



CAM (Central American Minors) Parolee Resource Guide

New Jersey

Important Notes:

This resource guide was prepared for advocates who assist CAM parolees. This guide provides a general overview of the types of benefits that CAM parolees may qualify for and locates helpful resources and services within each region. It is not an exhaustive guide. Particular circumstances of a client (e.g., pregnancy, HIV/AIDs, domestic violence, etc.) may qualify them for additional benefits that are not covered in this overview.

This guide also includes references to “undocumented individuals” in case it is relevant to the CAM parolees’ other family members. To be clear, CAM parolees and their parent(s) are “documented.” CAM parolees have status under INA § 212(d)(5), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5) (discretionary parole for “urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit”) and at least one of their parents must have had status (e.g., Temporary Protective Status/TPS or Lawful Permanent Resident/LPR, etc.) to have been eligible for the CAM program.

Information in this resource guide is not intended as, nor should it be considered, legal advice. Information in this guide is subject to change and should be verified with state and local agencies to ensure accuracy. That an organization, agency, or a program is listed in this resource guide does not imply an endorsement by either IRAP or IRC.

About CAM Parolees and this Guide

CAM parolees are minors from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras who had a parent lawfully present in the United States, and who, while still in their home country, applied for the Central American Minors (CAM) program to be considered for refugee resettlement in the United States. CAM parolees were previously determined to be ineligible for refugee status and then considered and approved by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to enter the United States under parole.

Though the parole portion of the CAM program was terminated in August 2017, a 2019 court settlement in the case *S.A. v. Trump* re-opened the CAM program for about 2,700 people who had been conditionally approved for parole before the program ended. Consequently, beginning in 2019, hundreds of CAM families who were conditionally approved for parole, but had not traveled before the Trump Administration ended the program, are entering the United States.

Unlike refugees, CAM parolees do not receive resettlement assistance upon their arrival. Therefore, this guide provides a general overview of the benefits, services, and other resources for CAM parolees as they settle into their new lives in the United States.

General Instructions for this Guide

Federal Benefits: CAM parolees who have been paroled in to the United States for at least one year¹ are included within the federal definition of “qualified aliens”.² ***However, CAM parolees are not eligible to receive federal means-tested public benefits³ during the first five years of being in the United States. One important exception*** is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP (formerly known as ‘food stamps’), which is available to all “qualified” immigrants under the age of 18 years old.⁴

State Benefits: States have the ability to decide whether or not to extend benefits to qualified aliens during this five-year period, and some states do allow qualified aliens to be eligible for certain state public benefits. Parolees may be eligible to apply for some state benefits as “qualified aliens,” “qualified noncitizens,” “qualified immigrants,” or as individuals having “Permanent Residence Under Color of Law” (PRUCOL). Each state may use a different public benefits eligibility category and may use different terms depending on the type of the benefit as well.

*** Note on COVID-19:** Some resources in this guide were compiled before the COVID-19 pandemic. Where possible, the guide notes any changes in services due to the pandemic. Please make sure to check the organization/agency website or contact them directly for any updates.

¹ CAM parole lasts for two years. If a CAM parolee was granted less than two years of parole, please direct them to contact the IRC CAM Hotline at (917) 410-7546.

² See 7 CFR 273.4(a)(6)(i); 8 U.S.C. § 1641 (b)(4). CAM parolees are “qualified aliens” who are paroled into the United States under INA § 212(d)(5), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(d)(5).

³ With certain exceptions, such federal benefits include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Federal Medicaid.

⁴ See [SNAP Policy on Non-Citizen Eligibility](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture, September 2013.

Helpful Tips

- Ensure that CAM parolees understand that documents proving their legal presence in the United States as well as their age and identity will be necessary to apply for public benefits. Many benefits will require applicants to have a Social Security Number (SSN).⁵
- Before they apply for public benefits, ensure that CAM parolees seek legal assistance from a qualified immigration attorney to determine eligibility for certain benefits and to flag possible adverse consequences to admissibility for *future* immigration applications.⁶ You may also want to direct them to the local welfare or social services agency, which may be able to provide greater assistance in determining eligibility.

Encourage CAM parolees to do the following as soon as possible:

- Seek an immigration attorney:**
 - To file a Form I-765 to apply for work authorization/Employment Authorization Document (EAD) and a Social Security Number (SSN);
 - To determine eligibility for certain public benefits and possible adverse consequences to admissibility for future immigration applications; and
 - To determine eligibility for more permanent immigration relief, such as asylum. Please note that there are deadlines for filing (e.g., asylum applications generally should be filed within one year of arrival to the United States).
- Apply for an identification card**, such as a state driver's license or state ID.

⁵ As noted below, CAM parolees may apply for a SSN at the same time that they apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) in their Form I-765 application. If a SSN is required to apply for certain public benefits, the benefits provider should be able to provide more information.

⁶ Accessing public benefits as a CAM parolee will not affect their current parole status, nor be an issue if the CAM parolee adjusts to a permanent status based on asylum. However, if the CAM parolee wants to apply via family-based, employment, or another nonexempt category in the future, public charge may be evaluated as to their admissibility. Though benefits granted while in parole status may be disregarded, it is important for individuals to confer with a reputable immigration attorney to advise them before enrolling for a benefits program.

Work Authorization: In order to work in the United States, CAM parolees must obtain work authorization by applying for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). An immigration attorney can assist with this. To apply for an EAD, CAM parolees must file a Form I-765 and must select the category c(11), "Paroled in the Public Interest." If the application is approved, the CAM parolee will receive an EAD valid up to the expiration date of parole. In the same application, a CAM parolee may also apply for a Social Security Number (SSN).

Food and Cash Assistance: Please note that the receipt of federal, state, or local food or cash benefits may have implications for *future applications* for adjustment of status and for permanent immigration status.⁷ It is important for parolees to understand that receiving certain benefits may have *adverse consequences* on their admissibility for future immigration applications. If unsure about whether to apply for and receive cash benefits, **CAM parolees should consult a local immigration attorney, or a public benefits attorney, as soon as possible.**

State Driver's Licenses/Identification Documents: The REAL ID Act of 2005 mandated requirements regarding state-issued identification documents used for federal purposes such as boarding flights at U.S. airports or accessing federal buildings and U.S. military bases. It also stipulated which categories of non-citizens would be eligible for documents issued under the new requirements and mandated verification of qualified immigrant status. According to the law, parolees are not among the categories of non-immigrants who qualify for REAL ID compliant documents. Most states have come into compliance with REAL ID requirements.⁸ **However, some states have opted to issue alternative driver's licenses to those who do not qualify under REAL ID requirements.** This has resulted in different eligibility criteria and documentary requirements for parolees seeking ID/driver's licenses depending on their state of residence. This guide attempts to provide the best available information for each of the states covered, but information is subject to change and should be verified by the respective state agencies issuing ID/driver's licenses.

⁷ For more information on which public benefits may result in admissibility on public charge grounds. See [Public Charge Fact Sheet](#), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, February 27, 2020.

⁸ As of this writing, all states, except for Oregon and Oklahoma, have come into compliance with REAL ID requirements. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government extended the deadline for compliance until October 1, 2021. See <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>.

Table of Contents

About CAM Parolees and this Guide	i
General Instructions for this Guide	ii
Helpful Tips	iii
State Benefits	1
Food Assistance.....	1
Temporary Cash Assistance	3
Medical Assistance	5
Primary/Secondary School Enrollment (Children 6-17 Years Old).....	7
Post-Secondary Tuition Assistance	7
State ID/Driver’s License.....	8
Local (City/County-Specific) Resources	10
in New Jersey	10
Elizabeth, New Jersey	10
General Social Services.....	10
English Language Programs.....	10
Job Training & Career Counseling Programs.....	13
Assistance with Public School Enrollment & English/Special Ed Services	14
Mental Health Services.....	14
Immigration Legal Services.....	16
Immigration Legal Services: Work Authorization	17
General Legal Services.....	17
Local Community Groups.....	17
Newark, New Jersey	19
General Social Services.....	19
English Language Programs.....	19
Job Training & Career Counseling Programs.....	21

Assistance with Public School Enrollment & English/Special Ed Services22
Mental Health Services.....23
Immigration Legal Services.....25
Immigration Legal Services: Work Authorization26
General Legal Services.....26
Local Community Groups.....27

New Jersey

State Benefits

Food Assistance	NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
Temporary Cash Assistance	Work First New Jersey (WFNJ/TANF & WFNJ/GA)
Medical Assistance	NJ FamilyCare, Medical Emergency Payment Program for Aliens
Post-Secondary Tuition Assistance	Eligible
Driver's License/State ID	Eligible

Food Assistance

For urgent food assistance, contact or visit a food bank in your county:⁹

See <http://www.endhungernj.org/regional-fb>

NJ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (if under 18)¹⁰

Provides food assistance to low-income families to help them buy groceries through a benefits card accepted by most food retail stores and some farmers markets. Maximum benefits depend on the family size. Maximum monthly allotment is \$194 for a household of one, \$355 for a household of two, \$509 for a household of three.¹¹

Eligibility: Depends on several factors like income, household size, resources, etc. The following chart can help you figure out what is the maximum income allowed according to your household size:
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/about/qualify/>.

⁹ Food pantries are not considered to be a public benefit that would result in inadmissibility on public charge grounds. See <https://www.uscis.gov/news/public-charge-fact-sheet>.

¹⁰ <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/index.shtml>

¹¹ Follow the link to see a complete chart of maximum benefits based on household size:
<https://www.childcarenj.gov/SocialServices>

- You can screen for NJ SNAP in 5 minutes to find out if you are eligible for food assistance, cash assistance, and more. Follow this link to screen and apply in 20 to 40 minutes:
<https://njfc.force.com/njhelps>
- Parents of CAM parolees may apply on behalf of their children for SNAP benefits. Eligible family members can receive benefits even if other family members are ineligible due to immigration status.
 - If you have a family member who is ineligible due to immigration status, you will need to provide proof of their income and resources, but do **not** need to provide information about their immigration status or Social Security Number.
- Immigration information remains private and confidential and will not be shared with ICE. Participating in NJ SNAP should not affect immigration status.

How to Apply:¹²

- *Apply online* at <https://www.njhelps.org/>.
- *Apply in-person* in each county:
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/home/cbss.shtml>
 - *During COVID-19, applicants do not need to go to a social services location. They can apply online or by calling their county social services agency. A hard copy signature is not needed for an application nor is anyone required to go for an in-person interview to apply for SNAP.¹³
- *Apply via mail* by download the application form (<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/docs/wfnj-1j/WFJ-1JEnglish.pdf>) and mail it to your County Board of Social Services (<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/home/cbss.shtml>).

Applicants must have **original documents** demonstrating proof of identity, address, financial status, and immigration status *for all members who are applying*:

- Proof of Identity: A valid ID (i.e. driver's license, birth certificate, government ID), Social Security Number).
- Proof of Address: such as a lease, rental agreement, or utility bill.

**Unless you are experiencing homelessness*

¹² <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/app/>

¹³ <https://www.childcarenj.gov/SocialServices>

- Proof of Financial Status: Proof of earned income (i.e. paystubs, employer letter, recent tax records), proof of resources (i.e. bank statements), proof of unearned income (i.e. benefits award letter)
- Proof of Immigration Status (for non-citizens): A current I-94 or current I-551 (commonly known as a "Green Card")
- *A full list of requirements can be found here:*
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/apply/app/FINAL%20NJ%20SNAP%20Checklist%20Eng-Sp%208-19.pdf> (updated on August, 2019)

In most cases, after an application is filed, the county has 30 days to determine if you will get NJ SNAP. During the 30 days, the county will interview you. The interview will be over the phone or in person. During the interview, the county will go over your application with you.

Temporary Cash Assistance

Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)¹⁴

WFNJ provides temporary cash assistance and many other support services to families through the **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program**. WFNJ also provides cash benefits and support services to individuals and couples with no dependent children, through the **General Assistance (GA) program**.

A participant in WFNJ may receive any combination of the following types of income:

- *The paycheck a job*
- *A cash assistance benefit*
- *Child support, which is collected by the county to cover the costs of assisting the participant.*

WFNJ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Eligibility: CAM parolees are eligible to receive WFNJ benefits. WFNJ limits assistance to a maximum of five years over a participant's lifetime. Applicants must have dependent children.

- To determine eligibility for Work First New Jersey benefits, please contact your county's board of social services:
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/home/cbss.shtml>
- The law provides that victims of family/domestic violence may be granted waivers from certain requirements.

¹⁴ https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dfd/programs/workfirstnj/wfnj_handbook1219.pdf

How to Apply:

- *Apply online at:*
<https://njfc.force.com/njhelps/NJHelpsHomePage>
- *Or in-person* at a county welfare agency or a local welfare agency:
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/home/cbss.shtml>

For more information, refer to the WFNJ Handbook (Updated 12/19):

https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/workfirstnj/wfnj_handbook1219.pdf

WFNJ/TANF applicants must demonstrate proof of identity, child support, employment, and income:

- Proof of identity: Social Security Number
- Proof of Child Support (if you have dependent children): Identifying the other parent of your child. Show the other parent's full name and at least 3 of the following items: date of birth, Social Security Number, employer, make and model of motor vehicle and license plate number.
- Proof of Employment: You will have to work, actively look for work or participate in an approved work activity.
 - *During COVID-19, your case will not be closed if you are unable to participate in a work activity¹⁵
- Proof of Income: Both work income and any other income

WFNJ General Assistance Program

Eligibility:

Single adults and childless couples are eligible. Those who are homeless or at immediate risk of becoming homeless, and those who have experienced a substantial loss of housing, food, clothing, or household furnishings due to fire, flood, or similar disaster are eligible for WFNJ/GA benefits.

- Emergency Assistance is limited to 12 months, but may be extended in certain hardship conditions.

How to Apply:

- *Screen and apply online at:*
<https://njfc.force.com/njhelps/NJHelpsHomePage>
- *Or in person* at a county welfare agency or a local welfare agency:
<https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/njsnap/home/cbss.shtml>

¹⁵ <https://www.childcarenj.gov/SocialServices>

- For more information, refer to the WFNJ Handbook (Updated 12/19):
https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/programs/workfirstnj/wfnj_handbook1219.pdf

GA applicants must demonstrate proof of identity, employment, and income:

- Proof of Identity: Social Security Number
- Proof of Employment: You will have to be working, actively look for work, or participate in an approved work activity. GA applicants who are determined employable must complete a 28-day work activity before they can receive any cash assistance or any other WFNJ benefits.
 - *During COVID-19, your case will not be closed if you are unable to participate in a work activity.¹⁶
- Proof of Income: Both work income and any other income

Medical Assistance

NJ FamilyCare¹⁷

A federal and state funded health insurance program for qualified New Jersey residents of any age who do not have employer insurance. A wide range of services are provided including doctor visits, eyeglasses, hospitalization, lab tests, X-rays, prescriptions, regular check-ups, mental health services, dental, and preventive screenings.

Eligibility:¹⁸

Eligibility depends on the age and financial status of the applicant.

- Children 18 and under are eligible with higher incomes up to 355% FPL (\$7,751/month for a family of four). Children age 18 and under who are lawfully admitted can be eligible even if they have lived in this country fewer than five years.

An immigrant paroled for over one year is qualified for this program.

- Immigrant adults must have Legal Permanent Resident status in the US for at least five years in order to be eligible for NJ FamilyCare. Parents are eligible with income up to 138% FPL (\$3,013/month for a family of four).

How to Apply: • *Apply online*: <https://njfc.force.com/familycare/quickstart>

¹⁶ <https://www.childcarenj.gov/SocialServices>

¹⁷ <http://www.njfamilycare.org/default.aspx>

¹⁸ http://www.njfamilycare.org/who_eligbl.aspx

- Apply in person at one of the sites in your county:
http://www.njfamilycare.org/need_help.aspx

Medical Emergency Payment Program for Undocumented Individuals¹⁹

This program is open to immigrants who have experienced a medical emergency and who meet the requirements for Medicaid eligibility except for their immigration status. This program will pay for hospital emergency care for medical conditions that will cause a serious health problem if immediate medical attention is not provided.

Eligibility:

CAM parolees are qualified for this program.

- You may be eligible for this program if you have had a recent medical emergency and are not eligible for NJ FamilyCare due to immigration status.
- New Jersey residency must be established.
- An application must be made after the emergency but within 3 months of the date of the emergency.
- Must meet the 2020 financial eligibility limits listed in the following chart:
https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/payment/payment_fact_sheet.pdf

How to Apply:

- A person must inform staff at the hospital in which they are being treated that they wish to apply. The hospital will initiate the application process and will ensure that the application and necessary documents are completed before an individual is discharged.
 - The hospital will submit the documentation to the appropriate County Welfare Agency (CWA) where the eligibility determination will be completed.
 - Once an individual is determined eligible, the claims will be submitted to Medicaid for payment.
- If the hospital does not have staff available to take your application, you can ask them to notify the County Board of Social Services. You must follow up with the Board of Social Services yourself to apply.

For more information:

https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/payment/payment_fact_sheet.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid/payment/index.html>

Primary/Secondary School Enrollment (Children 6-17 Years Old)

Every school district has its own process for enrolling new students. *The easiest way to enroll a child is to go to the closest school and ask the office how to enroll.* All children have a right to attend school in the U.S., regardless of their immigration status. School is mandatory for all children 6-16 years old in New Jersey. NJ Law permits attendance in public schools for free for persons over 5 and under 20 years old in the school district they live in.

New Jersey School Directory:

<https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/directory/>

A variety of resources for ESL/Bilingual programs:

<https://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/resources/>

Interdistrict Public School Choice Program:

<https://www.nj.gov/education/choice/parents/>

Post-Secondary Tuition Assistance

State Aid Programs for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies²⁰

HESAA is the New Jersey state agency that administers all financial aid applications. Need-based programs include the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant (TAG), Part-time TAG for County College Students, and the Governor's Urban Scholarship Program.

Eligibility:

- An applicant must first meet general federal aid eligibility requirements: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>
- CAM parolees are eligible if they have been a legal resident of New Jersey for at least 12 consecutive months immediately prior to enrollment
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Demonstrate financial need
- Please refer to page 11 of the document below for more information:
https://www.hesaa.org/Documents/State_and_Federal.pdf

²⁰ https://www.hesaa.org/Documents/State_and_Federal.pdf

- How to Apply: File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.gov. You must submit a FAFSA each year.
- Documents needed: W-2 forms, tax returns, bank statements, etc.
 - Students can also fill out this optional *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet* before applying FAFSA online to expedite the application process:
<https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/2020-21-fafsa-worksheet.pdf>
 - To apply for the New Jersey State programs, students must file additional NJ state questions annually within established deadlines and meet all other program requirements.
 - NJ State questions can be found in the FAFSA application. From the confirmation page, click the Optional Feature tab to respond to State questions required to apply for New Jersey State financial aid.

A list of deadlines: <https://www.hesaa.org/Pages/stateapplicationdeadlines.aspx>

State ID/Driver's License

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJ MVC)

A CAM parolee may apply for an official New Jersey State ID from the NJ MVC if they do not plan on driving. A New Jersey Driver's License is required to drive in New Jersey (a license from a CAM parolee's home country cannot be used). Individuals are not required to surrender their foreign license when MVC issues their New Jersey driver license.

- Eligibility: Driver's Licenses are available to all New Jersey residents, regardless of immigration status. Non-driver state IDs are only available to documented New Jersey residents 14 years of age or older.
- Prior to issuing any document, the MVC will verify immigration status. The CAM parolee must provide proof by the U.S. Citizenship and Services (USCIS), authorizing your presence in the country.

- How to Apply for a Driver's License: *Obtain a permit by bringing your foreign license and pass the 6 Point ID requirements. If you are under 18 years old or cannot show proof of driving experience, you will be subject to the GDL Program requirements. After you get the permit, visit any Driver Testing Center to take a vision test, knowledge test, and possibly a road test if required.*

- 6 Points of ID requirements:
<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/6pointid.htm>
- GDL Program requirements:
<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/initiallicense.htm>
- Vision test: <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/visiontest.htm>
- Knowledge test:
<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/knowledgetest.htm>
- Road test: <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/roadtest.htm>

How to apply for a non-driver ID:²¹

- *Visit a motor vehicle agency* to complete the Non-driver ID Application (Form BA-207 available only at motor vehicle agencies: https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/agency_services.htm); or
- *Request a form through the mail* by calling the MVC's Customer Support Line at 609-292-6500 weekdays (except holidays).
- Pay a \$24 fee.
- Pass the 6 Points of ID requirements (see below).

6 Points of ID requirements:

- Proof of Address
- Verifiable Social Security Number
- Show at least one of the listed primary documents (e.g. foreign passport)
- Show at least one of the listed secondary documents (e.g. Probationary license with photo)
- Provide a minimum total of six points worth of documents
- Can use the online document selector to check if the requirements are met:
<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/docselector/index.htm>
- A complete list of qualifying documents can be found here:
https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/license/ident_ver_posterprint.pdf

²¹ <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/nondriverid.htm>

Local (City/County-Specific) Resources in New Jersey

Elizabeth, New Jersey

General Social Services

City of Elizabeth Division Human Services

Local human services office for Elizabeth residents. Provides social services such as rental assistance, pharmaceutical support, and public health programs. Proof of residency required.

50 Winfield Scott Plaza, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 820-4000

<https://www.elizabethnj.org/323/Human-Services>

Union County Division of Social Services

Social services hub that administers a variety of programs including free vaccinations for children, assistance for needy families, general assistance, emergency assistance, medical and pharmaceutical assistance, food stamps, and child support services.

342 Westminster Avenue, Elizabeth NJ 07208

(908) 965-2700

<https://ucnj.org/departments/human-services/social-services/>

English Language Programs

El Centro Hispanoamericano

Offers ESL and computer classes to the Spanish-speaking low-income community in the Central New Jersey area. Classes take place on Saturdays. Services also include immigration workshops and other social services.

525 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060

(908) 753-8730

<https://elcentronj.org/>

Elizabeth Public Schools: Bilingual/ESL Program

Bilingual/ESL programs and services offered at public schools in Elizabeth for English language learners in grades K-12.

500 North Broad Street., Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 436-5340

<https://www.epsnj.org/Page/3787>

International Rescue Committee (Elizabeth Office)

Offers support to newly arrived refugees and immigrants in the New Jersey area. Services include English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for adult immigrants, job readiness classes, career development and counseling, resume preparation, civic and citizenship classes, and refugee youth programs.

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

(908) 351-5116

<https://www.rescue.org/united-states/elizabeth-nj#how-does-the-irc-help-refugees-and-immigrants-in-new-jersey>

Jefferson Park Ministries: Family Success Center

A community center for Union County residents that offers ESL classes to help Haitians, Latinx immigrants, and others with limited English language proficiency navigate social services programs.

70 W. Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

(908) 469-9508

<https://www.uwguc.org/jefferson-park-ministries-0>

<https://jeffersonparks.com/family-success-center/>

Josephine's Place

Offers English conversation classes (and other ESL-related events occasionally) to women in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Currently, classes are held Tuesday mornings and early evenings. They also offer other programs and activities such as group support, computer training, and health programs.

622 Elizabeth Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07206

(908) 436-0099

www.josephinesplace.org

Literacy New Jersey

Provides free one-on-one and small group tutoring to adults who need help with reading, writing, math, and speaking English. Operates in twelve counties across New Jersey. Literacy NJ partners with the Elizabeth Public Library, where classes are held.

11 S. Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 (location of classes, not organization)

(908) 486-1777

<https://literacynj.org/union-county>

Make the Road New Jersey

Offers beginning and intermediate English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes to low-income immigrant families. Classes are taught by experienced teachers and take place three times a week at Make the Road's community center in Elizabeth.

42 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 368-1196

<https://www.maketheroadnj.org/legal>

Union Public Library: Free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Classes

Union Township's Public Library provides free ESOL classes to all interested New Jersey residents. Course books will be provided. Classes meet 2 days per week for 8 weeks.

1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083

(908) 851-5450

123 Hilton Avenue, Union, NJ 07088

(908) 851-5451

<https://www.uniontownship.com/858/Free-English-Classes>

WorkForce Advantage

Offers beginner, intermediate, and advanced occupational ESL programs for a fee to help participants become "work-ready."

49 Broad Street, 2nd Floor, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 355-2288

<https://www.workforceadvantageusa.com/English-as-a-2nd-Language>

Job Training & Career Counseling Programs

See [Immigration Legal Services](#) for organizations that assist with Work Authorization.

Elizabeth One-Stop Career Center

Provides job fairs, job search assistance, career counseling, occupational training services, as well as interview and resume assistance. Also offers ESL classes.

921 Elizabeth Avenue, 5th Floor, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 965-3929

https://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/plan/support/njccsites/union_elizabeth_oscc.shtml

St. Joseph Social Service Center: Project Ready

Project Ready is a free five-week long program for adults seeking employment that covers job readiness and computer skills. Classes are generally held Tuesdays-Fridays from 9:30am-2:30pm. Prospective students must attend an information session and an interview prior to qualifying for the program.

118 Division Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 353-1045, Ext. 213

<https://www.sjeliz.org/program-overview.html>

Urban League of Union County

A non-profit organization that assists minority populations to achieve social and economic equality. Provides job search, job readiness, skills development, and computer programs.

1139 E. Jersey Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 351-7200

http://www.uloucnj.org/economic_development_employment0.aspx

The following organizations also provide job readiness training and/or career counseling.

See [English Language Programs](#) above for details on each organization.

- International Rescue Committee (Elizabeth Office)
- Workforce Advantage

Assistance with Public School Enrollment & English/Special Ed Services

Elizabeth Public Schools: Bilingual/ESL Program

Bilingual/ESL programs and services offered at public schools in Elizabeth, NJ for English language learners in grades K-12.

500 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 436-5340

<https://www.epsnj.org/Page/3787>

Elizabeth Public Schools: High School Welcome Center

The High School Welcome Center is the NJ Board of Education's registration and customer service center to help parents enroll their children into one of Elizabeth's seven high schools.

600 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

(908) 436-5278

<https://www.epsnj.org/Page/3823>

Elizabeth Public Schools: Special Services

Supports students with disabilities and developments Individualized Education Programs for students with disabilities.

Contact Person: Diana Pinto-Gomez | Pinto-GomezDi@epsnj.org

507 Westminster Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 436-5252

<https://www.epsnj.org/Page/3904>

Family Support Organization of Union County

Provides in-person individualized and telephonic support to parents and caregivers with children with special behavioral, mental health, or emotional needs.

1010 Park Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060

(908) 755-0090

<http://www.fso-union.org>

Mental Health Services

A directory of mental health services in Union County, compiled in 2017-2018 by Union County Mental Health Services, can be found here:

<https://ucnj.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/2017-2018-Guide-Mental-Health-Addiction-Services-in-Union-County-1.pdf>

Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services

Provides support for people with mental illnesses. Programs and services include intensive at-home treatment, early intervention services, day rehabilitation services, integrated primary health care, wellness support, as well as educational and career services. Accepts various forms of medical insurance as well as self-pay methods.

615 North Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 355-7886

<https://www.bridgewayrehab.org/>

Family and Children's Services (FACS)

A nonprofit behavioral health and social services agency that provides services such as evidence-based trauma therapy for children and youth, individual and family counseling, as well as parenting support to at-risk, disadvantaged, and underserved families. Accepts Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance (co-payments would apply).

40 North Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 352-7474

<http://www.facsnj.org/home.aspx>

Family Connections NJ

A nonprofit that supports vulnerable families that deal with issues such as trauma, mental illness, addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse. Programs include counseling and therapy for parents and children, adolescent crisis intervention, outpatient programs, and bilingual services.

7 Glenwood Avenue, East Orange, NJ

(973) 675-3817

<https://www.familyconnectionsnj.org/>

Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey

A nonprofit, non-sectarian, health and social services agency that provides services including outpatient mental health treatment, family and individual counseling, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, and career development services.

655 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 352-8375

<https://www.jfscentralnj.org/contact.php>

PROCEED Inc.

Provides family resources, counseling, as well as mental health and substance abuse treatment. Also has a Multicultural Family Success Center that offers both clinical and non-clinical services such as life-skills training, counseling, substance abuse treatment, translation services, and referrals. Most services are free or provided on a sliding-scale.

1122 E. Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 351-7727

<https://www.proceedinc.com/>

Trinitas Department of Behavioral Health and Psychiatry

Operates both in-patient and out-patient services for a variety of mental health and social needs, such as substance abuse, domestic violence, dealing with daily stress, parenting support, etc. Specialized services for adults, children, adolescents, and families. Bilingual staff available.

Please see a directory of contact information for each special program here:

https://trinitasmc.org/behavioral_health.htm

Immigration Legal Services

El Centro Hispano-Americano

Offers legal services to the Spanish-speaking low-income immigrant community in central New Jersey. Represents clients in matters such as residency, work authorization, naturalization, and asylum. Also offers ESL and computer classes on Saturdays, immigration workshops, and other social services.

525 East Front Street, Plainfield, NJ 07060

(908) 753-8730

<https://elcentronj.org/>

International Rescue Committee (Elizabeth Office)

Provides immigration services to newly arrived refugees and immigrants. Services include "Green Card" applications, citizenship and naturalization applications, family reunification petitions, work authorization, UICIS fee waivers, etc.

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

(908) 351-5116

<https://www.rescue.org/united-states/elizabeth-nj#how-does-the-irc-help-refugees-and-immigrants-in-new-jersey>

Make the Road New Jersey

Offers pro bono legal representation in immigration and employment law. Services include immigration petitions, U and T visa applications, and helping with naturalization.

42 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 368-1196

<https://www.maketheroadnj.org/legal>

Immigration Legal Services: Work Authorization

The following organizations provide work authorization assistance.

See [Immigration Legal Services](#) above for details on each organization.

- El Centro Hispano-Americano
- International Rescue Committee (Elizabeth Office)

General Legal Services

A directory of pro bono legal services in Elizabeth, New Jersey and Newark, New Jersey, last updated in April 2020, can be found here:

<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/file/ProBonoNJ/download>

Central Jersey Legal Services

Offers free legal help in civil cases for low-income residents of Mercer, Middlesex, and Union counties. Assists with legal matters such as housing, employment, public benefits, family matters, etc. Has bilingual staff.

60 Prince Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07208

(908) 354-4340

<https://www.lsnj.org/cjls/>

Local Community Groups

Interfaith-RISE

Organization dedicated to resettling and supporting refugees and immigrants in central New Jersey. Assists with housing, ESL, social services, education, medical assistance, mental health services, transportation, and supportive community integration.

19 South 2nd Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904

(732) 249-7349

<http://www.interfaithrise.org/>

International Rescue Committee (Elizabeth Office)

Offers ongoing support to newly arrived refugees and immigrants in the New Jersey area. Services include education and employment assistance, immigration assistance, resettlement, placement services, family reunification, and more.

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

(908) 351-5116

<https://www.rescue.org/united-states/elizabeth-nj#how-does-the-irc-help-refugees-and-immigrants-in-new-jersey>

Jefferson Park Ministries: Family Success Center

A community resource for immigrant groups in Elizabeth offering family support, information and referrals, educational programming, a food pantry, and events such as family games, family picnics, and movie nights.

70 W. Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

(908) 469-9508

<https://jeffersonparks.com/family-success-center/>

Make the Road New Jersey

Offers support, legal services, and educational programming to the immigrant, working-class, and Latinx communities of New Jersey.

42 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

(908) 368-1196

<https://www.maketheroadnj.org/>

Newark, New Jersey

General Social Services

Essex County Department of Citizen Services

County-wide social services agency for families. Assesses eligibility and temporarily assists with emergent financial, medical, and shelter needs of individuals and families through a network of supportive services.

50 South Clinton Street, Suite 5400, East Orange, NJ 07018

(973) 395-8400

<https://essexcountynj.org/citizen-services>

New Community Corporation

Community development organization that delivers comprehensive services, such as food assistance, transitional housing, and workforce preparation programming.

233 West Market Street, Newark, NJ 07103

(973) 623-2800

<https://www.newcommunity.org>

English Language Programs

Bloomfield College

Offers ESL classes to people 15 years of age and older at their American Language Center (8-week or 14-week enrollment options). Also offers access to computer labs, conversational programming, and a tutoring center at no additional cost.

2 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

(973) 748-9000, Ext. 438

<https://bloomfield.edu/itps/american-language-center>

Essex County College

Provides non-credit ESL classes during the day and evenings in four-hour sessions. Students only have to pay for a required textbook.

303 University Avenue, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 877-1894

<https://www.essex.edu/academic-certificate-in-english-as-a-second-language-esl/>

FOCUS Hispanic Center for Community Development

Provides three-month long ESL and civics courses Monday-Thursday from 6-9pm. Free of charge.

441-443 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102-3224

(973) 624-2528, Ext. 119

<https://focus411.org/>

New Community Corporation: Adult Learning Center

Provides ESL classes for all levels. Cost: \$20-\$40. Also offers citizenship, GED, and pre-GED classes.

563 Orange Street, Newark, NJ 07107

(973) 558-5536

<https://www.newcommunity.org/adult-learning-center/>

Newark Public Library

Provides free ESL classes offered at two different locations. Classes run Monday-Friday, 9:30am-1:30pm. Pre-registration is required.

Registration Location: La Casa de Don Pedro, 39 Broadway, 2nd Floor Newark, NJ 07104

Main Library Location: 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 481-4713, Ext. 3306

<https://npl.org/english-as-a-second-language-classes/>

Newark Public Schools: Office of Bilingual/ESL Education

Best place for questions about bilingual education and various ESL programs in the city.

765 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 733-8398

<https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/teaching-learning/bilingual-esl-education/>

Seton Hall University: Division of Volunteer Efforts

Provides free ESL classes on Tuesday & Wednesday from 7:00-8:15pm.

Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, NJ 07079 Boland Hall, Campus Ministry classroom

(973) 761-9702

<https://www13.shu.edu/catholic-mission/dove-esl-tutoring.cfm>

Job Training & Career Counseling Programs

See [Immigration Legal Services](#) below for organizations that assist with Work Authorization.

City of Newark One-Stop Career Center

Provides classes and workshops on internet job searching, resume writing, and interviewing. Other services include placement assistance, job referrals, veteran services, and adult basic education classes.

990 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 733-6400

<https://www.newarknj.gov/card/newark-one-stop-career-center>

Essex County Schools of Technology

Offers post-secondary career and technical education programs, including courses to become automobile, welding, electrical, and carpentry technicians.

60 Nelson Place, Route 1 North, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 412-2050

<https://www.essextech.org/academics/>

La Casa de Don Pedro

The Hispanic Women's Resource Center provides English language training, support, job skills training, and placement.

75 Park Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104

(973) 482-8312

<http://www.lacasanwk.org/immigration-services-integration/>

New Community Career & Technical Institute

Works to improve the life of all students through education and occupational training. Offers the following programs: Automotive Technician, Diesel Technician, Medical Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Culinary Arts, and Business/Computer Technologies.

274 South Orange Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

(973) 824-6484

<https://newcommunitytech.edu>

North Jersey Career Academy

NJ Department of Labor approved center that provides workforce development skills training with emphasis on early childhood education, computer literacy, and job search.

393 Central Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

(973) 483-3444, Ext. 280

<https://www.njcric.org/copy-of-career-opportunities>

Samuel Morris Career Institute

Provides healthcare career counseling specifically for lab, pharmacy, nursing, and elder-care careers. Also facilitates a youth training program in computer support.

701 McCarter Highway, Suite 201, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 648-8000

<http://www.smcinj.com/help-desk-student-counselling/>

Assistance with Public School Enrollment & English/Special Ed Services**Newark Enrolls**

This online resource is affiliated with the Newark Board of Education. Their primary role is to teach parents about universal enrollment policies, assist them through the process of enrolling their child in the public school system, and ensure that every child is matched with an appropriate school. An enrollment guidebook can be found on their website at <https://newarkenrolls.org/guidebook>.

(973) 733-7333

<https://newarkenrolls.org/contact/>

Newark Public Schools: Contact Center

Acts as the first point of contact for all Newark Public School constituents. Fields any public school related inquiries in English and Spanish. Accepts inquiries regarding ESL services.

765 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 733-7333

<https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/contact-center/>

Newark Public Schools: Bilingual/ESL Education

Best place for questions about bilingual education and various ESL programs in the city.

765 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 733-8398

<https://www.nps.k12.nj.us/departments/teaching-learning/bilingual-esl-education/>

Newark Trust for Education

A nonprofit organization that helps connect parents with nearby schools. Newark Trust for Education is committed to improving partnerships between schools and families.

494 Broad Street, Suite LL30, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 648-0300

<http://www.newarktrust.org>

SPAN Parent Advocacy Network: Parent Training & Information Center

Helps families know their rights and guarantee that their children receive the educational services (including ESL and/or Special Education) they need for a productive life.

35 Halsey Street, 4th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 642-8100

<https://spanadvocacy.org>

Mental Health Services

Master directory of service providers in Essex County available online at:

<http://www.essexresourcenet.org/health-services/behavioral-mental-health/>

All Star Counseling

Serves youth and families through mentoring programs, parent coaching, life coaching, and behavioral assistance. Their staff specializes in trauma, abuse and neglect, anxiety disorders, depressive disorders, family centered therapy, and play therapy. Provides services in Spanish.

100 Broughton Avenue, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

(201) 570-4242

<http://allstarcounseling.org>

Center for Children’s Behavioral Health

Runs a partial care treatment program for seriously emotionally disturbed children intended to minimize the need for psychiatric hospitalization. Also hosts an afterschool intensive outpatient program which includes psychiatric assessment, therapy, and psychoeducation.

356 Horseneck Road, Fairfield, NJ 07004

(973) 575-2794

<https://www.ccbh nj.org>

Community Advancement & Behavioral Transformation

Offers various modalities of counseling/psychotherapy, behavioral assistance, mental health assessments, and case management services specifically for children. In-home services such as therapy, supportive counseling, and skills training, among others, are also available.

111 Northfield Avenue, Suite 208A, West Orange, NJ 07052

(862) 201-7842

www.caabt.org

Family Service Bureau

A licensed outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment center dedicated to enriching family life through prevention, intervention, and community programs. Services include individual, couple, and family counseling, as well as domestic violence counseling, and anger management groups.

274 South Orange Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103

(973) 412-2056

<https://www.newcommunity.org/health-care-and-behavioral-health-services/family-service-bureau-of-newark/>

Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris County

Provides a wide range of high quality, affordable, and culturally competent outpatient mental health services for residents of Essex County. Offers individual and group outpatient mental health treatment and in-school supportive counseling for children at the Riskin Children's Center. The Center integrates many services under one roof, addressing mental health and any related physical problems a child may have.

33 South Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07042

(973) 509-9777

<https://www.mhaessexmorris.org>

Partnership for Children of Essex (PCE)

Implements a wraparound model of care for children and families by providing holistic and individualized mental health and social services. A PCE Care Manager is assigned to each youth and their caregiver to build an individualized Child and Family Team that best supports the needs of the child and family.

300 Broadacres Drive, 3rd Floor, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

(973) 323-3000

<https://www.pcenj.org/>

True Care Mental Health Clinics

Offers child, teen, and adult mental health services, including clinics on anger management, anxiety management, and life skills.

802 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 877-1900

<http://truecareusa.com/>

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.

An agency in New Jersey that works with young people and families with complex needs. Among many services, they provide mentoring, family support, and youth anger management/coping skills trainings.

45 Academy Street, Suite 303, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 624-1520

<http://www.yapinc.org>

Youth Development Clinic of Newark

Provides mental health treatment primarily to children under the age of 18 year. Youth Development Clinic works in cooperation with other agencies, including academic institutions and mental health certification boards.

500 Broad Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 1, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 623-5080

www.ydcnj.org

Immigration Legal Services

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark: Bishop Francis Center for Immigration Legal Services

Provides low-fee and pro bono assistance with a wide range of cases, including removal defense, humanitarian immigration relief, family-based petitions, naturalization, and Special Immigrant Juvenile cases. Also provides legal orientation for custodians of minors.

976 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 733-3516

<http://www.ccannj.com>

La Casa de Don Pedro

Empowers recent arrivals with orientation, education, support, and immigration legal assistance. Specializes in family reunification and adjustment of status cases.

75 Park Avenue, Newark, NJ

(973) 482-8312

<http://www.lacasanwk.org/immigration-services-integration/>

Rutgers Law School-Newark: Immigrant Rights Clinic

Assists with various forms of relief from removal, including asylum, protection for victims of human trafficking, protection for battered immigrants, and cancellation of removals.

123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 353-3397

<https://law.rutgers.edu/immigrant-rights-clinic>

Immigration Legal Services: Work Authorization

American Friends Service Committee: Immigrant Rights Program (Newark)

Provides legal services to as well as advocates and organizes for immigrant communities in New Jersey. Offers legal services in a variety of areas, including employment authorization.

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

(973) 643-1924

<https://www.afsc.org/program/immigrant-rights-program-newark-nj>

General Legal Services

Essex County Legal Aid Association

Serves qualified low-income residents in Essex County, NJ by providing free emergency legal advice related to civil matters. Provides emergency legal services on-site at the Hall of Records in Newark. They provide emergency legal advice, legal paperwork preparation, and counseling for qualified low-income residents.

456 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Room 118, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 622-0063

<https://eclanj.org>

Rutgers School of Law

Rutgers School of Law has many different student and faculty run clinics, which include the following: Child Advocacy Clinic, Urban Legal Clinic, Community Law Clinic, and Women's Rights Litigation Clinic. To inquire about free legal representation in one of these clinics, contact their Newark location.

123 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 353-5576

<https://law.rutgers.edu/list-rutgers-law-school-clinical-programs>

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ)

A comprehensive pro bono program of lawyers who serve low-income individuals throughout New Jersey. To date, VLJ volunteers have assisted thousands of indigent persons in the community with critical legal matters such as divorce, domestic violence, special education issues, bankruptcy, evictions, and more.

P.O. Box 32040, Newark, NJ 07102

(973) 645-1955

<http://www.vljnj.org>

Local Community Groups

FOCUS—Hispanic Center for Community Development

Provides resources for community empowerment, growth, and self-sufficiency in Essex County. They have a Family Success Center, a community food pantry, and youth development programs, which include homework help.

441-443 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07201

(973) 624-2528

<https://focus411.org>

Ironbound Community Corporation: Family Success Center

The Family Success Center hosts community workshops, where residents can build bonds with each other while learning financial literacy, family health, and advocacy skills.

Community organizers educate families on environmental justice and housing rights.

Families can participate in various activities, such as working on a community garden.

Family Success Center West: 317 Elm Street, Newark, NY 07105

(973) 465-0555

Family Success Center East: 29 Cortland Street, Newark, NJ 07105

(973) 344-5949

<https://ironboundcc.org/family-success-centers/>

La Casa de Don Pedro

Through education and economic development strategies, neighborhood revitalization initiatives, and family stabilization programs, La Casa de Don Pedro's resident-centered agenda works to ensure that Greater Newark's immigrant communities engage in the region's growth, while maintaining community and becoming more self-sufficient.

75 Park Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104

(973) 482-8312

<http://www.lacasanwk.org/immigration-services-integration/>