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CONNECT TO RESOURCES.
FIND YOUR ECONOMIC FOOTING.

WELCOMING CENTER
FOR NEW PENNSYLVANIANS
The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians is a nonprofit organization that connects newly arrived individuals from around the world with the economic opportunities they need to succeed in our region. We know from experience that adjusting to life in a new country is hard. The Welcoming Center is here to help.

The purpose of this Haitian Immigrant Resource Guide is to provide information about services available to those in the Philadelphia area impacted by the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. There are many different resources available to assist you.

Due to space and other limitations, we cannot list all organizations or programs. We have tried to provide the most accurate information. It is important to contact the agency to obtain eligibility requirements, cost and other details.

The information here is only the beginning. If you are aware of changes or additions that may be appropriate to include, contact the Welcoming Center at 215-557-2626 or info@welcomingcenter.org. Our staff is here to answer your questions as you build a new life in the Philadelphia region.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 2011
To bring an adopted child, including a relative or identified child, to the U.S. from Haiti, you must be a U.S. Citizen and be found eligible to adopt by the U.S. Government. Haitian adoption law requires that an adoption take place in Haiti before the child leaves the country with an American visa. Applications for guardianship for the purposes of taking children out of Haiti for adoption are not permitted. Adoptions must be approved by Haiti’s courts and by the Haitian Ministry of Social Affairs’ Institut du Bien Etre Social et de Recherches (OBESR), the Haitian Government’s adoption investigatory agency. In addition, the child that you adopt must be an “orphan” as defined by U.S. immigration law.

Prospective adoptive parents must satisfy both Haitian adoption and U.S. immigration laws to obtain an immigrant visa for the adopted child. You should contact an attorney in the U.S. with experience in international adoption and U.S. immigration law before you begin the adoption. Despite a successfully completed Haitian adoption, if further investigation finds that the child does not meet the U.S. definition of “orphan”, the child will not be eligible for a visa to immigrate to the U.S.

Information about adopting from Haiti is available at: www.adoption.state.gov/country/haiti.html

See also the Legal Resources section of this Guide.

by C.J. Lysford, Esq., Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
800-375-5283
HaitianAdoptions@dhs.gov

U.S. Embassy in Haiti
HAITI MAILING ADDRESS
Boulevard du 15 Octobre
Tabarre 41
Tabarre, Haiti

U.S. Department of State
Office of Children’s Issues
2201 C Street, NW SA-29
Washington, DC 20520
888-407-4747
adoption.state.gov

U.S. MAILING ADDRESS
3400 Port-au-Prince PL
Washington, DC 20521-3400
(866)829-2842 (from U.S.)
(509)2229-8000 (from Haiti)
www.haiti.usembassy.gov
If you do not earn enough money to support yourself and your family, or if you cannot work because of a disability, you may be eligible to receive cash and employment assistance known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This is sometimes called “welfare.” You must meet certain requirements. Not all immigrants are eligible. To apply call 800-842-2020, visit your local County Assistance Office, or www.compass.state.pa.us/.

**Bucks County Assistance Office**  
1214 Veterans Highway  
Bristol, PA 19007-2593  
215-781-3300

**Chester County Assistance Office**  
100 James Buchanan Drive  
Thorndale, PA 19372-1132  
610-466-1000

**Delaware County Assistance Office**  
Headquarters  
701 Crosby Street, Suite A  
Chester, PA 19013-6099  
610-447-5500

**Montgomery County Assistance Office**  
Norristown District  
1931 New Hope Street  
Norristown, PA 19401-3191  
877-398-5571

**Philadelphia County Assistance Office**  
Headquarters  
1400 Spring Garden Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130-4088  
215-560-2900

Depending upon their citizenship or residency status in the U.S., survivors or the family members of those who have died might qualify for disability or survivor benefits through the Social Security Administration.

**Social Security Benefit General Information**  
800-772-1213

**ENGLISH WEBSITE**  
www.socialsecurity.gov

**CREOLE WEBSITE**  
www.socialsecurity.gov/multilanguage/Haitcreo/haitcreo.htm
Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies provide information on child care and referrals to child care providers based on your specific needs. CCIS agencies also administer the Child Care Works subsidized child care program. For child care questions, contact the CCIS agency for your area or call the Child Care Works Helpline at 877-472-5437.

CCIS of Bucks County
70 West Oakland Avenue, Suite 102
Doylestown, PA 18901-4214
215-348-1283

CCIS of Chester County
601 Westtown Road
West Chester, PA 19382-4958
610-344-5717

CCIS of Delaware County
110 South 69th Street, 2nd Floor
Upper Darby, PA 19082
484-461-6400

CCIS of Montgomery County
1430 Dekalb Street
P.O. Box 311
Norristown, PA 19404-0311
610-278-3707

CCIS of Philadelphia
1500 South Columbus Blvd., 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19147
215-271-0433
Building your social network in a new community is difficult even under the best circumstances. Luckily, there are several community organizations in the Philadelphia area ready to provide cross-cultural information, social support, and assistance with making a social adjustment.

**Elise Joseph Foundation**  
P.O. Box 12595  
Philadelphia, PA 19151  
267-385-7891  
www.elisejosephfoundation.org

**Emission Radiophonique Meli Melo**  
P.O. Box 11097  
Philadelphia, PA 19141  
Jocelyn Jéan Bapiste  
267-315-8516  
Yvon Désulmé  
267-872-2087  
www.mmrtv.net

**Haitian Community Center of Philadelphia**  
400 N. 63rd Street, Room A, 1st Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19151  
484-486-3598  
www.hchc.populus.org

**Haitian Community Help Center**  
521 W. Olney Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19120  
267-312-0693

**Haitian Coalition of Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 12421  
Philadelphia, PA 19151  
215-439-5409  
www.haitiancoalition.org

**Haitian Clergy of Philadelphia**  
258 E. Roosevelt Blvd  
Philadelphia, PA 19120  
215-329-5812

**Haitian Clergy of Philadelphia**  
258 E. Roosevelt Blvd  
Philadelphia, PA 19120  
215-329-5812

**Haitian Professionals of Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 16503  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
267-230-2321  
www.hpphillyphilly.org

**L’Informateur, Le magazine mensuel**  
Louis Phanor, Editor  
P.O. Box 571  
Jenkintown, PA 19046  
215-886-1074

**Radio Vision Celeste 88.5 (sea)**  
215-537-6050  
215--537-6053  
www.radiovisionceleste.com
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

IF YOU ARE IN FEAR FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE SAFETY DIAL 911. Contact one of these hotlines for support and information as you explore your options when dealing with an abusive relationship.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
800-799-SAFE (7233)

National Sexual Assault Hotline
800-656-HOPE (4673)

The following local domestic violence agencies serve individuals and families in the region. Services generally include crisis intervention, counseling and other supportive services.

A Woman’s Place of Bucks County
P.O. Box 299
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-343-9241 9:00am to 4:30pm
Monday to Friday
24-hour hotline 800-220-8116
www.awomensplace.org

From locations in Doylestown and Bristol, A Woman’s Place offers short-term individual and group counseling for domestic violence victims/survivors and their children as well as an emergency shelter for victims, survivors, and their children.

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County, Inc.
P.O. Box 832
West Chester, PA 19381
610-431-3546
24 hour hotlines: 610-431-1430
Toll Free: 1-888-711-6270
www.dvccc.com

The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County provides services to survivors of domestic abuse at their main, confidentially located site in West Chester and at satellite sites in Coatesville, Kennett Square, and Oxford. Services are provided free of charge.
The Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County
610-565-6272
24-hour hotline 610-565-4590
www.dapdc.org
The Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County provides a number of services for victims of domestic abuse, including, counseling, housing, legal services, medical and welfare advocacy.

Laurel House
P.O. Box 764
Norristown, PA 19404
610-277-1860
24-hour hotline 800-642-3150
www.laurel-house.org
Laurel House is a comprehensive domestic violence agency serving individuals, families and communities throughout Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

The Women’s Center of Montgomery County
Toll Free 800-773-2424
Pottstown 610-970-7363
Norristown 610-279-1548
Montgomery County 215-635-7344
www.wcmontco.org
The Women’s Center of Montgomery County services include: a 24-hour domestic violence hotline; elder abuse counseling and supportive services, individualized peer and group domestic violence counseling; telephone counseling, information and referral; legal advocacy; court and hospital accompaniment; and emergency relocation funding for victims of domestic violence.

Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline
866-SAFE-014 (723-3014)
www.womenagainstabuse.org
The Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline provides crisis intervention, counseling, safety planning, referrals for domestic abuse services and other needs, in multiple languages. The hotline is toll free and is answered by trained counselors 24-hours a day.
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

For people who are feeling sadness, fear and anxiety, there are many sources of emotional support available. Local Behavioral Health offices offer a range of behavioral health services including emergency and crisis intervention services, individual and group counseling, and family support programs. If you or someone you know is experiencing distress or feeling overwhelmed by painful emotions related to the Haitian earthquake or other traumatic event, contact an experienced crisis counselor. The emergency services telephone numbers listed here are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In an emergency involving physical safety, always dial 911.

Bucks County Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation
600 Louis Drive, Ste 101
Warminster, PA 18974
215-442-0760
Emergency Services: 800-499-7455

Chester County Crisis Center
222 North Walnut Street
West Chester, PA 19380
Telephone: 610-918-2100
Emergency Services: 610-918-2100

Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health
20 S. 69th Street
Upper Darby, PA 19082
610-713-2365
Emergency Services: 610-352-4703

Montgomery County Behavioral Health/Developmental Disabilities Department
1430 DeKalb Street
Norristown, PA 19401
610-278-3642
Emergency Services: 610-279-6100

Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health & Mental Retardation Services
1101 Market Street, 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-685-5400
Emergency Services: 215-685-6440
Children’s Emergency Services: 215-456-7430
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Pennsylvania unemployment services, including filing a new claim for unemployment benefits, filing for weekly unemployment benefits, and inquiring about the status of a claim, are available on the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry website: www.uc.pa.gov

You may also file a claim by calling the statewide Unemployment Compensation Service Center at 888-313-7284.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd. 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-557-2626
At the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians we help work-authorized immigrants start or reclaim their careers in the U.S. We connect jobseekers to family-sustaining employment opportunities, and entrepreneurs to resources for growing their businesses.

PA CareerLink
PA CareerLink is Pennsylvania's free one-stop service for job seekers. PA CareerLink resources include job listings, unemployment information, social services, and training resources. For a complete list of services and locations visit Pa CareerLink www.cwds.state.pa.us

PA CareerLink Chester County at Coatesville
250 Harmony St.
Coatesville, PA 19320
610-384-9393

PA CareerLink Delaware County at Chester
701 Crosby St., Ste B
Chester, PA 19013
610-447-3307

PA CareerLink Workforce Entry Center
Delaware County Community College
901 S. Media Line Road
Media, PA 19063
610-723-6000

PA CareerLink Montgomery County
1855 New Hope St.
Norristown, PA 19401
610-270-3429

PA CareerLink Philadelphia, Northwest
235 W Chelten Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
267-339-0333

PA CareerLink Philadelphia, Northeast
3210 Red Lion Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19114
215-281-1038

PA CareerLink Philadelphia, North
990 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19120
215-560-5465
OTHER RESOURCES

On-Time Staffing
207 North 9th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-829-0188

Best Personnel
1315 Walnut Street, Suite 320
Philadelphia PA 19107
215-732-3000

The Philadelphia Unemployment Project
and Unemployment Information Center
112 North Broad Street, 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102-1510
215-557-0822

Free Library of Philadelphia
Central Library
1901 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-686-5436
Workplace Wednesdays is a series of classes where job hunters work closely with instructors on all aspects of getting a position.
Learning English is a key step to adapting to American life. Job and career opportunities are limited for those who cannot speak English well. ESL (English as a second language), ESOL (English for speakers of other languages), and EFL (English as a foreign language) all refer to the study of English by speakers who naturally speak another language. To find a class in your neighborhood visit the Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians’ website at www.welcomingcenter.org. Use the zip code of your preferred location to find a class.

Vita Education Services
8 East Court Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-345-8322
www.vitaeducation.org
Literacy programs, including basic literacy, preparation for GED, Family Literacy, Adult Diploma Preparation, and extensive programs in ESL.

Volunteer English Program in Chester County
790 E. Market Street
West Chester, PA 19382
610-918-8222
Individual tutoring for improved English language skills, and cultural understanding.

Delaware County Literacy Council
2217 Providence Ave
Chester, PA 19013
610.876.4811
Individual and small group literacy instruction to adult residents of Delaware County.

Literacy Council of Norristown
113 E. Airy Street
Norristown, PA 19401
610-292-8515
Four levels of group instruction and private tutoring are available to teach you to speak, write, and read in English.

Center for Literacy
636 South 48th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19143
215-474-1235
ESL classes serving communities in Northeast, South and West Philadelphia as well as Center City.

Community College of Philadelphia (CCP)
1700 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19130
College doesn’t have to be out of reach for English language learners or those with limited income. CCP has a number of programs that help low-income students attend class. Unemployed or underemployed Philadelphia residents may be able to receive assistance through the New Choices/New Options Program. Call 215-751-8933 for more information. If you receive cash assistance or food stamps, you may be able to receive assistance through the KEYS program. Call 215-751-8025 for more information.
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are used to buy food. Find out more about SNAP, including eligibility requirements, from your local County Assistance office (listed in this Guide under Cash Assistance).

For help completing a SNAP application, call PathWaysPA at 610-543-5022.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federal government program that provides healthy supplemental foods and nutrition services for pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women and infants and children under age 5. To apply for the WIC Program, call your local WIC office (listed below) and schedule an appointment. If you have any questions about eligibility, contact the WIC Hotline at 800-WIC-WINS.

BUCKS COUNTY
Health Department
1282 Alms House Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-345-3494

CHESTER COUNTY
Health Department
601 Westtown Road, Suite 290
West Chester, PA 19380
610-344-6225

DELAWARE COUNTY
Community Hospital
WIC Administrative Office
2600 West 9th Street
Chester, PA 19013
610-497-7668

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Maternal and Family Health Services, Inc.
262 East King Street
Pottstown, PA 19464-5568
610-323-8160 or 866-942-8436

PHILADELPHIA
North, Inc.
642 North Broad Street, Suite 101
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215-978-6100 or 800-743-3300
northwic.org

Information on local emergency feeding programs and resources is also available through the National Hunger Hotline. The Hotline connects individuals in need to emergency food in their community, government assistance programs, and other social services. Call 866-348-6479 or visit www.whyhunger.org.
EMERGENCY FOOD
Call to confirm the days and times they are open, especially around holidays. Food from the pantries is usually free. A “Self-Declaration of Income” may be required. Some pantries also require a photo ID of the adult receiving food. Most pantries serve only clients who live in their area. Many local churches not listed here also offer emergency food help.

The Salvation Army
Lower Bucks County Levittown Corps and Community Center
215 Appletree Drive
Levittown, PA 19058
215-945-0717
www.use.salvationarmy.org

Chester County Food Bank
1208 Horseshoe Pike (RT 322)
Downingtown, PA 19335
610-344-5300
www.chestercountyfoodbank.org

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
Prospect Hill Baptist Church
703 Lincoln Avenue
Prospect Park, PA 19076
610-532-9000
www.delcoloavesandfishes.org

Food Resource Center
Montgomery County Community Action Development Commission
113 East Main Street
Norristown, PA 19401
610-277-6363 x 122
www.cadcom.org

Philabundance
3616 Galloway Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148
215-339-0900
www.philabundance.org
HEALTHCARE

EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
If you need immediate medical attention, call 911. Be ready to describe how you feel and give the dispatcher your address. The dispatcher will send an ambulance to where you are. Remember, calling 911 is for emergencies only. There will be fees charged for the ambulance, and all the emergency room services as well. These can be very expensive if you do not have medical insurance. Emergency Medical Assistance, which covers treatment of emergency medical conditions, is available regardless of immigration status. For information on applying for Emergency Medical Assistance, call Community Legal Services at 215-227-2400 or the Pennsylvania Health Law Project at 1-800-274-3258.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE
Health insurance is not automatically provided by the government in the U.S. To find out whether you are eligible for public (government) health benefits, contact the Pennsylvania Health Law Project at 800-274-3258 or visit www.phlp.org/.

Medical Assistance
800-692-7462 or www.dpw.state.pa.us/servicesprograms/medicalassistance/
Medical Assistance, also referred to as Medicaid, provides payment for health care services on behalf of eligible low-income individuals with high medical expenses.

Children’s Health Insurance Program
800-986-5437 or www.chipcoverspakids.com
If your income is more than the Medical Assistance income limit, your children may be eligible for coverage through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP covers all uninsured children up to age 19 who are not eligible for Medical Assistance. For many families there is no cost. Families with incomes above the free CHIP limits pay low monthly premiums and co-pays.

Adult Basic
800-462-2742 or www.ins.state.pa.us/Adult Basic health insurance covers the basic healthcare needs of Pennsylvanians age 19-64 who have no health insurance and who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Select Plan for Women
800-842-2020 or www.selectplanforwomen.com/Select Plan for Women offers free and confidential family planning and women’s health services.

PA Fair Care
888-767-7015 or www.PAFairCare.com
PA Fair Care is Pennsylvania’s health plan for uninsured adults with pre-existing conditions. This temporary plan is available on a first-come basis until the available slots have filled.
PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE

If you are not eligible for public health insurance coverage, you can purchase health insurance from a private company such as Blue Cross or Aetna. Make sure to read the information carefully and ask for an explanation if you are not sure what benefits you are getting. Do not sign a contract unless you understand the cost and the requirements of the insurance you are purchasing.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

The Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic
595 West State Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
215-345-2260
Serves low-income uninsured or underinsured adults and children in Bucks County. Medical and dental services are provided at no cost and no insurance is accepted.

The Clinic in Phoenixville
143 Church Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-935-1134
Comprehensive medical care including specialty services and wellness counseling to uninsured children and adults. All patients are expected to make some contribution towards their care.

ChesPenn Health Services
2600 West 9th Street, 2 North
Chester, PA 19013
610-485-3800
ChesPenn Health Services has clinics in Chester, Coatsville, and Upper Darby, serving Chester, and Delaware County residents regardless of ability to pay.

HealthLink Medical Center
1775 Street Road
Southampton, PA 18966
215-364-4247
HealthLink offers primary medical and dental care to eligible working uninsured adults living in Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

Philadelphia Department of Public Health
215-685-6790
People who live in Philadelphia can get medical care at one of the eight City Health Centers located in neighborhoods throughout the city. If you are uninsured, expect to pay a small fee based on your family size and income. Benefits counselors are available to assist you with applying for health insurance you can afford.
Finding a safe and affordable place to live is one of the first steps in making your home in Philadelphia. There are many different types of housing and a wide range of prices. Finding the right place for you and your family to live will take some effort. There are several ways you can find out about apartments:

- Talk to friends and family. Personal connections can be a good way to find a place to live.
- Check with churches and other religious organizations.
- Look for lists of apartments in public places (such as a bulletin board at a grocery store) and on websites such as Craiglist. Beware of tricks. Never give your Social Security number or immigration documents to a potential landlord.


**Bucks County Housing Development Corporation**

9187 New Falls Road, Suite 203-L  
Fallsington, PA 19054  
215-295-1443  
Provides affordable housing opportunities to lower-income elderly residents and low to moderate income families.

**The Housing Authority of the County of Chester**

30 West Barnard Street, Suite 2  
West Chester, PA 19382  
610-436-9200  
Public housing and affordable housing options for Chester County
Community Action Agency of Delaware County (CAADC)
CAADC Colony Building
511 Welsh Rd.
Chester, PA 19013
610-874-8451
Office Hours - Monday through Friday 9:00 to 3:30
Owns and manages affordable housing units in Delaware County.

The Housing Association of Delaware Valley (HADV)
658 N Watts Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19123
215-978-0224
Provides housing counseling services to homeowners and renters in the Philadelphia to help people obtain and maintain decent affordable housing.

Montgomery County Housing Authority
104 W. Main Street, Suite 1
Norristown, PA 19401
610-275-5720
Provides housing and homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income persons and families.

City of Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing (OSH)
1430 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA  19107
215-686-7150
OSH coordinates the city of Philadelphia’s response to homelessness. Services include case management, emergency food and transitional housing.

Ridge Avenue Center
1360 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Intake and after hours reception for adult males 24-hours a day 7-days a week.

Eliza Shirley
1320 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-568-5111
Intake and reception after 5pm for females and families with children.

Emergency Housing in Philadelphia

Apple Tree Family Center
1430 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-686-7150
Daytime intake for females and families with children.
IMMIGRATION
The Welcoming Center offers free monthly legal clinics where immigrants meet privately with volunteer attorneys. You must make an appointment. For more information, or to set up an appointment, please call 215-557-2626.

The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) keeps an official list of nonprofit organizations with the knowledge and experience to provide immigrants with high-quality legal services for low cost. These are the local agencies on the BIA list:

**Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia**  
227 North 18th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-854-7019

**HIAS & Council Migration Service**  
2100 Arch Street, 3rd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-832-0900

**Lutheran Children & Family Service**  
231 N. 63rd Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139  
215-747-7500 Ext.235

**Nationalities Service Center**  
1216 Arch Street, 4th floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
215-893-8400

**Nueva Esperanza, Inc.**  
4261 North 5th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19140  
215-324-0746

**PRIME – Ecumenical Commitment to Refugees**  
120 Owen Avenue  
Lansdowne, PA 19050  
610-259-4500

**Imigrant Women Legal Assistance Project**  
Philadelphia Legal Assistance  
42 S. 15th Street, Suite 500  
Philadelphia PA 19102  
215-981-3838  
www.philalegal.org

Local legal services providers and victim advocacy organizations work in collaboration to provide comprehensive legal representation in domestic relations and immigration for low-income immigrant and language minority domestic violence survivors in Philadelphia.
OTHER LEGAL ASSISTANCE
For general legal information go to www.PALawHelp.org.

Community Legal Services
Center City Office
1424 Chestnut St
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2505
215-981-3700

Community Legal Services
Law Center North Central
3638 N. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19140-4136
215-227-2400
www.clsphila.org
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia handles civil issues such as welfare, housing, utilities, language access, consumer law. Clients must be Philadelphia residents.

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania
877-429-5994
Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania provides free civil legal services for low-income residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties from 7 offices and several outreach centers. Free help is available with: Family Law, Employment Law, Public Benefits, Housing Problems, Elder Law, Consumer and Bankruptcy Problems.

The Philadelphia Bar Association's Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS) can refer you to an attorney who practices in the area(s) of the law in which you need help. Call the referral service at 215-238-6333 Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. until 5 P.M. You may also obtain a referral at their interactive website www.lris.philadelphiabar.org. There is no cost to obtain a referral to a lawyer through this service. If you decide to contact the lawyer to whom you are referred, the charge is $30 for a 30-minute consultation.
SCHOOL REGISTRATION

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL
All children have the right to free public school from Kindergarten through Grade 12 (the end of high school). It does not matter what kind of immigration status you or your child may have.

Each School District has its own rules for the date, time, and place for student registration. Call the district where you wish to enroll for details on the registration process.

BUCKS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School District</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bensalem Township School District</td>
<td>215-750-2800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bristol Borough School District</td>
<td>215-781-1026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Township School District</td>
<td>215-943-3200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial School District</td>
<td>215-441-6000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Council Rock School District</td>
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<td>Morrisville Borough School District</td>
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<td>Neshaminy School District</td>
<td>215-809-6000</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Hope - Solebury School District</td>
<td>215-862-5372 ext. 6226</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palisades School District</td>
<td>610-847-5131</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pennridge School District</td>
<td>215-257-5011</td>
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<td>Pennsbury School District</td>
<td>215-428-4100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quakertown Community School District</td>
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CHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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<tr>
<th>School District</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avon Grove School District</td>
<td>610-869-2441</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coatesville Area School District</td>
<td>610 466-2495</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downingtown Area School District</td>
<td>610-269-8460, ext. 6112</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Valley School District</td>
<td>610-889-2100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kennett Consolidated School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Octorara Area School District</td>
<td>610-593-8238 ext. 3501</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owen J. Roberts School District</td>
<td>610-469-5111</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxford Area School District</td>
<td>610-932-6600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phoenixville Area School District</td>
<td>484-927-5000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tredyffrin/Easttown School District</td>
<td>610-240-1900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unionville-Chadds Ford School District</td>
<td>610-347-0970</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Chester Area School District</td>
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DELaware COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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<th>School District</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chester Upland School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chichester School District</td>
<td>610-485-6881</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garnet Valley School District</td>
<td>610-579-7367</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haverford Township School District</td>
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<td>Interboro School District</td>
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<td>Marple Newtown School District</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Radnor Township School District</td>
<td>610-688-8100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ridley School District</td>
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<td>Southeast Delco School District</td>
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<td>Springfield School District</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Darby School District</td>
<td>610-352-2400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wallingford-Swarthmore School District</td>
<td>610-892-3470</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Penn School District</td>
<td>610-284-8005 ext. 234</td>
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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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<td>Colonial School District</td>
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<td>Hatboro-Horsham School District</td>
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<td>Jenkintown School District</td>
<td>215-885-3722</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Merion School District</td>
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<td>Methacton School District</td>
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<td>Norristown School District</td>
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<td>North Penn School District</td>
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<td>Perkiomen Valley School District</td>
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<td>Souderton School District</td>
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<td>Spring-Ford Area School District</td>
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<td>Upper Dublin School District</td>
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<td>Upper Perkiomen School District</td>
<td>215-679-7961</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wissahickon School District</td>
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**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>215-400-4000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PRE-SCHOOL
Under the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts program, (www.pakeys.org) younger children who qualify may be eligible for free pre-school programs. The rules for these programs depend on where you live. There are always limited seats available. It is important to get your child placed on the waiting list early. If the program is for 4-year-olds, check to see if your child can be put on the list when she is 2-1/2 or 3. For more information contact your local school district or one of the locations listed below.

BUCKS COUNTY
Morrisville School District 215-736-5280
Neshaminy School District 215-809-6552
School District of Bristol Township 215-943-3200
United Way of Bucks County 215-949-1660

CHESTER COUNTY
Childtime Learning Center 610-380-2105
Creative Education Inc. 610-268-2770
Pottstown School District 610-970-6655
Warwick Child Care Inc. 610-363-7375

DELAWARE COUNTY
Chester Upland School District 610-447-3600
Delaware County Intermediate Unit #25 610-938-9000

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Day Care Centers Inc. 215-572-0862 x204
Freedom Valley YMCA 484-984-2022
Jenkintown Day Nursery 215-884-1992
Montgomery County Community College 215-641-6618
Owen J. Roberts School District 610-326-4522

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA 215-400-5743

IF YOU NEED LEGAL INFORMATION REGARDING SCHOOL REGISTRATION CALL THE EDUCATION LAW CENTER AT 215-238-6970 OR VISIT WWW.ELC-PA.ORG
TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL, YOU WILL NEED TO BRING:

1. **Proof of the child’s age** (This can be a child’s birth certificate from any country, a legal sworn statement by a parent or relative, or old school records)
2. **Proof of address** (For example, a lease or utility bill)
3. **Child’s immunization records** (If necessary, your old school district or a doctor can confirm by telephone that the child is immunized, and then mail the records later)

You are NOT required to show other documents

If you need legal information, contact: Education Law Center (215-238-6970)
General Info: Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians (215-557-2626)

- When you enroll your child in a public, charter, or private school, you must also sign a sworn statement about your child’s disciplinary record. This statement says whether your child has ever been suspended or expelled from school for certain problems, such as violence.

- Schools cannot require ANY OTHER RECORDS, such as photo identification, Social Security numbers, visa/immigration documents, the reason the child is living with you, or a court order about the child’s placement. The new school is responsible for getting the old school records. The old school must send them within 10 days of the new school’s request.

- Schools must enroll the child within 5 business days of receiving the required information. (Schools are not allowed to refuse to enroll a child because of a delay in getting old school records, or a school’s trouble placing the child, or a limited number of days left in the school year.)

- Schools MAY NOT ask about the immigration status of a child or parent as part of the admission process.

The Supreme Court has ruled that all immigrant children can go to school. *(Plyler v. Doe, 1982)*

Sources: Pennsylvania State Code, Sec. 11.11; Basic Education Circular, 24 P.S. §131301