as a Second Language (ESL), citizenship, math, and General Education Diploma (GED) for Hudson County residents who are over the age of 18. The cost of the ESL classes is $50 and includes a semester of citizenship classes if you choose to take them together. Classes are offered in six-month sessions and meet twice a week. The Fall session is from September to January, and you must register in July. The Spring session is from February to June, and you must register in January. To register you will need to visit the Main Branch Library. The cost of books for the ESL classes is always under $25, and the cost of materials for the citizenship classes is $10.

- Register to take English classes
- Receive tutoring in math and reading
- Register to take citizenship classes
- Use a computer for free

Main Branch Library
472 Jersey Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07302

**201-547-4518**

**literacy@jclibrary.org**
**www.jclibrary.org**

Low-Cost

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Make the Road New Jersey

Make the Road New Jersey provides English as a Second Language (ESL) and workplace safety courses through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as well as a host of other services.

- Register to take English classes
- Register to take an occupational safety class
- Also, see the *Youth Power Project–Make the Road New Jersey* listing in the Immigrant Youth section of this guide

42 Broad Street,
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

**908-368-1196**

**info@maketheroadnj.org**
**www.maketheroadnj.org**

Free

Spanish, Portuguese

Additional Services Available

## The Multilingual Intake Center Jersey City Middle School #7

The Multilingual Intake Center provides assessments and support for immigrant families who want to enroll their children in Jersey City public schools. The center evaluates and places children in ESL classes according to their ability to speak, write, and read English. To register your children in public school, you must bring the child's most recent school transcripts or certificates, proof of address, and proof of age.

- Enroll your children in Jersey City public schools
- Get an evaluation of your child's English skills
- Enroll your child in ESL classes
- Create a school schedule that fits your child's needs

Franklin L. Williams Middle School - M.S. #7
222 Laidlaw Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-420-5427**
**201-418-7601**
**201-915-6196**

**www.jcboe.org**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, French-Creole, Other Foreign Languages

## Can my child attend public school?

In the United States, all children are required by law to enroll in school, and all children may attend public schools for free, regardless of immigration status.[1]

### How does the public school system work?

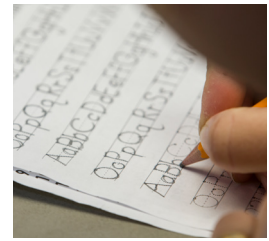
Jersey City has many public schools that offer education to children as young as 3 and as old as 18 in three basic levels: "Pre-K through 5" (prekindergarten through 5th grade), "Middle School" (6th grade through 8th grade), and "High School" (9th grade through 12th grade). Classes for adults are free and usually held at night.[2]

### How can I enroll my child in school?

If your child has recently arrived from a foreign country, or if you do not speak English at home, you will need to enroll them at the Multilingual Intake Center at Middle School #7 at 222 Laidlaw Avenue, Jersey City (phone: **201-420-5247** or **201-418-7601**).[2] When enrolling, you will need to present proof that your child lives in Jersey City, their birth certificate, their immunization records and health history, and transcripts from previous schooling. Your child needs to come with you when enrolling, and your child's language skills might be tested as part of the enrollment process. For all other enrollment information, you can call the District Office of Jersey City Public Schools at **201-915-6000**.[3]

### What if my child does not speak English?

In 2019, Jersey City served more than 3,600 students whose first language was not English. The Multilingual Intake Center will determine the best public school classroom for your child. They might recommend the **Bilingual Education Program**, which offers full-time or part-time bilingual education in your child's first language and English, although this might not be the school that is closest to your home. Popular languages served by this program are Spanish, Arabic, Tagalog, Hindi, and Urdu. Another program offered is the **Dual Language Program**, which teaches Pre-K through grade 5 students in English and Spanish simultaneously, so that they can become fluent in both languages. To enroll in this program, call **201-915-6045**.[3]



Public education is free to all children, regardless of immigrant status, and even if they do not speak English.

## Saint Aedan's Migrant Center

The Saint Aedan's Migrant Center is a volunteer organization that provides legal seminars, educational workshops, medical clinics, and connection to other support services.

- Practice English with an ESL conversation partner
- Attend a financial literacy workshop
- Connect with food pantries and clothing sources

39 Tuers Avenue, 3rd Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-433-6800**

**staedansimmigrantcenter@gmail.com**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Additional Services Available

## Union City Adult Learning Center
## Union City Board of Education

The Union City Adult Learning Center offers English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and citizenship classes to the adult immigrant community. Classes are offered during weekday mornings, afternoons, and evenings, and on Saturday mornings. To register, you must call the center and have a Social Security number. The classes are open to all residents of Hudson County, not just Union City residents.

- Register for citizenship and English classes
- Enroll in courses to become a Certified Teaching Assistant

400 38th Street,
Union City, NJ 07087

**201-348-5658**

**gruiz@ucboe.us**
**http://alc.ucboe.us**

Free

Spanish

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

Aa

## We Are One New Jersey, Hudson County

We Are One New Jersey offers English as a Second Language (ESL) and U.S. Civics classes that are specialized for students preparing for their citizenship interview. You can also schedule a practice citizenship interview. If you have a problem with your landlord, you can ask We Are One for assistance. Classes and services are free to all residents of Hudson County.

- Enroll in English and civics classes to prepare for the U.S. citizenship exam and interview
- Have a practice citizenship interview
- Find other services related to immigration assistance
- Also, see the *We Are One* listing in the Legal Services section of this guide

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite A401,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-209-2839**

**info@weareonenj.org**
**www.weareonenj.org**

Free

Spanish, French

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

Baby's Family Tree

I WELCOME
REFUGEES
cwsglobal.org
CWS

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

CWS
Church World Service
SUITE 600

# Refugee and Asylee Services

## Church World Service (CWS) Immigration and Refugee Program

Church World Service is a non-profit agency that helps refugees, asylees, and other vulnerable immigrants to become self-sufficient. They offer programs that assist with housing, employment, and paying bills. They also offer job readiness courses, English classes, and other workshops. CWS also administers the Refugee Cash Assistance Program for refugees and asylees without children.

- Receive cash assistance if you are a refugee or asylee without children
- Get assistance finding a job and a home
- Seek assistance organizing your family budget
- Enroll in English classes and educational workshops

26 Journal Square, Suite 600,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-659-0467**

**cwsjerseycity@cwsglobal.org**
**www.cwsjerseycity.org**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, Tigrinya, Amharic, Dari

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## First Friends of New Jersey and New York

First Friends of New Jersey and New York supports immigrants being held in four detention centers near Jersey City through visits and free stamps and stationary. When detainees are released, First Friends helps them with housing, transportation, and accessing public benefits.

- Request that a family or friend in immigrant detention receives visits and care packages
- Receive help finding a place to live after release from the detention center
- Connect with pro bono attorneys who specialize in detention

53 South Hackensack Avenue,
Kearny, NJ 07032

**908-965-0455**

**info@firstfriendsnjny.org**
**www.firstfriendsnjny.org**

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Additional Services Available

# What should I know about my first year as an asylee?

If you have been granted asylum, you have the right to live and work in the United States and apply for public benefits.[1] Your first year as an asylee will be very important for your long-term success.

## What documents will I need?

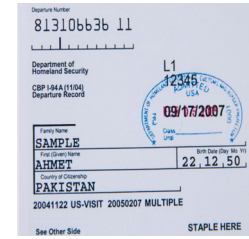
You should have been given a signed and stamped **I-94** document or card, which is your primary form of identification as an asylee. If any information on your I-94 is incorrect, including your status or the spelling of your name, you should return to where it was given to you and ask that the incorrect information be changed.[2] You may also contact an immigration attorney, instead. With your I-94, you can apply for a **Social Security number and card**, which are what nearly all United States residents use to identify themselves to employers, government offices, and many private institutions, like banks and health insurance providers.[1] To apply for a Social Security number and card, go to **www.ssa.gov** (click "Languages" for a foreign language translation) or visit the Social Security Administration office at 325 West Side Avenue, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may also apply for an **Employment Authorization Document (EAD)** using USCIS Form I-765. Although an EAD will feature your photo and a Social Security card will not, a Social Security card will provide you with more ability to register with public and private institutions.[3]

## How can I get a Green Card?

As an asylee, you may apply for a Green Card one year after being granted asylum, which is a process called "**adjustment of status**" that requires submitting **USCIS Form I-485** and other documents. Although adjustment of status is not required by law, going through this process and getting a Green Card will make you a Lawful Permanent Resident, which provides stronger protections against possible changes in immigration rules and is a required step toward becoming a U.S. citizen. It is important to plan and budget for your adjustment of status application. Asylees are not eligible for a USCIS Fee Waiver and must pay the application fee, which can be as high as $1,225. You will need to include a completed **USCIS Form I-693**, which requires a report from a specialized doctor called a civil surgeon and may cost an additional $200 or more.[4] Saving money for these expenses within your first year as an asylee can be essential. For help finding professional assistance from non-profit agencies who can help you with your adjustment of status, contact the Jersey City Division of Immigrant Affairs at **201-547-6800**.

## What specialized help can I find as an asylee?

As an asylee, you might find specialized help from non-profit resettlement agencies and support groups. In Jersey City, you can inquire at the **Church World Service** resettlement office by calling **201-659-0467** or by going to 26 Journal Square, Suite 600. You can also contact **Welcome Home Jersey City, First Friends of New Jersey and New York**, and other agencies listed in this guide.




The I-94 is the first and most essential document to start your life as an asylee.

Resettlement organizations like Church World Service and Welcome Home can help you with housing and food during your first year as an asylee or refugee.

## Fun Club—Welcome Home Jersey City

Welcome Home Jersey City is a volunteer organization that provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and tutoring for refugee and asylee families. Classes take place most Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Welcome Home also helps refugees and asylees by giving them some home appliances. Contact the organization to confirm before attending.

- Learn English with other refugees and asylees
- Have dinner and participate in family activities
- Bring your children

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
140 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**hello@welcomehomerefugees.org**
**www.welcomehomerefugees.org**

Free

Some Foreign Languages

Additional Services Available

## Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)

HIAS provides assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, and other individuals seeking humanitarian relief in New Jersey and New York. You must call to make an appointment.

HIAS
Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

- Meet with a lawyer
- Receive help with employment authorization and adjustment of status applications
- Ask for help with deportation defense
- Get help with job placement and living arrangements

411 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1006,
New York, NY 10016

**212-967-4100**

**correspondence@hias.org**
**www.hias.org**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, Pashto, Russian, French, Hebrew

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## Human Rights First

Human Rights First represents immigrants seeking asylum in New Jersey and New York immigration courts. To qualify for help, you must be without legal representation and unable to afford an attorney.

human rights *first*
American ideals. Universal values.

- Receive help with an asylum application
- Apply for protection under the United Nations Convention against Torture (CAT)
- Enroll in government assistance programs if you qualify

75 Broad Street, 31st Floor,
New York, NY 10004

**212-845-5200**

**press@humanrightsfirst.org**
**www.humanrightsfirst.org**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, French, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)

IRAP provides comprehensive legal representation to refugees during the registration, protection, and resettlement process. IRAP specializes in helping at-risk refugees, including LGBTQ individuals, religious minorities, and children with medical emergencies.

- Meet with a lawyer
- Ask about specialized services for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders and persecuted groups

1 Battery Park Plaza, 4th Floor,
New York, NY 10004

**www.refugeerights.org**

Most Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## International Rescue Committee (IRC) Resettlement Services

The IRC is a resettlement agency that helps refugees, asylees, and other vulnerable immigrants find jobs, classes, and cash assistance programs. They also provide free legal services and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

- Seek assistance with housing
- Get help searching for a job
- Learn about cash assistance programs
- Sign your child up for Refugee Youth Summer Camp (ages 5 through 19)

208 Commerce Place, 4th Floor,
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

**908-351-5116** ext. 100
**908-351-5116** ext. 116 (Immigration Legal Services)

**newjersey@rescue.org**
**www.rescue.org/united-states/elizabeth-nj**

Free

Most Foreign Languages

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Jersey City Vigil for Refugees

The Jersey City Vigil for Refugees welcomes refugees and asylees, providing assistance and friendship. They offer weekly food deliveries, in-home English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring, and other forms of accompaniment.

- Receive food deliveries if you are a recently resettled refugee or asylee
- Meet with a volunteer tutor
- Connect with the volunteer community
- Join a weekly vigil for human rights at the Grove Street PATH station

**551-233-9740**

**jcvigilforrefugees@gmail.com**
**www.jcvigilforrefugees.org**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languagres

Additional Services Available

## The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse provides free temporary housing and resettlement assistance to asylees who have been released from immigrant detention.

- Find shelter after release from detention
- Access food and English tutoring
- Connect with a lawyer and other professionals

**201-709-3770**

**thelighthouseinjc@gmail.com**
**www.thelighthouseinnj.org**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Additional Services Available

## Refugee and Human Trafficking Program Catholic Charities

The Refugee and Human Trafficking Program provides emergency cash assistance for refugees, asylees, and victims of human trafficking. Walk-in consultations are required. English and computer classes are offered Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Receive help with cash assistance
- Sign up for English and computer classes

2201 Bergenline Avenue, Suite 4,
Union City, NJ 07087

**201-325-4800**

Free

Spanish, Arabic, French, Mandarin, Russian

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## Refugee Resettlement Services—Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities' Refugee Resettlement Program helps refugees and asylees with pre-arrival arrangements and with case management and direct assistance during their resettlement experience. Although the office is in New York City, they can help refugees and asylees living in Jersey City.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Participate in job trainings
- Find social services for food and housing
- Enroll in English as a Second Language classes

80 Maiden Lane, 14th Floor,
New York, NY 10038

**212-419-3726**

**www.cccsny.org**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Documents and Preparation Required

## Restoring Family Links Program (RFL) American Red Cross

The Restoring Family Links Program helps individuals locate relatives in other countries if they have been lost due to man-made or natural disasters.

American Red Cross

- Find family members overseas who were separated during war, natural disasters, and other emergencies or crises

209 Fairfield Road,
Fairfield, NJ 07004

**973-797-3300**

**www.redcross.org/reconnectingfamilies**

Free

On World Refugee Day 2019, Mayor Steven M. Fulop delivered a special proclamation recognizing the Welcome Home organization and the many refugee and asylee families they help. Above, Director of Health and Human Services Stacey Lea Flanagan presents the proclamation to Welcome Home leader Alain Mentha.

# Immigrant Youth

## The Center for Undocumented Students (TCUS) Saint Peter's University

TCUS provides undocumented students attending Saint Peter's University with academic, personal, and professional support. The Center also provides public workshops and information for undocumented youth.

- Learn about special programs for undocumented students
- Connect with support groups for undocumented students

King Kairos House - Saint Peter's University
125 Glenwood Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-761-7180**

**tcus@saintpeters.edu**
**www.saintpeters.edu/centers-institutes/tcus**

Free

Spanish

Additional Services Available

In 2018, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed a bill to expand state financial aid to undocumented immigrants. To learn more, you can call The Center for Undocumented Students (TCUS) at Saint Peter's University.

## Fun Club—Welcome Home Jersey City

Welcome Home Jersey City is a volunteer organization that provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and tutoring for refugee and asylee families. Classes take place most Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Welcome Home also helps refugees and asylees by giving them some home appliances. Contact the organization to confirm before attending.

- Learn English with other refugees and asylees
- Connect with volunteers and participate in family activities
- Bring your children to participate in art and music activities

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
140 Sip Avenue, 2nd Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**hello@welcomehomerefugees.org**
**www.welcomehomerefugees.org**

Free

Additional Services Available

Fun Club at Welcome Home in Jersey City provides homework help and other after-school activities to school-aged refugee and asylee children.

## Head Start Program
## Greater Bergen Community Action (GBCA)

Greater Bergen Community Action provides care for low-income infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, as well as classes in health, nutrition, and citizenship for parents. In order for children to attend the Head Start Program, parents must meet the income requirements.

- Apply for your children to attend prekindergarten and kindergarten
- Receive special services for children with disabilities
- Get medical and dental services for your children
- Get social service referrals and support for your children
- Receive prenatal services if you are a pregnant woman

93 Nelson Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07307

**201-884-1050**

**www.gbcaheadstart.org**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

## Hudson Partnership CMO

Hudson Partnership CMO helps coordinate care for children ages 3 to 21 who struggle with mental health or emotional issues, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse. Services provided by the organization include in-home therapy, evaluations, and referrals to outpatient services. To request services for your child, you must first call PerformCare at 877-652-7624.

- Find help for your child if he or she has mental health issues, substance abuse problems, or developmental disabilities
- Connect with other support services for youth

Hudson Partnership CMO
110 Meadowlands Parkway,
Secaucus, NJ 07094

For services, first call PerformCare: **877-652-7624**
**201-537-1460**

**www.hudsoncmo.org**

Low-Cost

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

# Jersey City Department of Recreation

The Department of Recreation in Jersey City offers a variety of free activities for Jersey City youth, including sports, gymnastics, dance, and fishing. To find activity schedules and to register, please visit the website below.

- Register your children to participate in sports tournaments and after-school programs
- Sign up your children to receive teen mentoring or help with homework
- Register your children in swimming and figure skating lessons

Caven Point Complex
1 Chapel Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-547-4537**

**jcrec.recdesk.com**
**recreation@jcnj.org**
**www.jerseycitynj.gov/cityhall/recreation**

Free

Documents and Preparation Required

Additional Services Available

# New City Kids

New City Kids is a free after-school program available to low-income Jersey City youth ages 6 through 18. The program supports students with after-school homework help, music enrichment, performing arts, and athletics. New City Kids also offers a reduced-cost, faith-based summer camp that runs from July through August. Additionally, the organization encourages teenagers to participate in its Life Internship program. Through this program, teens are paid to mentor younger students, while also receiving help with college applications, college entrance exams, leadership skills, and financial literacy.

- Sign up your children for after-school homework assistance in math and grammar
- Give your child the opportunity to learn a musical instrument
- Register your children for performing arts and athletics teams
- Help your teens to develop leadership and life skills
- Get extra assistance with your teens' college applications and entrance exams

Free

Spanish, Arabic, Other Foreign Languages

Additional Services Available

240 Fairmount Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-915-9896**

**nikisha@newcitykids.org**

Public School #11
886 Bergen Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-912-4501**

**joseph@newcitykids.org**

Public School #22
264 Van Horne Street,
Jersey City, NJ 07304

**201-915-6480**

(Mon & Tue)

Fountain of Salvation Church
324 Communipaw Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07304

**201-626-0800**

**jenae@newcitykids.org**

(Wed & Thur)

## Urban League of Hudson County

The Urban League of Hudson County provides childcare vouchers to full-time working families and students, as well as job training and placement, after-school activities for youth, counseling for at-risk families, and help enrolling in Medicaid. To receive childcare vouchers, you must meet the income requirements and work at least 40 hours a week or attend school full-time.

Urban League of **Hudson County**

- Receive childcare vouchers
- Enroll in job training and connect with employers
- Get help enrolling in Medicaid
- Register your child in after-school tutoring and mentoring programs
- Ask about in-home support services for low-income seniors

253 Martin Luther King Drive,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-451-8888**

**info@ulohc.org**

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Additional Services Available

## Youth Power Project—Make the Road New Jersey

Make the Road New Jersey's Youth Power Project provides immigrant youth with legal support, mentorship, and information on educational and professional development.

- Get help with your college applications
- Fill out your "NJ Dreamer" financial aid application
- Meet with a lawyer
- Sign up for English and job safety classes
- Ask questions about scholarship information and other educational resources
- Participate in the College Ambassador Summer Institute Program

42 Broad Street,
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

**908-967-3478**

**nj4dreamers@maketheroadnj.org**
**nedia.morsy@maketheroadnj.org**
**www.nj4dreamers.com**

Free

Spanish, Portuguese

Additional Services Available

# LGBTQ+ Services

## How is LGBTQ+ connected with immigrants?

Just like many immigrant groups around the world, LGBTQ+ people in the United States have had to advocate for their civil rights, legal protections, and a dignified place in society. Because Jersey City is home to so many immigrants, our city's efforts to welcome immigrants and LGBTQ+ people overlap. As a result, organizations like Hudson Pride Center not only provide assistance with health services, support groups, and social events, they do so in various foreign languages and with sensitivities to the immigrant experience. Jersey City has been ranked among the Unites States' most gay-friendly cities and one of the nation's most welcoming cities for immigrants. In 2013, Mayor Steven M. Fulop created the Task Force on LGBTQ Equality. Our LGBTQ+ community has grown into a multifaceted network that demonstrates our inclusivity and empowers people to be proud of their identity, both as LGBTQ+ and as immigrants.[1]

Jersey City welcomes all, including immigrants and LGBTQ+.

## Garden State Equality

Garden State Equality is an advocacy organization that works for inclusion, legal protections, and safe and welcoming spaces for the LGBTQ community.

- Attend trainings and special events
- Apply for health insurance
- Advocate for the equal and fair treatment of the LGBTQ community

40 South Fullerton Avenue,
Montclair, NJ 07042

**973-509-5428**

**contact@gardenstateequality.org**
**www.gardenstateequality.org**

Free

Additional Services Available

## Hudson Pride Center

The Hudson Pride Center is a safe place for the LGBTQ+ community, providing emotional support groups, mental health counseling, and access to medical services. The Center has a strong history of helping LGBTQ+ immigrants.

- Connect with the LGBTQ+ community
- Join the YouthConnect support program
- Receive pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), HIV testing, and assistance with HIV treatment
- Receive assistance with accessing hormone replacement therapy, gender re-affirming surgery, and name- and gender-marker changes on documents

Free

Spanish

Additional Services Available

176 Palisade Avenue, 3 East,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-963-4779**

**info@hudsonpride.org**
**www.hudsonpride.org**

North Hudson Community Action Corporation Clinic
714 31st Street,
Union City, NJ 07087

**201-963-4779** ext. 117

## The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center (The Center)

The Center provides support, educational programs, and advocacy for the LGBTQ community. The Center holds support groups for transitioning individuals, youth, and individuals recovering from sexual abuse. To apply for services, it is recommended that you visit The Center in person.

- Join health and wellness programs
- Receive parenthood and family counseling services
- Attend addiction support meetings
- Get tested for HIV
- Receive assistance finding jobs, housing, and schooling

208 West 13th Street,
New York, NY 10011

**212-620-7310**

**info@gaycenter.org**
**www.gaycenter.org**

Free

Additional Services Available

## The Pride Center of New Jersey, Inc.

The Pride Center of New Jersey provides assistance and information to the LGBTQ community.

- Advocate for LGBTQ rights
- Learn about health awareness programs

85 Raritan Avenue, Suite 100,
Highland Park, NJ 08904

**732-846-2232**

**info@pridecenter.org**
**www.pridecenter.org**

Free

Additional Services Available

## The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP)

The Queer Detainee Empowerment Project (QDEP) supports LGBTQI and HIV-positive immigrants who are currently detained, recently released, or at risk of being detained. QDEP connects these groups, as well as undocumented immigrants, with legal, medical, mental health, and public assistance resources.

- Receive visits during detention, as well as post-release guidance
- Connect with medical, mental health, and HIV treatment services

505 8th Avenue, Suite 1212,
New York, NY 10018

**347-645-9339**

**info@qdep.org**
**www.qdep.org**

Free

Spanish

Additional Services Available

# Volunteer and Connect

## Why would I volunteer with an immigrant organization?

Volunteering is one of the best ways to make friends, become part of a community, and learn how to succeed in the United States. Your experience as an immigrant and your foreign language skills are essential to the organizations that work so hard to serve immigrants.

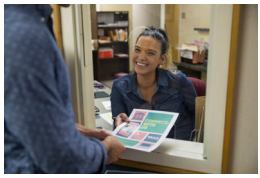
**What are some things I can do to help immigrants?**
**The Jersey City Division of Immigrant Affairs Fellows Program** provides specialized training in helping immigrants. You can use your foreign language skills to learn about the United States immigration system and help others with applying for citizenship and navigating services. For information, e-mail **JCDIA@jcnj.org** or call **201-547-6800**.

**First Friends of NJ & NY** invites volunteers to visit immigrant detainees at four detention centers near Jersey City and collects donations of stamps, stationary, and support letters for detainees.[1]

**Welcome Home Jersey City** volunteers help refugees and asylees with learning English and joining a supportive network of friends and neighbors. You can help with a variety of tasks, from arts and crafts with kids, to moving furniture for newly resettled families.[2]

**Church World Service** provides training for volunteers who help refugees and asylees with job training and computer skills, apartment setups, and much more.[3]

Volunteering with the organizations listed in this section can result in an empowering experience and create relationships that give hope to new immigrants.



## American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (ACLU-NJ)

The ACLU of New Jersey is a non-profit organization that advocates for the rights of immigrants. They represent individuals in court and advocate for legal reforms.

- Join advocacy campaigns for immigrant rights
- Learn about ongoing efforts to protect immigrants

P.O. Box 32159,
Newark, NJ 07102

**973-642-2084**

**info@aclu-nj.org**
**www.aclu-nj.org**

Additional Services Available

## Faith in New Jersey

Faith in New Jersey is a multi-faith and multi-racial network working together for social and economic justice. The organization also advocates for the expansion of "Sanctuary City" policies.

P.O. Box 1317,
Camden, NJ 08105

**609-256-4118**

**info@faithinnewjersey.org**
**www.faithinnewjersey.org**

Free

Spanish

Additional Services Available

## First Friends of New Jersey and New York

First Friends advocates for the rights and dignity of immigrant detainees and asylum seekers. They provide volunteers with training and opportunities to visit detainees in four detention centers in Northern New Jersey. First Friends also provides stationary packets for detainees as part of the Stamp Out Despair program.

- Visit immigrant detainees
- Receive training on how to assist and support recently released detainees
- Learn about the plight of immigrant detainees

53 South Hackensack Avenue,
Kearny, NJ 07032

**908-965-0455**

**info@firstfriendsnjny.org**
**www.firstfriendsnjny.org**

Spanish

Connect with volunteer organizations to help the Jersey City immigrant community.

## Haiti Solidarity Network of the Northeast (HSNNE)

The Haiti Solidarity Network advocates for social, political, and economic justice for the people of Haiti. HSNNE also holds fundraisers to raise money for services and projects in Haiti.

- Contribute to aid projects in Haiti
- Visit Haiti with a church delegation
- Connect to the Haitian community in the United States

HSNNE

492 Bramhall Avenue,
Jersey City, NJ 07304

**201-669-7787**

**info@haitisolidaritynetwork.org**
**www.haitisolidaritynetwork.org**

French-Creole

Additional Services Available

## Immigrants' Rights Program (IRP) American Friends Service Committee

The Immigrants' Rights Program advocates for immigration policies that respect the rights and dignity of all immigrants. IRP also advocates for the release of immigrants in detention centers and for the protection of individuals facing deportation.

- Learn how to support and advocate for immigrant detainees

89 Market Street, 6th Floor,
Newark, NJ 07102

**973-643-1924**

**irp@afsc.org**
**www.afsc.org/office/newark-nj**

Spanish

Additional Services Available

## International Migrants Alliance (IMA) USA

The IMA collaborates with international organizations both inside the United States and abroad to help migrants, refugees, and displaced individuals.

- Connect with resources based on your specific needs
- Advocate for migrants' rights

**ima.sect@gmail.com**
**www.wearemigrants.net**

Free

Spanish, Tagalog

Additional Services Available

## Make the Road New Jersey

Make the Road New Jersey mobilizes immigrant and working-class communities to advocate for the protection of their rights and dignity, while also providing various forms of assistance and training.

- Join campaigns to expand rights and protections for immigrants
- Attend free educational trainings

42 Broad Street,
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

**908-368-1196**

**info@maketheroadnj.org**
**www.maketheroadnj.org**

Free

Spanish, Portuguese

Additional Services Available

## New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

The New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice advocates for broad changes in laws to protect and empower immigrant communities. The organization offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for those seeking to support positive change for immigrants.

- Attend free educational seminars and trainings
- Learn about laws affecting immigrants

**info@njimmigrantjustice.org**
**www.njimmigrantjustice.org**

Free

Spanish

Additional Services Available

## How can I connect with people from my home country?

Jersey City Cultural Affairs celebrates immigrant communities like yours and invites you to contribute to Jersey City's multicultural identity. Jersey City has been called the most diverse city in the United States, and immigrants like you are what make our city so vibrant.

- Find out if your nation's flag is featured in our many **flag raising ceremonies** at City Hall.
- Enjoy food and performances at the annual **Taste of Culture** event.
- Find **cultural organizations from your home country.**
- Learn about hundreds of free events, like movies in the park, plays, and music festivals.

Jersey City Cultural Affairs Calendar:
**www.jerseycityculture.org**

**Office of Cultural Affairs**
280 Grove Street, 4th Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07302
**201-547-6921**

Your nation's flag could be celebrated by Cultural Affairs at one of Jersey City's many flag raising ceremonies.

Jersey City's Taste of Culture event celebrates the food and performing arts from of our immigrant communities' home countries.

## New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking

The New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking is made up of many different organizations that work together to prevent human trafficking in New Jersey.

- Learn about ways to prevent human trafficking
- Meet with an expert in trauma care
- Connect with service programs for victims of human trafficking

784 Morris Turnpike, Suite 111,
Short Hills, NJ 07078

**201-903-2111**

**info@njhumantrafficking.org**
**www.njhumantrafficking.org**

Spanish

Additional Services Available

## Philippine American Friendship Community, Inc. (PAFCOM)

PAFCOM strives to make it easier for the Filipino community to integrate into life in the United States.

- Connect with the Filipino community in Jersey City
- Participate in healthy aging programs, like Zumba and line dancing
- Volunteer to help other Filipinos with various services

238 Stegman Parkway #104,
Jersey City, NJ 07305

**201-479-8941**

**pafcomnj@gmail.com**
**www.pafcomnj.org**

Free

Tagalog

Additional Services Available

## Saint Aedan's Migrant Center

The Saint Aedan's Migrant Center is a volunteer organization that provides legal clinics, educational workshops, and connections to other support services.

- Volunteer to be an interpreter in Arabic or Spanish
- Donate food or clothing
- Become an ESL conversation partner

39 Tuers Avenue, 3rd Floor,
Jersey City, NJ 07306

**201-433-6800**

**staedansimmigrantcenter@gmail.com**

Free

Spanish, Other Foreign Languages

Appointment Required

Additional Services Available

# Financial Literacy

## How can I open a bank account?

To open a bank account, you will have to complete an application at the bank, provide personal information, and present verifying documents. Typically, you will need these documents:

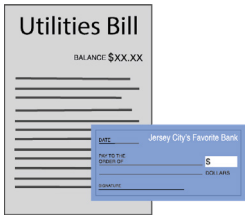
- An official identification card with your picture
- A passport from the United States or other country
- Proof of where you live, which is typically a piece of mail containing an official document or a bill
- A Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)[1]

### What are a checking account and a savings account?

A **checking account** allows you to store your money at a bank and then access it very easily by withdrawing cash, buying things with a debit card, or writing a check. A **savings account** allows you to store money that you do not intend to access frequently in a bank. Savings accounts are typically not used for paying bills, and the government only allows you to withdraw money from a savings account six times per month.[2]

### How can I keep my bank account safe?

Do not give your account numbers or debit card numbers to anyone. If you lose your debit card, call the bank immediately. Regularly check your bank documents for any unusual charges or activities. Generally, banks' official websites and official apps are secure and offer an easy way to be careful about fraud and to receive alerts from the bank.[3]




You can use your checking account to write checks and pay bills.

Do not give your bank information or passwords to anyone.

# What about paying taxes?

Paying taxes is one of the most important responsibilities for all people living in the United States. Failure to pay taxes is illegal and can jeopardize your immigration status and your ability to become a citizen.[4]

## Some important tax terms:

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the government agency responsible for collecting taxes from all employees and businesses.

Annual income taxes are a requirement for all people to report to the IRS between January 1 and April 15 exactly how much money they earned in the previous calendar year. Typically, annual income taxes are filed using **IRS Form 1040**.

Tax withholdings are deductions taken from each of your paychecks so the IRS can collect taxes for specific government programs. Tax withholdings require you to complete **IRS Form W-4** before starting to work.

Pay stubs are receipts that document each time your employer pays you, as well as your tax withholdings and annual earnings.

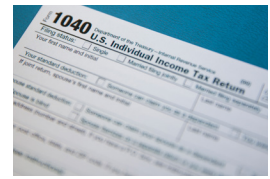
An Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) is a number issued by the IRS so that people without proper work authorizations or immigration status can still file taxes.

## How do I pay annual income taxes?

Every year, everyone who works in the United States and earns substantial annual income must file income taxes with the IRS between January 1 and April 15. To **"file"** income taxes means using a special form to declare to the IRS how much income you earned in the last calendar year. The most typical form used to file annual income taxes is **IRS Form 1040**. Although you can file your taxes without professional help, it is widely agreed that filing taxes in the United States is a confusing process, and many people find accountants for assistance. Similar to attorneys, you can find low-cost and pro bono accountants, and it is important to verify that an accountant is properly licensed. The website **www.irs.gov** is also helpful and has several language options.[5]

## How can I pay annual income taxes if I do not have work authorization?

The ITIN is issued by the IRS to people living in the United States who do not have access to typical work authorizations but still want to obey the law by paying income taxes. It is important to know that the IRS, generally, does not share ITIN information with the Department of Homeland Security. This means that if an undocumented immigrant applies for an ITIN, it is unlikely that immigration enforcement will be able to find their personal information. If you are fearful, you can always talk to a licensed immigration attorney. Using an ITIN to pay income taxes might be helpful if you plan to seek permanent status or assistance from the government.[6] To apply for an ITIN, you must submit the **IRS Form W-7**. Go to **www.irs.gov** and type "ITIN" in the search menu.[7]




? Declare your income every year and file your taxes between January 1 and April 15.

? The ITIN can be used to pay income taxes even if you do not have work authorization.

## What does it mean to work "off the books"?

The expression **"off the books"** (or "under the table") refers to any monetary transaction made without paying the required taxes to the government. Working "off the books" typically means receiving wage payments in cash without the proper tax withholdings and without reporting your total annual income to the IRS. This is illegal. Failure to pay taxes and report income can jeopardize your immigration status and compromise your ability to become a citizen.[8]

## What does it mean to work "on the books"?

Working **"on the books"** usually means that you are paid with a paycheck that comes with an attachment called a pay stub. A pay stub shows how much you have been paid for a given period and the entire year, and it lists your tax withholdings. Working "on the books" almost always means you will be asked to complete an **IRS Form W-4 Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate** before beginning work, and you will be given a **W-2 Wage and Tax Statement** at the end of every calendar year. If you do not complete a W-4 when you begin working, you are probably not working "on the books" and could be employed illegally.[9]

## What if my employer says I am "freelance"?

If an employer asks you to complete **IRS Form W-9** when you start working (instead of Form W-4), they will pay you as a "freelance employee" or "independent contractor" without deducting tax withholdings. This means you are responsible for paying "self-employment taxes" four times a year using the IRS Form 1040-ES, in addition to filing annual income taxes. Paying employees as "freelancers" is a common way for corrupt employers to avoid the responsibility of filing and paying taxes, and many people are cautious when being paid this way. Always ask the person paying you for a written receipt of payment that shows your name and Social Security number (or ITIN), the amount you are paid, the date, and the employer's name and address.[10]

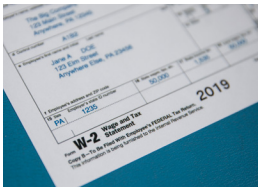
## Do I need to pay property taxes for my home?

If you do not own a home and are a renter, you do not need to pay property taxes. Your landlord should pay property taxes, and these tax costs cannot be added to your monthly rent bill. If you own a home or other real estate property, you must pay taxes to the Jersey City Tax Collector's Office.[11]

## What if I have other questions about taxes?

Speaking to a certified accountant is the best option for professional advice, but be certain to verify an accountant's credentials by going to **www.irs.gov** and typing "preparer credentials" in the search menu. The **www.irs.gov** website is also an excellent source of information, with several language options.

April 15 is National Tax Day in the United States. It is the deadline to file annual income taxes.



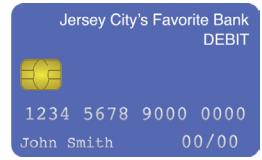
# What are credit cards and debit cards?

## What is a debit card?

A **debit card** is given to you by your bank when you open a checking account. You can use your debit card to buy things, and the payment will be made electronically using the money you have in your checking account. When your bank gives you a debit card, you will need to record a private personal identification number or a **"PIN"**. Your PIN is usually four digits, and when you buy something with your debit card, you will need to enter your PIN in the same machine that reads your card. Your PIN is private; do not read it out loud to the cashier or let anyone see you enter the numbers. It is possible to use all of the money in your checking account and still buy things with your debit card, but this will result in substantial fees from your bank called **"overdraft penalties"**. Your debt card is also needed when you use an automated teller machine **(ATM)** to withdraw cash from your checking account. It is important to know that even though your debit card looks like a credit card, using it does not build your credit score.[12]

## What is a credit card?

A **credit card** is given to you by a finance corporation that believes you will be able buy things with their card and then pay them back over time. To apply for a credit card, you will typically need a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), proof that you earn money, and a documented history of paying debts, and you must be at least 18 years old. When you buy something with your credit card, you will not need a four-digit PIN, but you will usually have to write your signature. Be very careful not to share your credit card number, and if you suspect someone has used your credit card fraudulently, call the phone number on the back of the card or on your monthly statement immediately. It is important to know that when you buy things with a credit card, you are paying with borrowed money, and you will receive a bill each month asking you to pay for the items you bought. Many Americans inadvertently find themselves unable to pay their credit card bills and are burdened by credit card debt. To learn more about credit and credit scores, read the information found elsewhere in this section of the Resource Guide.[13]




? A debit card looks just like a credit card, but it can only be used to buy things with money that is already in your checking account at a bank.

# What is a credit score?

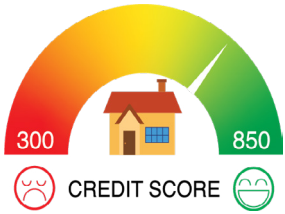
Your **credit score** is a measurement of your ability to earn and spend money responsibly. Your credit score is created by private credit reporting agencies that collect information about how you spend money and pay bills over time. If you are seeking to rent an apartment, apply for a loan from a bank, or buy a car, your credit score will be used to measure how much you can be trusted to make payments. Having a good credit score is essential to your financial stability and long-term success in the United States.[14]

## How can I earn a good credit score?

When you first come to the United States as an immigrant, any history of spending outside the U.S. will not contribute to your credit score. You will not have a credit score, which can be just as limiting as having a bad credit score. First, build good credit by always paying your bills on time, and never going into debt. Second, build good credit by using a credit card and always paying all of your monthly bills. Using a debit card will not build credit.[14]

## So, what is a good credit score?

Credit scores are numbers that typically range from 300 to 850. "Good credit" is generally considered a score of 700 or above, and "bad credit" is generally below 600. There are three major credit reporting agencies in the United States, and they might not all report the same exact credit score for the same person. By law, the three credit reporting agencies must provide you with a free credit score report once a year. One of the best websites to find more information is **www.usa.gov/credit-reports**.[14]




Building credit takes time, and your credit score reflects how well you pay back your debt.

## What is wage theft?

Wage theft is when an employer fails to pay you for your work. This might be a failure to pay you for your overtime hours, the tips that your employer collected on your behalf, or the last wages you earned before leaving a job.[15] Wage theft also includes an employer paying below the legal minimum wage, which is set by each state. As of July 1, 2019, it is illegal for any employer in New Jersey to pay a wage lower than $10 per hour for any job.[16] Unfortunately, immigrants and low-wage earners are most at risk of wage theft.

### How can I avoid wage theft?

First, you should never work "off the books", which means you are paid only in cash without tax deductions or a written record of your wages and hours. Second, you can keep your own record of the days you work, the times you started and ended your work, and the wage your employer agreed to pay you. If your employer has failed to pay any portion of your wages, you should immediately ask to be paid properly. It is important to know that all wage earners, documented or undocumented, are protected from wage theft by federal law.

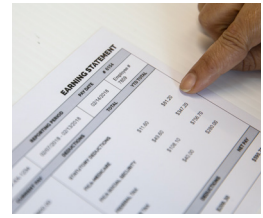
### What can I do if I am a victim of wage theft?

First, you can file a claim with the New Jersey Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Compliance Division by going to the **www.myworkrights.nj.gov** website, printing the MW-31A form, and mailing it to P.O. Box 389, Trenton, NJ 08625. This agency allows you to complete a claim anonymously, without using your name.[17]

Second, you can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division by calling **908-317-8611** or by visiting **www.dol.gov/whd/howtofilecomplaint.htm**.[18] When you call, you will be asked questions about your employment, but you will not be asked your immigration status.

Third, you can contact Jersey City's Resident Response Center (RRC) to inform them that you have submitted a wage theft claim with the New Jersey and/or United States Wage and Hour office(s). You may contact RRC anonymously and in your preferred language.[19] It is against the law for your employer to retaliate against you for filing a wage theft complaint.[20]

? Workers employed in the food, construction, and home care industries are at higher risk of wage theft. There are rights protecting every worker, regardless of immigration status.




? Protect your wages. Keep track of your earnings by reviewing your paychecks.

# Transportation and General Needs

## Where can I find free food?

If you are hungry and struggling to buy food, you can find free food at **food pantries**.Food pantries are charitable groups that distribute free bags or boxes of food to people in need at a specific time and place. Although most food pantries will rarely turn anyone away, each pantry will have its own policies and practices for who can take free food. Some pantries will not ask you for any documents, while others will require registration, identification, proof of residency, and proof of receiving other government benefits.

For a detailed list of all food pantries in your area, go to **HealthierJC.AuntBertha.com** and submit your zip code to find a pantry near you. This website is available in many languages and lists thousands of free or low-cost services.

**Fountain of Salvation**
324 Communipaw Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07304
Call **201-435-0009** or
visit **www.fountainofsalvation.org/jcity** for times

**Our Lady of Sorrows Parish: The Mary House of Emergency Food**
93 Clerk Street, Jersey City, NJ 07305
Mon, Wed, & Fri: 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Call Sister Alice McCoy at **201-433-0626**
Free to Jersey City residents, but registration is required. Bring identification with proof of address, family size, and income.

**St. John's Lutheran Church Food Pantry**
155 North Street, Jersey City, NJ 07307
Every second Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
**201-798-0540**

**St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**
85 Wayne Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302
Mon at 12:00 p.m. and Fri at 1:00 p.m.
**201-898-2350** ext. 3
Free to all. Bring your own bag or cart. Representatives from UnitedHealthcare and others are present on Fridays to help with eligibility for health insurance.

**We Project—"Community Table"**
North Street and Summit Avenue, in the parking lot
Every Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
**201-456-8908** or **wearetheweproject@gmail.com**
Free food for all, no identification needed. Bring a reusable bag.

Need food? Food pantries in Jersey City are available to you.

# How can I ride the bus, subway, and light rail?

## How can I ride an NJ Transit bus?

New Jersey Transit buses run throughout Jersey City and into adjacent cities like Bayonne, Hoboken, Union City, and New York City. To board an NJ Transit bus, you must wait at a bus stop, which will be marked by an NJ Transit sign with the bus numbers that serve that stop. Each bus number has a designated route, and to know which direction the bus is travelling, you must check the final destination that appears on the front of the bus. You must board the bus at the first door, tell the driver your destination, and pay the exact amount by putting bills and coins into the machine. The cost of each bus ride depends on your destination and is measured by "zones". Most destinations within Jersey City are called "Zone 1" and cost $1.60 (as of 2019). You may also buy a monthly bus pass, which allows unlimited travelling within a certain zone for a fixed price. To signal to the driver that you would like to get off the bus, press the tape above the window. To find a map of all bus routes, go to the **www.njtransit.com** web page, which can be translated into foreign languages using the menu at the bottom right.[1]

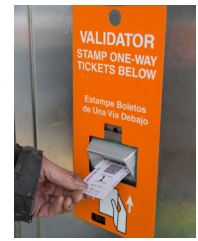
## How can I ride the PATH train?

PATH stands for "Port Authority Trans-Hudson" and is a system of two subway lines that connect Jersey City, Hoboken, Newark, New York City, Harrison, and Kearny. Jersey City has four underground PATH stations. To ride a PATH train, you must buy a plastic MetroCard using one of the multilingual machines at a PATH station, and then pass the MetroCard through the slot in the rotating turnstile. Jumping over the turnstile without paying the fare is illegal and could result in serious repercussions. A single ride on the PATH train costs $2.75 (as of 2019). You may buy multiple rides and store them on one MetroCard, or you may buy a monthly SmartLink card. Maps and schedules for PATH trains can be downloaded in English and Spanish at **www.panynj.org**.[1]

## How can I travel on the light rail?

The Hudson-Bergen Light Rail is a small train that connects Jersey City with cities to its north and south. To ride the light rail, you must buy a ticket from one of the blue and orange machines at a light rail station, but you must "validate" your ticket before getting on the train. This requires you to insert your ticket into the machine labeled "Ticket Validator", which will print a purple date and time on your ticket. Keep your ticket while riding on the train, because an NJ Transit officer may enter the train and ask all passengers to show their validated tickets. If your ticket is not validated, you will likely be required to pay a fine. For maps, schedules, and information about the light rail, go to the **www.njtransit.com** web page, which can be translated into foreign languages using the menu at the bottom right.[1]

? MetroCards have to be filled with money before use, and SmartLink can be used as a monthly pass for unlimited trips.




? A validated light rail ticket will have the date and time of your trip.

? A light rail ticket machine dispenses tickets but does not validate them.

## Do I really need a mobile phone?

Yes. Access to a smartphone will increase your ability to stay safe, connect with jobs and services, and maintain relationships. The United States culture can seem impatient and demanding, and it is very rare that an employer will call your home, leave a message, or wait for you to call back. If friends or people you know have job recommendations or things they would like to share, it is likely that they will send a text message rather than visit you in person. Making international calls using web-based apps on a smartphone can be much cheaper than using a landline phone or buying phone cards. And in the case of an emergency, a mobile phone might be the only way to call 9-1-1 for help.

### Where can I get a mobile phone?

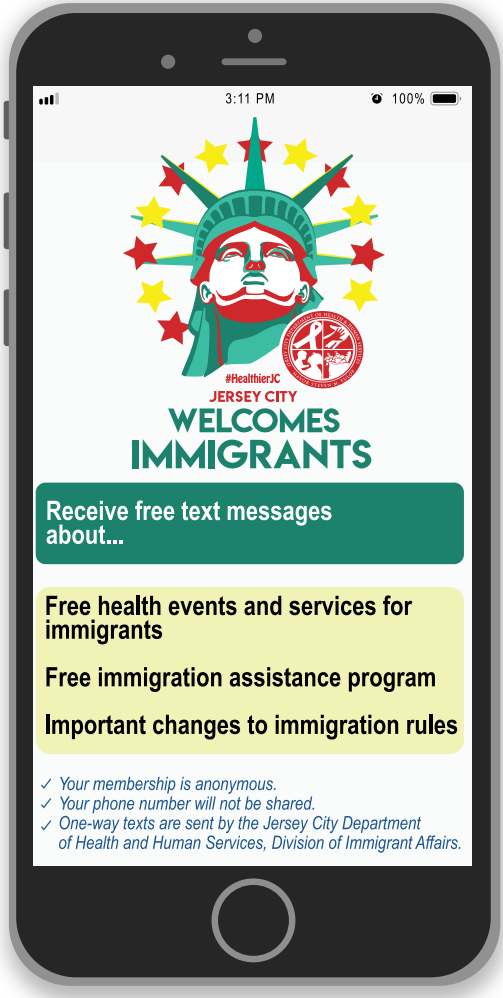
Many mobile phone companies offer different plans. Most times, you must buy a phone and pay monthly bills. Typically, you can buy a plan that offers minutes and texts only, or a plan that also includes Internet data. The cost of plans usually ranges from $25 to $60 per month.

### What are "scam" calls?

Around the world, criminals use smartphones to harm to people with "scam" calls or text messages. In the United States, it is extremely rare for any federal government agency to contact you by phone. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will never call your phone and ask for your Social Security number or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). If someone contacts you on your phone and asks you for personal information or to make a payment, you should be suspicious and wait for a letter in the mail, which is the customary way of sending official communications in the United States.[2]

# STAY INFORMED

## TEXT UPDATES FOR IMMIGRANTS




# Text “Add” to (973) 419-5694

For immigration assistance, contact the Division of Immigrant Affairs at 201-547-6800 or JCDIA@jcnj.org.

(español and العربية)

CITY MAKE IT YOURS #HealthierJC

THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY, MAYOR STEVEN M. FULOP, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

JerseyCityNJ JC_GOV jerseycitynj

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**Section 1: Governmental Services**


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