

HAITIAN IMMIGRANT RESOURCE GUIDE



Welcoming
Center *for*
NEW PENNSYLVANIANS

*Connecting immigrants, employers,
and communities*

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The Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians connects newly arrived individuals from around the world with economic opportunities so they can succeed in our region. Our services include job placement, job readiness training, legal clinics, resource referrals, public policy seminars, and small business assistance.

This project was supported by a grant from the William Penn Foundation

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CONNECT TO RESOURCES.

FIND YOUR ECONOMIC FOOTING.



WELCOMING CENTER

FOR NEW PENNSYLVANIANS

WELCOME

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

ADOPTION

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.

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

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

See *also* the Legal Resources section of this Guide.



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

800-375-5283

HaitianAdoptions@dhs.gov

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. Embassy in Haiti

HAITI MAILING ADDRESS

Boulevard du 15 Octobre

Tabarre 41

Tabarre, Haiti

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

CASH ASSISTANCE

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

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

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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 Jean Baptiste
267-315-8516
Yvon Desulme
267-872-2087
www.mmrtv.net

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 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 Professionals of Philadelphia

P.O. Box 16503
Philadelphia, PA 19122
267-230-2321
www.hpphilly.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.

**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.

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.

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

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

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 web site: 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 Cheltenham 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.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Maternal and Family Health Services, Inc.

262 East King Street
Pottstown, PA 19464-5568
610-323-8160 or 866-942-8436

CHESTER COUNTY

Health Department

601 Westtown Road, Suite 290
West Chester, PA 19380
610-344-6225

PHILADELPHIA

North, Inc.

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

DELAWARE COUNTY

Community Hospital

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

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.delcolloavesandfishes.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/medicaidassistance/

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/
SelectPlan 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.

HOUSING

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 Craigslist. Beware of tricks. Never give your Social Security number or immigration documents to a potential landlord.

GOVERNMENT-FUNDED HOUSING HAS LONG WAITING LISTS OF MANY YEARS. DO NOT BELIEVE ANYONE WHO SAYS THEY CAN PUT YOU AT THE TOP OF THE LIST IF YOU GIVE THEM MONEY. THAT IS NOT TRUE.



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.

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.

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.

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.

Emergency Housing in Philadelphia

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.

Apple Tree Family Center

1430 Cherry Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-686-7150

Daytime intake for females and families with children.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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

Nationalities Service Center

1216 Arch Street, 4th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-893-8400

HIAS & Council Migration Service

2100 Arch Street, 3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-832-0900

Nueva Esperanza, Inc.

4261 North 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140
215-324-0746

Lutheran Children & Family Service

231 N. 63rd Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139
215-747-7500 Ext.235

PRIME – Ecumenical Commitment to Refugees

120 Owen Avenue
Lansdowne, PA 19050
610-259-4500

Immigrant 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.Iris.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

Bensalem Township School District	215-750-2800
Bristol Borough School District	215-781-1026
Bristol Township School District	215-943-3200
Centennial School District	215-441-6000
Central Bucks School District	267-893-2000
Council Rock School District	215-944-1000
Morrisville Borough School District	215-736-2681
Neshaminy School District	215-809-6000
New Hope - Solebury School District	215-862-5372 ext. 6226
Palisades School District	610-847-5131
Pennridge School District	215-257-5011
Pennsbury School District	215-428-4100
Quakertown Community School District	215-529-2002

CHESTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Avon Grove School District	610-869-2441
Coatesville Area School District	610 466-2495
Downingtown Area School District	610-269-8460, ext. 6112
Great Valley School District	610-889-2100
Kennett Consolidated School District	610-444-4235
Octorara Area School District	610-593-8238 ext. 3501
Owen J. Roberts School District	610-469-5111
Oxford Area School District	610-932-6600
Phoenixville Area School District	484-927-5000
Tredyffrin/Easttown School District	610-240-1900
Unionville-Chadds Ford School District	610-347-0970
West Chester Area School District	484-266-1000

DELAWARE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Chester Upland School District	610-447-3600
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Chichester School District	610-485-6881
Garnet Valley School District	610-579-7367
Haverford Township School District	610-853-5900 x7204
Interboro School District	610-461-6700
Marple Newtown School District	610-359-4200
Penn-Delco School District	610-497-6300
Radnor Township School District	610-688-8100
Ridley School District	610-534-1900
Rose Tree Media School District	610-627-6000
Southeast Delco School District	610-522-4300
Springfield School District	610-938-6000
Upper Darby School District	610-352-2400
Wallingford-Swarthmore School District	610-892-3470
William Penn School District	610-284-8005 ext. 234

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Abington School District	215-884-4700
Bryn Athyn School District	215-886-9500
Cheltenham Township School District	215-886-9500
Colonial School District	610-834-7535
Hatboro-Horsham School District	215-672-5660
Jenkintown School District	215-885-3722
Lower Merion School District	610-645-1800
Lower Moreland School District	215-938-0272
Methacton School District	610-489-5000
Norristown School District	610-630-5000
North Penn School District	215-368-0400
Perkiomen Valley School District	610-489-8506
Pottsgrove School District	610-327-2277
Pottstown School District	610-323-8200
Souderton School District	215-723-6061
Spring-Ford Area School District	610-705-6245
Springfield Township School District	215-233-6000
Upper Dublin School District	215-643-8800
Upper Merion Area School District	610-205-6400
Upper Moreland School District	215-659-6800
Upper Perkiomen School District	215-679-7961
Wissahickon School District	215-619-8000

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA 215-400-4000

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

REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

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

WELCOMING CENTER FOR NEW PENNSYLVANIANS

1617 John F. Kennedy Blvd., 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ph: 215.557.2626

fax: 215.557.2825

email: info@welcomingcenter.org

www.welcomingcenter.org

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Welcoming
Center for
NEW PENNSYLVANIANS

*Connecting immigrants, employers,
and communities*