



LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT SNAPSHOT

TRIANNUAL NEWSLETTER
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LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Our Legal Services Department, among other things, bridges the gap between our program participants and courts, administrative agencies, and other government institutions that can frustrate their job-seeking efforts.

- We help participants navigate the forms, document collection, and other bureaucratic hurdles that must be cleared to obtain original or replacement identification (e.g., MVC Driver License, MVC identification card, birth certificate, and social security card), which is essential to secure and retain gainful employment.
- We help participants remove barriers to obtaining identification instruments. For example, we correspond with municipal courts to waive or reduce fines or dismiss warrants that block participants' efforts to restore their driver licenses.



NEARLY 200 BIRTH CERTIFICATES OBTAINED

The Legal Services Department obtained 190 program participant birth certificates. Our goal, which we almost always meet and often exceed, is to provide clients with certified copies of their birth certificates within 2 weeks of their requests. We have obtained birth certificates from Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York City, New York State, Washington D.C., and West Virginia.

44 NJ DRIVER LICENSE RESTORATIONS

We assisted 44 of our program participants with resolving any and all underlying driver license suspensions and paid their License Restoration Fees so as to completely restore their driving privileges.

OVER \$25,000 IN FINES DISMISSED

We were successful at having \$25,037.84 in fines dismissed in August through October after advocating for our program participants in the New Jersey Municipal Courts.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

On September 15, 2020, NJRC hosted an event on the new Clean Slate Expungement Law with state experts. Guest speakers included Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Attorney General Gubrir Grewal, and Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez. The new law (P.L. 2019, c.269, ss. 2, 3, 5, 7), signed on December 18, 2019 by Governor Phil Murphy, which will go into effect on February 15, 2021 (per Executive Order No.178), will provide our program participants with the opportunity to become and remain gainfully employed.

PRO BONO EFFORTS

NJRC and its Legal Services Department continue to develop its pro bono referral program with New Jersey law firms and pro bono organizations. For instance, NJRC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Volunteer Lawyers for Justice with the purpose to develop and expand a framework of cooperation wherein NJRC will refer its program participants to VLJ's Reentry Legal Services Program (ReLeSe) for expungement of criminal records. In addition, we entered into an MOU with Central Jersey Legal Services to create a program wherein our participants will have access to legal services related to removing barriers to employment.



NJRC PARTNERSHIPS

The Legal Department has solidified partnerships and entered into Memoranda of Understanding with the following entities to provide a robust array of needed services for NJRC participants:

Training and Employment Services

- 1Huddle, Inc.
- Bergen County One-Stop Career Center
- Bergen Probation Division Community Service Program
- City of Newark's Office of Reentry
- Community Food Bank of New Jersey
- County of Essex Correctional Facility
- County of Essex Correction Facility and New Jersey State Parole Board
- County of Union/ Union County Department of Corrections
- Essex County Division of Training and Employment (ECDTE)
- Foodbank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, Inc. dba Fulfill
- Hudson Probation Division Community Service Program
- Mercer County One Stop Career Center
- Middlesex County Office of Career Opportunity
- Middlesex Probation Division Community Service Program
- Monmouth County Workforce Development
- Monmouth Probation Division Community Service Program
- Montclair State University
- Newark Workforce Development Board
- New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers
- Ocean County PIC, Inc.
- Operation HOPE
- Passaic County One-Stop Career Center
- Prevention Links
- Township of Woodbridge, as Administrator of the Recovery Employment Solutions
- Union County One-Stop Career Center
- United Counties Economic Development Corporation

Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers

- Alliance Community Healthcare, Inc.
- Metropolitan Family Health Network, Inc.
- Newark Community Health Center
- Neighborhood Health Services Corporation
- North Hudson Community Action Corporation
- Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc.
- Paterson Community Health Center



PARTNERSHIPS (CONTINUED)

Addiction/Medically Assisted Treatment Services

- CPC Behavioral Healthcare
- Bergen New Bridge Medical Center
- CarePlus New Jersey
- Discovery Institute
- Integrity House
- Intervention Specialist
- Ocean Mental Health Services
- Real House, Inc.
- RWJ Barnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery
- Seashore Family Services of New Jersey
- Sunrise Clinical Services
- Straight & Narrow, Inc.
- Trinitas Regional Medical Center
- Turning Point
- University Behavioral Health Care

Additional Healthcare Services

(including mental and behavioral healthcare services)

- Advanced Behavioral Care Services
- Buddies of New Jersey, Inc.
- Jersey City Medical Center, Center for Comprehensive Care
- Newark Beth Israel Medical Center
- New Hope Integrated Behavioral Health Care
- Prevention Links Support Team for Addiction Program
- Recovery Advocates For The Shore

Advocacy Services

- Coalition of Latino Pastors and Ministers
- League of Women Voters of New Jersey
- Women Who Never Give Up, Inc.

Legal Services

- Central Jersey Legal Services, Inc.
- Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

Therapeutic and Other Social Services

- ICNA Relief
- Suzanne Herrmann, LCSW, LLC
- YWCA Union County