

Economic Empowerment Resource Guide

Philadelphia resources to help survivors of domestic violence choose safety through greater economic independence.

**WOMEN
AGAINST
ABUSE**

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8 million:
 Number of paid work days women lose annually, directly due to abuse by a current or former male partner.

96 percent:
 Victims of domestic violence who are employed experience problems at work due to abuse.

10 to 20 years:
 How long a victim's financial stability is affected by the abuse

The Money Trap

Financial abuse is a common tactic to exert power and control. It typically is used in combination with other actions to hurt victims or trap them in an abusive relationship. Approximately 98% of domestic violence survivors share financial abuse experiences -- such as being forced out of jobs, prevented from going to school or having wages or benefits taken by abusive partners or family members. Each action can chip away at victims' hope of finding safety in a different place, of creating violence-free lives for themselves and their children.

There are many ways an abusive person can use money to increase financial dependency, limit free choice and wear down self-esteem, such as:

- Controlling how and when money is spent
- Withholding money or giving an "allowance"
- Forcing someone to sign financial documents or forging someone's name
- Hiding or stealing public welfare or credit cards, money or valuable things
- Refusing to pay shared bills
- Opening up charge accounts or stealing someone's "identity"

It's not surprising that survivors of domestic violence say that the impacts of financial abuse -- no money, bad credit or the inability to find a job -- are major reasons they stay in or return to abusive relationships.¹ For survivors living in poverty, risking more physical violence in an abusive relationship may seem less difficult than finding alternative, affordable housing and some way to support their families.²

Poverty, financial stress and financial dependency also can contribute to situations that threaten individual safety. For example, violence is more likely in relationships in which couples face high financial strain.³ Research also shows that women with unstable food sources and unstable housing are at significantly higher risk to experience rape, physical violence and stalking by an intimate partner.⁴ And married women who are more financially dependent on their relationships are believed to confront more severe abuse at home.⁵

¹ <http://www.pcadv.org/Learn-More/Domestic-Violence-Topics/Economic-Justice-And-Restoration/>; <http://nmedv.org/resources/ejresources/about-financial-abuse.html>

² http://www.vawnet.org/applied-research-papers/print-document.php?doc_id=2187

³ Michael L. Benson & Greer Litton Fox, Department of Justice, NCJ 193434, Economic Distress, Community Context and Intimate Violence: An Application and Extension of Social Disorganization Theory, Final Report (2002).

⁴ National Center for Injury Prevention & Control, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Intimate Partner Violence in the United States—2010 (2014), available at http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cdc_nisvs_ipv_report_2013_v17_single_a.pdf [hereinafter National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS)]; see also National Center for Injury Prevention & Control, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report (2011), available at http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf, at 2.

⁵ Jennifer S. Rosenberg and Denis A. Grab, *Supporting Survivors: The Economic Benefits of Providing Civil Legal Assistance to Survivors of Domestic Violence*, Institute for Policy Integrity, N.Y.U. School of Law, July 2015, Notes 15-17, pp. 6. <http://policyintegrity.org/documents/SupportingSurvivors.pdf>

Finding the Way Out

While the effects of financial abuse may seem too great to overcome, survivors of domestic violence can be empowered toward financial stability, recovery and growth. Confronting financial challenges can be critical to individual and family safety over the long-term, as economic self-sufficiency is identified as the **primary** predictor of whether someone will escape and stay free from abuse.⁶

Even if survivors choose to remain in an abusive relationship, creating financial independence can improve their safety and well-being because they have an option to leave if abuse continues.⁷ And though survivors' employment may trigger or aggravate abuse at home,⁸ potentially it can provide the social connections and personal self-confidence to help them opt out of a dangerous situation.⁹

As with all life-changing endeavors, building a new economic future is hard work, accomplished in multiple phases and, very possibly, with difficult setbacks. Core to the process is identifying personal economic goals and making a plan to address existing financial challenges. This is something that can be achieved with help. Using community resources, seeking advice from experts or enrolling in financial education counseling or programs all can be part of a personal economic empowerment plan. For individuals with little or no work experience, a plan may start with going back to school for a GED or college degree or locating job training. Other survivors may need immediate assistance to stabilize their families, repair credit or learn how to budget monthly income before taking steps toward longer-term financial goals. **It's helpful to know that -- whatever the starting point - - Philadelphia has a wide variety of organizations and programs to support survivor efforts to gain, regain and build on economic stability.**

With this in mind, Women Against Abuse (WAA) has consolidated some helpful information in the **Economic Empowerment Resource Guide** for our clients to use with case managers, advocates, friends and family members who will support their steps toward economic self-determination. The **Resource Guide** can be used to locate resources for essential day-to-day needs -- such as energy assistance, free meals and emergency child care -- or to research "down-the-line" information on free computer labs for resume writing or where to go if wrongly fired from a job.

It is WAA's vision that **Resource Guide** users will discover **there are places to go for help** to move beyond economic abuse. And it is WAA's hope that financially empowered survivors of domestic violence will have greater opportunity to choose safety and peace in their lives.

⁶ <http://www.clicktoempower.org/newsroom/facts-on-domestic-violence-economic-abuse>

⁷ Rosenberg and Grab, *supra*, at pp. 5.

⁸ http://www.vawnet.org/applied-research-papers/print-document.php?doc_id=2187

⁹ *Id.*

Public Benefits

If you need to explore or manage public benefit options, resources below may help.

Department of Public Welfare

Provides benefits including TANF (cash assistance), SNAP (food stamps), Medical Assistance, CHIP (children's health insurance), CCIS (child care), School Meals, Long-Term Care, and Home- and Community-Based Services

Apply online at: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us>.

Statewide Help Line: 1-800-692-7462

Philadelphia County Assistance Office Headquarters

801 Market Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-560-3283

FAX: 215-560-3214

Child Care and Information Services (CCIS)

(Four Philadelphia locations)

www.philadelphiachildcare.org/

Phone: 1-888-461-KIDS (5437)

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Free or sliding-scale health insurance for children

<http://www.chipcoverspakids.com/>

Phone: 800-986-KIDS (5437)

Medical Assistance Transportation Program

Transportation for medical appointments

<http://matp.pa.gov/>

Phone: 877-835-7412

Social Security Administration

Information on retirement, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits

www.ssa.gov

Phone: 1-800-772-1213; (TTY 1-800-325-0778)

Unemployment Compensation

<http://www.uc.pa.gov/>

Phone: 1-888-313-7284

Public Benefits Legal Advocacy and Help

Homeless Assistance Project (HAP)

Assistance for 1st time SSI, SSDI (disability income) applications

Phone: 215-523-9595 or 800 837-2672

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

Community Legal Services

215-981-3700/215-227-2400

1424 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

3638 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia

www.clsphila.org

BenePhilly

Assistance with applying for benefits and locating resources (Six Philadelphia locations)

Phone: 844-848-4376

Literacy, GED and ESL

If you need assistance with literacy, language classes or the GED process, resources below may help.

Mayor's Commission on Literacy

Contact the Mayor's Commission or any myPLACE campus to be referred to a local organization or online course for Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED or English as a Second Language.

990 Spring Garden Street #300

Philadelphia, PA 19123

<http://philaliteracy.org/>

Phone: (215) 686-5250

myPLACE@ Community Learning Center

229 N 63rd Street

Philadelphia, PA 19139

Phone: 215-910-2667

myPLACE@ Congreso de Latinos Unidos

2800 N. American Street

Philadelphia, PA 19133

Phone: 215-763-8870 x. 7268

myPLACE@ District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund

100 S. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19110

Phone: 215-568-2234

Northeast GED Center

1928 Cottman Ave,

Philadelphia, PA 19111

Phone: (215) 745-0141

Over a work-life, individuals who have a bachelor's degree earn nearly twice as much on average as workers with only a high school diploma.

Job Exploration/Employment Search

If you're interested in exploring new career options, resources below may help.

Career Exploration

My Next Move

www.Mynextmove.org

Help with home-buying process, credit repair, foreclosure prevention and more

Career One Stop

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

Moneygeek.com

<https://www.moneygeek.com/financial-planning/resources>

Occupational Outlook Handbook

US Department of Labor

Includes career search

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

Learning Connections

Career, literacy skills, job readiness & training, local jobs

<http://www.learning-connections.org/>

MAPP Career Assessment

Career Assessment Tool

<http://www.assessment.com/>

National Low Income Housing Coalition

Explores incomes to support housing options

<http://nlihc.org/or>

Free Computer Access

The Institute for Community Justice

Computer lab Tuesday-Thursday 1-5pm, Friday 2-5pm
21 South 12th Street, Suite 700
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3614
Phone: 215-525-0460

The AIDS Library

*Computer lab Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1-5pm;
Tuesday, Thursday 1-7pm*
1233 Locust Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5453
Phone: 215-985-4851

Free Library of Philadelphia

Find the closest location:

www.phillykeyspots.org/

www.freelibrary.org/hotspots

Phone: 215-686-5322

Library Hotspots: 215-686-5372

Impact Services Corporation

Computer lab availability
1952 E. Allegheny Avenue,
Philadelphia, PA 19134-3122
Phone: 215-739-1600

Career Wardrobe

Computer labs open daily 10-3pm
Assistance available Tues, Thurs 10- 2pm
1822 Spring Garden St, 3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Phone: 215-568-6693

Job Search Websites

<http://jobsforfelonshub.com/jobs-for-felons/>

(for persons with criminal records)

<http://www.urbanleaguephila.org/what-we-do/career-services/hot-jobs/>

www.philaworks.org

www.philly.com/philly/jobs

www.jobgateway.pa.gov

www.philaculture.org

www.uastaffing.com

<http://www.indeed.com/>

<http://www.simplyhired.com/>

<http://www.monster.com/>

<https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm>

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

<http://www.careerbuilder.com/>

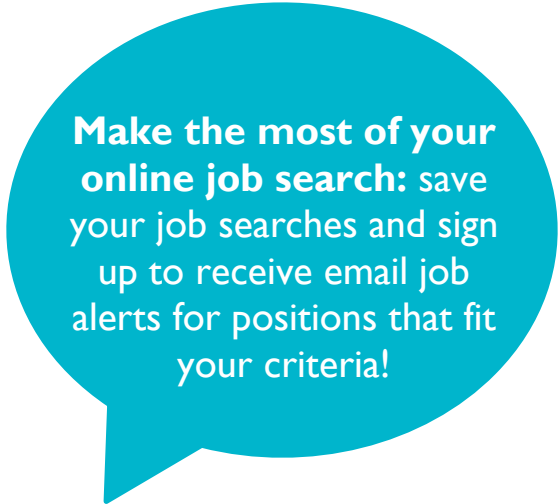
Government Jobs

<https://www.usajobs.gov/>

<http://www.employment.pa.gov>

<http://www.phila.gov/personnell/JobOpps.html>

(Philadelphia government website with links to the School District of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Airport and more)



**Make the most of your
online job search: save
your job searches and sign
up to receive email job
alerts for positions that fit
your criteria!**

Job Readiness and Training

CareerLink Locations

Personalized job search assistance, specialized job seeker workshops, networking groups, career counseling, skills and interests assessments, access to skills and occupational training, extensive job leads, resources, and more. All locations open M- F 8:00-4:30 pm.

North Philadelphia

4261 N 5th Street (Bristol St.)
Philadelphia, PA 19140
Phone: 215-967-9711

Suburban Station

1617 JFK Boulevard, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215-557-2625

Northwest Philadelphia

5847 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144
Phone: 215-987-6503

West Philadelphia (Interim Location)

5070 Parkside Ave, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19131
Phone: 215-473-3630

Year Up

Skill development, college credits, and corporate internships
<http://www.yearup.org/>

Need assistance with
computer skills or
prepping your resume?
Check out CareerLink's
Workshop Calendar:
www.philaworks.org/career-link/calendar

Interview/Employment Outfitting

Career Wardrobe

1822 Spring Garden St, 3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19130
Phone: 215-568-6693

Employment Following Incarceration

Mayor's Office of Reintegration Services (RISE)

Job readiness/vocational training, adult education, expungement, benefit bank

Register at <http://rise.phila.gov/>

Walk-in Monday-Friday 10 am-1 pm,
990 Spring Garden St. 19133
Phone: 215-683-3370

Employment Legal Support

Community Legal Services

Employment Discrimination

1424 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 12 pm

The Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations

Employment discrimination, unpaid leave, domestic violence Leave

601 Walnut Street

Suite 300 South

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Phone: 215-686-4670

<http://www.phila.gov/HumanRelations/pchr@phila.gov>

Additional Resources

The Workplace

Job and career information center; list of Philadelphia area employers
Free Library of Philadelphia
1901 Vine Street
Philadelphia, PA
Phone: 215-686-5436

RISE Job Readiness Training

Services only for returning citizens; Walk-In Hours M-F 10-1
990 Spring Garden Street, 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19123
Phone: 215-683-3379

Community Partners Program

*(Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) residents only.
Contact the Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator)*
Phone: 215-684-5300

The People's Emergency Center for Employment and Training

325 N. 39th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Phone: 567-777-5854

District I 199C Training Center

Continuing education, job training
100 S. Broad St., 10th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19110
Phone: 215-568-2220

EARN Centers

IMPACT Services Corporation

Open to the public. Customized services for returning citizens and veterans. Resume assistance, M-Thur 8:30-12 pm; walk-ins accepted
1952 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134-3122
Phone: (215) 739-1600

Philadelphia Unemployment Project

112 North Broad Street, 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Phone 215-557-0822

Urban League of Philadelphia

121 S. Broad Street, 9th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone 215-985-3220 ext. 212

Nationalities Services Center

Employment support for newly arrived refugees, asylees
1216 Arch Street 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215-893-8400

Work Force Institute

*Provides customized job training and job placement
& post-secondary education opportunities*
100 South Broad Street, Suite 830
Philadelphia, PA 19110
theworkforce-institute.org
Phone: 215-568-9215

JEVS Career Strategies

Email: cs@jevs.org
Phone: 215-854-1874

Center City

1845 Walnut St, 7th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Northeast Philadelphia

2770 Red Lion Road
Philadelphia, PA 19114

Personal Finance

If you need assistance with access to food, household management, or other personal finance goals, resources below may help.

Emergency Family Stability

Food Resources

National Hunger Hotline: 1-866-3-HUNGRY

Food Stamp Hotline: 215-430-0556

National Find Food Website:

www.whyhunger.org/find-food

Philadelphia Coalition Against Hunger

1725 Fairmount Ave,
Philadelphia, PA 19130

www.hungercoalition.org

Phone: (215) 430-0555

Philabundance

Fresh for All Program distributes free fruits and vegetables in low-income neighborhoods

3616 S Galloway St,
Philadelphia, PA 19148

www.philabundance.org

Phone: (215) 339-0900 or 1-800-319-3663

Farm to Families

Lower cost produce for North Philadelphia residents. Registration required.

New Kensington CDC- NKCDC Garden Center

1825 Frankford Ave, Philadelphia, PA

F2f@nkcdc.org

Phone: 215-427-0350 x. 110

St Christopher's Hospital for Children

3601 A Street, Nelson Pavilion Lobby

F2f@stchristophers.org

Phone: 215-910-2901

Fair Food Farm Stand

Earn up to \$10/week match to SNAP benefits spent

Reading Terminal Market

12th and Arch Street Philadelphia, PA

www.fairfoodphilly.org

Share Food Program

Low-cost food packages, supplemental food for seniors, emergency relief

2901 W Hunting Park Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19129

www.sharefoodprogram.org

Phone: (215) 223-2220

The Food Trust Farmer's Markets

SNAP recipients earn \$2 in "Green Bucks" for every \$5 SNAP dollars spent.

Penn Center House Inc.,

1617 John F Kennedy Blvd # 900, Philadelphia, PA 19103

[www.http://thefoodtrust.org/farmers-markets](http://www.thefoodtrust.org/farmers-markets)

Phone: (215) 575-0444

No-Cost Cold/Hot Meals

Broad Street Ministry

Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily; check website for menus.

315 S. Broad Street

Philadelphia PA 19107

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

Phone: (215) 735-4847

Chosen 300 Ministries

Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily; check website for menus.

1116 Spring Garden Street

Philadelphia, PA 19123

<http://chosen300.org/homeless/homelesssservingschedule.html>

Phone: (215) 765-9806

University City Hospitality Coalition

Providing hot meals five nights a week and sandwiches at noon on

Saturdays

3720 Spruce Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Phone: (610) 203-4538

Impact Services Corporation

Service provider (incl. WAA) referral needed for free clothing and food.

Submit to Elisa Rodriguez or Wilda Ocasio.

1952 E. Allegheny Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19134-3122

Phone: 215-739-1600

Emergency Free or Low-Cost Household Items

Maternity Care Coalition

Free safe sleep education, cribs, sheeting and sleepers to eligible families.

3933 Lancaster Ave, Suite 101

Philadelphia, PA 19104

<http://maternitycarecoalition.org/cribs-for-kids/>

Phone: 215-386-3808

Cradles to Crayons

WAA referral needed for clothing and essential children's items

<https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/philadelphia/>

Phone: 215-836-0958

Belmont Alliance Civic Association CDC

Infant/Toddler Diaper Bank supporting low-income Philadelphia residents

<http://www.belmontalliance.org/diaper-bank-program/>

Phone: 267-882-2596

Philadelphia Furniture Bank

WAA referral needed for pre-owned furniture

<https://pathwaystohousingpa.org/furniture/contact>

Emergency Child Care

Baring House

Free, licensed crisis/respite 24-hour care for newborns-age 12

3401 Baring Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Email: amaury@ysiphila.org

Phone: 215-386-0251

Sally Watson Center

5128 Wayne Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19144

Email: rhjohnson@ysiphila.org

Phone: 215-844-6931

Family Budgeting and Saving

Financial Counseling and Debt Management

Financial Empowerment Center

12 Philadelphia locations

<http://www.phila.gov/fe>

Phone: (855) FIN-PHIL

Phone: (855) 346-7445

Women's Opportunity Resource Center (WORC)

2010 Chestnut St

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone: (215) 564-5500

Clarifi

1608 Walnut Street, 10th Floor
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Email: Clarifiteam@clarifi.org
www.Clarifi.org
 Phone: 215-563-5665/ 1-800-989-2227
 Fax: 215-563-7020

Esperanza

4261 North 5th Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19140
 Phone: (215) 324-0746

Credit Counseling and Repair**Clarifi**

1608 Walnut Street, 10th Floor
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Email: Clarifiteam@clarifi.org
www.Clarifi.org
 Phone: 215-563-5665/ 1-800-989-2227
 Fax: 215-563-7020

PA Housing Finance Agency**Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies**

http://www.phfa.org/forms/counseling_agencies/hemap_agencies/hemap.pdf

OHCD-Funded Housing Counseling Agencies

Help with home-buying process, credit repair, foreclosure prevention and more

<http://www.phila.gov/ohcd/neighborhood-resources/housing-counseling-agencies/>

**Community Legal Services
North Philadelphia Law Center**

Legal advice on debt relief programs
Walk-in Intake
 1410 West Erie Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19140
 Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Philadelphia Legal Assistance

Legal advice on debt relief programs
Telephone intake
 Tuesday, Thurs 9:30-Noon
 Phone: 215-981-3800

Savings Programs**AchieveAbility****Community Services Office**

Matching savings program for education, home ownership
 59 N. 60th Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19139
 Phone: (215) 748-8836

Ceiba

147 West Susquehanna Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19122
 Phone: (215) 634-7245

Women's Opportunity Resource Center (WORC)

2010 Chestnut St
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Phone: (215) 564-5500

Philadelphia Saves

Savings, financial education, budgeting tips
 Benefit Savings Program
<http://phillysaves.org/>

Identity Theft

Identity Theft Hotline: 1-800-908-4490

Federal Trade Commission: <https://identitytheft.gov/>

For reporting and recovering from stolen identity.

New Social Security Numbers for DV Survivors

Apply at any social security office with evidence of abuse, harassment or life endangerment and appropriate documents. See

www.socialsecurity.gov

Foreclosure Prevention

Save Your Home Philly

The only government-authorized foreclosure prevention program in Philadelphia

www.saveyourhomephilly.org

Hotline: 215-334-4663

HUD-Approved Foreclosure Counseling Agencies

http://www.needhelp-payingbills.com/html/pennsylvania_hud_foreclosure_c.html

PA Housing Finance Agency

Consumer Credit Counseling Agencies

http://www.phfa.org/forms/counseling_agencies/hemap_agencies/hemap.pdf

<http://www.phfa.org/consumers/homeowners>

Phone: 800-322-7572

OHCD-Funded Housing Counseling Agencies

Help with home-buying process, credit repair, foreclosure prevention and more

<http://www.phila.gov/ohcd/neighborhood-resources/housing-counseling-agencies/>

Housing, Utility and Transportation Assistance

Utility Assistance Programs

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Assistance from November to April, including cash assistance, shut off prevention and crisis weatherization

1350 W. Sedgley Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19132-2498

Phone: 215-560-4900

Crisis Line: 215-560-1583

LIHEAP Fax: 215-560-2260

PECO

Discount energy for low income consumers (CAP program); Cash assistance to customers with special circumstances (Customer Assistance and Referral Evaluation Services or CARES program); Budget Billing for equal payments over 12 months

<https://www.peco.com>

Phone: 1-800-774-7040

Philadelphia Gas Works

Discount gas (Customer Responsibility or CRP program); Cash assistance to consumers with special circumstances (Customer Assistance Referral Evaluation Program or CARES program); Budget Billing for equal payment over 12 months

<http://www.pgworks.com>

Phone: 215-235-1000

Water Revenue Bureau

City of Philadelphia

Low income water/sewer payment agreement

Phone: 215-686-6880

Housing Financial Help Programs

City of Philadelphia

Department of Revenue

Property tax reduction, abatement and payment budgeting for home owners

Municipal Services Building

1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard (Concourse Level)

Philadelphia, PA 19102

revenue@phila.gov

Phone: (215) 686-6442

The Housing Trust Fund

Diversified Community Services- Dixon House

Homeowner assistance

1920 S 20th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19145

Phone: 215-336-3511

Emergency Assistance and Response Unit (EARU)

Rental arrears assistance

5252 N 13th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19141

M-Th 9:00am-3:00pm

Walk-ins Only

Phone: 215-685-9087

Congreso de Latinos Unidos

216 West Somerset St

Philadelphia, PA 19133

Phone: 215-763-8870

UESF

1608 Walnut Street, Suite 600

Philadelphia, PA 19103

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

Phone: (215) 972-5170

Emergency Shelter Allowance Program (ESA)

801 Market St 5th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19121

Phone: 215-560-1976

FEMA Emergency Rental, Mortgage and Utility Assistance

2029 S 8th St

Philadelphia, PA 19147

Phone: 215-467-8700

Catholic Social Services

Information and Referral

Cssphiladelphia.org

Helpline: 267-331-2490

Southwest Family Service Center

6214 Grays Avenue

Philadelphia 19142

Phone: 215-724-8550

Casa del Carmen Family Service Center

4400 N. Reese Street

Philadelphia 19140

Phone: 215-329-5660

Transportation Assistance

Medical Assistance Transportation Program

County-specific transportation for medical appointments. Support includes tokens, passes, or reimbursement for public or private transportation.

<http://matp.pa.gov/>

SEPTA

Free/ discounted in-city fares for seniors with a valid Senior Transit ID or Medicare Card. For regional rail, \$1 fares for seniors/disabled with appropriate documentation during off-peak hours.

<http://www4.septa.org/fares/discount/>

Department of Public Welfare

TANF or supportive services recipients may qualify for public transportation or reimbursement for purchase of expenses related to private vehicles. Access is through DPW case workers. For transportation benefit advocacy, contact:

Community Legal Services

Phone: 215-981-3700/215-227-2400

Philadelphia Legal Assistance

Phone: 215.981.3800

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office

Victim witness transportation to/from criminal court for victim witnesses.
Victim/Witness Services Unit Email: DA.Victimservices@phila.gov
Phone: (215) 686-8027

Reproductive Health and Abortion

For support with abortion and reproductive health, resources below may help.

CHOICE Hotline (Concern for Health Options: Care & Education)

Information about where to get an abortion; education and referrals for STD testing, pregnancy, pre-natal care and birth control.
Phone: 215-985-3300 or (toll free) 1-800-848-3367

Women's Medical Fund

Abortion financial assistance
womensmedicalfund.org
Phone: 215-564-6622 (English and Spanish)

Overcoming Criminal Histories

If you need assistance related to criminal history, resources below may help.

Criminal Records Expungement

Community Legal Services

Walk-in Intake
1424 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Monday – Friday 9 am - 12 pm
<http://clsphila.org/get-help/expungements>

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity (PLSE) Criminal Records Expungement Project

By appointment only (allow two days for return calls)
1501 Cherry St. 19102
<http://plsephilly.org/>
Phone: 215-995-1230

Mayor's Office of Reintegration Services (RISE)

Register at <http://rise.phila.gov/>
Walk-in Monday-Friday 10 am-1 pm
990 Spring Garden Street
Philadelphia, PA 19133
Phone: 215-683-3370

Why look into expungement? By age 48, the typical former inmate will have earned \$179,000 less than if they had never been incarcerated.

Support for Veterans

For additional supports for veterans, resources below may help.

The Philadelphia Alliance For Supportive Services to Veteran Families (PASSVF)

*(Partnership of Project HOME, The Veterans Multi-Service Center, Impact Services Corp., Homeless Advocacy Project)
Housing counseling and location assistance; help with VA and public benefits, housing/ benefits legal assistance, credit repair, rent/security deposits, utilities payment, moving costs, emergency supplies, transportation and child care.*

Contact Jeanne Ciocca, jeanneciocca@projecthome.org
Phone: 215-232-7272 x 3046.

The PECO/Exelon Veterans Training and Employment Program

*Partnership of Project HOME and PECO
Contact Alexis Pugh, alexispugh@projecthome.org,
Phone: 215-232-7272 x 3051*

Tax Filing Assistance

If you need assistance with your taxes, resources below may help.

IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)/Tax Counseling for Elderly (TCE)

VITA offers free tax return assistance to people earning up to \$54,000, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English-speaking taxpayers.

TCE Hotline to locate nearest site: 1-888-227-7669

<http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>

Phone: 1 800-906-9887

Ceiba – ITIN Assistance

147 West Susquehanna Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19122
(215) 634-4846

Campaign for Working Families

18 Philadelphia Tax Sites

1415 N. Broad Street Suite 221-A

Main Number: 215-454-6483; Appointment Scheduling: 215-851-1886

www.Cwfp Philly.org

Pathways VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program)

3 Sites: Women in Transition, Free Library of Philadelphia Walnut West Branch, and SEPTA Jefferson Station

Pathwaysvita.org

Hotline to nearest site: 1-800-906-9887

Phone: 610-543-5022

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

For low-middle income, 60 or older

Tax sites updated during tax season Feb. 1-April 15

To locate nearest site: 1-887-227-7669, or

<http://member.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAidLocations.action>

www.aarp.org/money/taxes

Online Do-It-Yourself Tax Resources:

The Benefit Bank

Families earning income of \$65,000 or less

www.Selfserve.thebenefitbank.org

My Free Taxes

Families who earning income of \$58,000 or less

www.Myfreetaxes.com

To be eligible for the premium tax credit, the IRS allows survivors of domestic violence to file taxes separately from their spouse, even if they are still legally married.

Legal Options for Economic Advancement

If you want to explore legal alternatives for financial support, resources below may help.

Child Support/Spousal Support

Philadelphia Family Court

Petitions may be filed weekdays, from 9 to 4 pm; If you do not have funds for filing a complaint or petition for custody or support, request a Petition to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (IFP).

1501 Arch Street
Philadelphia PA 19102
<http://courts.phila.gov/>
Phone: 215-686-9100

Women Against Abuse Legal Center

Legal aid, consultation for support cases
100 South Broad Street – 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19110
Phone: 215-686-7082

Philadelphia Legal Assistance

Legal aid for support cases, Custody and Support Assistance Clinic
718 Arch Street, Suite 300N
Philadelphia, PA 19106
<http://philalegal.org/>
Phone Intake M & W 10- 12 p.m.
Phone: 215-981-3838

Temple Legal Aid

By appointment only
1719 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122
Phone: 215-204-1800

Immigrant Financial Sponsorship Enforcement

Women Against Abuse Legal Center

100 South Broad Street – 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19110
Phone: 215-686-7082

Philadelphia Legal Assistance

718 Arch Street, Suite 300N
Philadelphia, PA 19106
<http://philalegal.org/>
Phone Intake: 215-981-3838: Mon, Wed, 10 to 12 p.m.
Immigrant Women Hotline: 215-981-3838

Separation/Divorce

Philadelphia VIP

Pro bono attorney consultation/representation
By Women Against Abuse Legal Center referral only
Phone: 215-686-7082 (WAA Legal Center)
<http://www.phillyvip.org/>

Women's Resource Center

Divorce consultation; See website for locations and services.
Some low fees apply.
113 W. Wayne Ave.
Wayne, PA 19087
<http://womensresourcecenter.net/>
Phone: 610-687-6391

Landlord/Tenant, Contract and Negligence Disputes

Small claims court.

Philadelphia Municipal Court – Civil Division

1339 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215-686-2910; 215-686-7987/7988; 215-686-2901