

Breaking the Cycle

A Re-entry Resource Guide for
Riverside County



Starting Over, Inc.

Transitional Housing, Reentry Services,
Policy Advocacy & Civic Engagement

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IMPACT OF INCARCERATION

The effects of widespread incarceration have been catastrophic. Today, nearly 2 million people are locked behind bars in America. (Sawyer & Wagner, 2023) Rather than reduce crime, prisons regenerate the very issues they aim to destroy. A study conducted by the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section reported that people with criminal convictions face an additional 38,000 collateral consequence statutes, or added punishments and barriers, nationwide. (Dolan & Carr, 2015) Upon release, many people are escorted outside of their facilities and given nothing but a couple hundred dollars in "gate money." These individuals often return home to deal with complicated family relationships, challenges in finding employment, triggering environments, substance and mental health disorders, and much more, with little to no guidance or support. It is not surprising, then, that nearly half of those exiting from state prisons will be rearrested within the first year of their release. (Rogers, 2023)

California alone spends \$15 billion a year on its criminal justice system.
(Cicero Institute, 2019, as cited in "The 2019-20 Budget", 2019)

60% of individuals released from prison in California will re-offend within three years. (Rogers, 2023)

Four out of five Californians on parole are unable to obtain a job during their first year out of prison. (Cicero Institute, 2019, as cited in Petersilia, 2006)



CREATION OF THIS GUIDE

GUIDE CREATED AND EDITED BY ZHANÉ MOLEDINA

Reentering society after incarceration presents significant challenges for many individuals, such as finding employment, housing, and rebuilding relationships. Access to resources and support is crucial for overcoming these obstacles and reducing recidivism rates. By creating a comprehensive resource guide, Starting Over Inc. aims to address these challenges and increase the likelihood of success for those seeking to start anew.

The creation of this guide was informed by the first participants of an employment readiness class called Path2SEED at Starting Over Inc. Community-based participatory research methods were employed, including surveys and focus groups, to ensure the guide applies to the re-entry experience in Riverside County. Thank you to those who shared their stories and advised the creation of this guide.

A survey conducted with participants of the Path2SEED employment readiness program explored the experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals during their re-entry process. Specifically, the most significant barriers they have faced throughout their re-entry, the types of support that have been helpful, and areas where more support is needed were discussed. It was apparent that obtaining employment was a primary concern for these individuals. While employment is a critical component of successful re-entry, unfortunately, significant barriers prevent formerly incarcerated people from securing jobs. Statistics show that 40% of employers would not consider someone for a job if they had a criminal record. (Galloway & Duane de la Vega, 2016) Participants of Path2SEED confirmed these statistics with their own experiences. One respondent explained, "Biggest barrier I've found was my criminal record. It prevents me from getting jobs that can better help my situation, although I am more than qualified for the position." Others reported similar experiences, noting that their criminal history overshadowed their abilities and made it difficult even to land an interview; "Very limited consideration for jobs I have applied for. I'm judged before getting to know me personally." Participants also identified transportation, technology skills, housing, travel, identification, and other issues as significant obstacles to successful re-entry.



The survey also highlighted several areas where additional support is needed for formerly incarcerated people. This included the development of career skills along with business and entrepreneurship classes. Additionally, many respondents felt that the re-entry process should begin earlier, during probation or even while still incarcerated. For example, one person suggested apprenticeship programs during probation to help individuals work towards long-term career goals. Others noted that it was difficult to obtain updated information while still in prison, which made it challenging to prepare for release.

Finally, respondents emphasized the importance of support during the re-entry process. Many credit Starting Over for providing valuable resources and a welcoming community. One participant noted, "SOI helps me feel more confident with getting a job and supporting me in building my resume." Another explained, "I did not really reach out to the community until working with Starting Over. I'm thankful for the help and aid I've been receiving through them." Another respondent, who had been released only three weeks prior, stated, "My community is Starting Over Inc for the most part, they have played a big role."

Given that 93% of people that are incarcerated are eventually released, it is imperative that we give this community the care that they deserve. (Petersilia, 2006) Based on the feedback provided by individuals going through the re-entry process themselves, this guide is an attempt to address these issues and provide support to those impacted by the system.

PRIOR TO RELEASE: CDCR PROGRAMS

- There should be various different **activity groups, educational programs, treatment programs, and pre-release programs** available to those incarcerated in CDCR facilities.
- **Library services** are available at all institutions and accessible to any incarcerated individual upon request. You may be able to ask your prisons law librarian to access internet resources for you while inside in order to help prepare you for release or get other necessary information.
- **Pre-Release Community Programs** allow eligible incarcerated individuals committed to state prison to serve the end of their sentences in the community, in lieu of confinement in state prison. There are several other programs available to provide a wide range of rehabilitative services to promote rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. These include;
 - **Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program**
 - **Alternative Custody Program**
 - **Male Community Reentry Program**
 - **Community Prison Mother Program**



TRANSPORTATION

- If incarcerated at any of the five Riverside County jails, individuals should receive a bus pass from the jail they are being released from to get to where they need from there.
- **Warm Hand-off Program:** Starting Over Inc. offers this service to address people's urgent needs within the first 24 hours of their release. This program helps those returning to Riverside or San Bernardino County upon their release by providing them with transportation from the place of incarceration to their parole officer or halfway house while offering them re-entry needs assessment resources.
 - Contacts:
 - 951-898-0862
- Transportation services are available to those on probation or parole, disabled, or low-income. Call (951) 955-1530 to get a ride to court, probation check-ins, or other necessary appointments.
 - This service is based solely on availability and is not guaranteed until the day before the ride is needed, although rides can be requested months in advance.
 - Calls accepted 8 am-5 pm
 - Transportation available between 9 am-3:30 pm
- **Riverside Transit Agency** day passes can be purchased on the bus, while 7 and 20-day passes can only be ordered online, through the mail, or from a pass sales outlet.
 - [Maps & Schedules](#)
 - [Dial-a-ride](#) is an advanced reservation transportation service available to seniors and people with disabilities.
- **OmniTrans:** you can buy passes online or with the [transit app](#) (reduced prices for veterans, seniors, and disabilities and free fares for K-12 students)
- **Metrolink:** you can buy tickets online, in-person at the ticket machines, or print passes at home.
 - [Train schedule](#)

HOUSING

- **Transitional Housing, Starting Over Inc.** is available to anyone who needs a place to stay.
- **Path of Life** offers emergency shelter to individuals and families in a housing crisis.
 - Emergency shelter hotline: (951) 462-9822
- **Housing Authority of the County of Riverside**
 - **Emergency Housing Voucher Program** is an affordable housing program serving low-income families to locate rental housing and provide financial assistance for rent
 - **Housing Choice Voucher Program** provides rental assistance to help very low-income families afford decent, safe, and sanitary rental housing.
- **Lutheran Social Services Housing Counseling Services**
 - (909) 866-2792
 - housing@lsssc.org
- **Valley Restart** helps families and single women rebuild their lives
 - 200 E. Menlo Ave. Hemet, CA 92543
 - (951) 766-7476
- **Operation Safehouse, Youth Emergency Services**
 - 9685 Hayes Street, Riverside, CA 92503
 - (951) 351-4418
 - **24-hour Crisis Line:** (800) 561-6944
 - **Youth Emergency Services:** between ages 11 and 17
 - **Main Street Transitional Living Program** between the ages 18 and 21
 - **Young Adult Emergency Services** between the ages of 18 and 24
- **995 Hope Housing Counselors** offer free expert advice and work with you to develop a plan to get back on track if you are behind on housing payments or are facing foreclosure/eviction.
 - Hotline: (888) 995-4673
- **Pathways to Homeownership Course, Altura** is a comprehensive online education program designed for first-time homebuyers to fully understand the process and obligations that come with becoming a homeowner.

MEDICAL

- **Riverside Free Clinic** offers medical, labs, dental, pharmacy, psychiatry, counseling, auto-refills, and more. All patients are seen by walk-ins on a first-come, first-served basis for free. No insurance or proof of citizenship is required.
 - 3504 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501
 - (951) 867-7742
 - Every other Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 pm (recommend arriving at 4:45 pm or earlier)
- **Riverside University Health System** provides a variety of health services
 - 7140 Indiana Ave. Riverside, CA 92504
 - Appointments: (800) 720-9553, Clinic: (951) 358-6000

COVID-19 Vaccination

- Any Californian over the age of 6 months can get vaccinated for free.
- Immigration status does not matter. No one will ask about this in order for you to get vaccinated.
- Vaccinations can prevent most COVID-19-related hospitalizations and deaths.
- Book an appointment or find a walk-in site through [myturn.ca.gov](#) or find a walk-in site through [vaccines.gov](#)

- **Substance Misuse National Helpline** offers confidential free help to find substance use treatment and information: 800-662-4357
- **Riverside County Substance Abuse Program**
 - 2085 Rustin Ave. #3 Riverside, CA 92507
 - (951) 955-2105
- **Inland Empire Central Office of Alcoholics Anonymous**
 - 897 Via Lata, Suite “A” Colton, California 92324
 - (909) 825-4700
- **Inland Empire Foothills Narcotics Anonymous**

MEDICAL



- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** (800) 273-8255
- **Suicide and Crisis Hotline:** 9-8-8
- **Riverside 24/7 Mental Health Urgent Care:** (800) 499-3008
 - Address: 9990 County Farm Rd., Bldg. 2, Riverside, CA 92503
- **Peer Support, Starting Over, Inc.**
 - Available weekdays from 8 am-4 pm
 - People with lived experiences of incarceration, addiction, and mental health disorders are here to help empower others and provide them with self-care tools, coping skills, anger management, support through recovery, and referrals.
 - 951 898 0862 or office@startingoverinc.org
- **Anger Management treatment** provided by Alternatives to Domestic Violence provides treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence, many of whom are referred by Child Protective Services due to being at risk of losing custody of their children.
 - 951-425-8900
 - info@alternativestodv.org

Riverside County Department of Mental Health
2085 Rustin Ave. #3
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 509-2499

FOOD PANTRIES

Find Food Bank:

760-775-3663;
info@findfoodbank.org;
<https://findfoodbank.org/>;

Food Pantry by Lighthouse of Hope Foundation;

951-977-6560;
lighthouseofhopefoundation@gmail.com;
[https://www.facebook.com/LighthouseofHopeFoundationInc](https://www.facebook.com/LighthouseofHopeFoundationInc;);

Community Food Pantry by Hope Lutheran Church - Riverside;

951-684-2205;
office@hoperiverside.org;
www.hoperiverside.org;

Food Pantry by Mt Rubidoux Seventh-Day Adventist Church;

951-276-8374;
mtrchurchoffice@gmail.com;
www.mtrubidouxda.org;

Food Box by Magnolia Center Church of Christ;

951-686-4343;
Email: info@magcenterchurch.com;
www.magcenterchurch.com/media;

Emergency Services by Lutheran Social Services of Southern California;

951-689-7847;
rcinfo@lsssc.org;
www.lsssc.org/location/riverside-county;

Food Giveaway by Central Community Christian Fellowship;

951-689-5806;
office@centralcommunity.com;
<https://www.centralcommunity.com/>;

Food For Life by Starting Over Inc.

(951) 898-0862
office@startingoverinc.org

Food Pantry by Community Settlement Association;

951-686-6266;
info@csariverside.org;
<https://www.csariverside.org>;

Food Distribution by Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Service;

951-688-3043;
office@casablancahns.org;
www.casablancahns.org/our-programs;

Food Pantry by Magnolia Church;

951-689-5700;
info@magonline.com;
<http://magonline.com>;

Food Pantry by Our Lady of Perpetual Help;

951-689-8921;
olph.riv@sbdiocese.org;
www.olphriverside.org;

Food Pantry and Clothing Closet by Fruit Of Our Hands Ministries;

951-289-9808;

Youth Opportunity Center by the City of Riverside;

951-826-2272;
parks@riversideca.gov;
https://riversideca.gov/park_rec/programs-sports/teen/johnny-martin-sotelo-youth-opportunity-center;

Food Pantry by Salvation Army Southern California;

951-677-1324;
<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>;

Food Pantry by Apostolic Church of India;

442-324-3252;
Email: acimarketing7@gmail.com;
<https://www.apostolicchurchofindio.com/outreach>;

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Public benefits include different forms of government-funded assistance. You must qualify for public benefits based on income or other factors to receive this assistance, generally geared towards funding low-income individuals and families.

Cal-Fresh: California's food stamps program provides those enrolled with money to buy food.

CalWORKs: A public assistance program that provides cash aid and services to eligible California families in need.

Medi-Cal: California's Medicaid program that pays for a variety of medical services for those that cannot pay themselves.

WHAT IS A HOUSEHOLD?

A “household” can be one person, or any group of people who live together, buy food, and make meals together. If you live with other people but buy and prepare food separately from them, you can apply for food benefits as part of a separate household. Spouses, parents, and children under age 22 who live together must apply as a single “household.”



You can see if you qualify and can also apply for Cal-Fresh, Medi-Cal, and CalWORKs through one application at <https://benefitscal.com/>

The application should take between 30-60 minutes. You should fill out as much as you can and be ready to share about the money you earn and spend.

Once you submit your application, you may be asked for proof of identity, income, and expenses later on.

CalFresh and CalWORKs applicants are required to be interviewed by phone or in person. Medi-Cal does not require an interview.

Resources, including step-by-step videos, reference guides, and interview tips for completing the applications, are linked here and listed on the references page.

OBTAINING YOUR IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AND PERSONAL RECORDS

THESE PAGE'S HAVE BEEN ADAPTED FROM
ROOT&REBOUND'S ROADMAP TO RE-ENTRY

Having your identification documents is important for many reasons, including employment, housing, education, medical care, public benefits, transportation, voting, banking, and more. A prison or jail I.D. may be sufficient in helping you get other forms of identification in the early days of your release, but this will not be a sufficient form of identification for long.

The most essential forms of I.D. are your birth certificate, social security card, and a state ID or driver's license. Once you obtain your birth certificate and social security card, you can obtain a state I.D. or license along with other forms of identification.

Please note that many places will require the original form of these documents rather than a copy.

Birth Certificate	13
Social Security Card	16
CA State ID	17
Drivers License	18

HOW TO GET YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE:

If you were born in California, obtaining your birth certificate through the County Recorder's Office is recommended, as it will take less time than the California Department of Public Health. Although to go through the County Recorder's Office, you need to know the county you were born in.

- **County Recorder's Office:** Use this state-wide directory to locate the office in the county you were born in.
 - In-person requests
 - Step 1: Call ahead and ask the office how they will have you identify yourself to see if they will accept the forms of ID that you have. Make an appointment if necessary.
 - Step 2: Go into the office to identify yourself and fill out and submit your application. Be prepared to give the following information;
 - Birth name, birth date, the city you were born in, and your parent's names, including both of their maiden names
 - Step 3: Pay the fee (varies by county)
 - By-mail requests
 - Step 1: Request a copy of the specific birth certificate application from the county you were born in by phone or mail or download it from their website. Then, complete it to the best of your ability.
 - Step 2: Sign and have your Sworn Statement notarized
 - Step 3: Prepare the fee payment (varies by county)
 - Make sure to check with the office about what forms of payment they will accept. Sending cash by mail is generally not recommended.
 - Step 4: Mail all materials to the County Recorders Office.
 - Online requests: Your County Recorder's Office will also likely have an online application available. Once locating the office in the county you were born in, visit their website to check.

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH): If you do not know what county you were born in, the CDPH can help you get a copy of your birth certificate but may take slightly longer to process your application. There is no in-person option for this method either.

**California Department of Public Health
Vital Records - MS 5103
PO Box 997410
Sacramento, CA 95899-7410**

**If using a courier service that requires
a physical address for delivery, use:**

California Department of Public Health
Vital Records - MS 5103
1501 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95814

- By-mail requests:
 - Step 1: Download a copy of [the application](#)
 - Step 2: Sign and have your Sworn Statement notarized
 - Step 3: Prepare the fee payment (\$29, subject to change)
 - Step 4: Mail all materials to CDPH Vital Records
- [Online requests](#): Order through VitalCheck, State Vital Records, or Vital Records Online.

If you were born outside of California but within the U.S., the procedure for your individual state will need to be followed.

- Step 1: Find the Vital Statistics Office in your birth state. The CDC has a record of these on its [website](#).
- Step 2: Call, write, or browse the website of the Vital Statistics Office in the state where you were born and ask what they need from you to obtain an authorized copy of your birth certificate.

If you were adopted and don't know where you were born, request an application for a certified copy of your birth certificate in the state you were adopted in, using your adoptive name.

If you are a naturalized citizen, you should have been issued a Certificate of Naturalization when you became a citizen, which can act the same as a birth certificate in terms of getting other forms of ID. You can [apply for a replacement](#) of this document if you don't have it.

If you were born outside of the United States but are a U.S. citizen due to your parent's citizenship, your birth should be registered with the U.S. Consulate or Embassy, and the U.S. Department of State should have given them a Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (CRBA).

- **Step 1:** Prepare a written or typed request, including
 - Your full name at birth and any adoptive names you had
 - Your birthplace and date.
 - Your parent's full names
 - The serial number of your Consular Report of Birth Abroad (Form FS-240), if you know it.
 - Any available passport information.
 - Your mailing address and phone number
 - Your signature (wait until you go to the notary to complete this step)
- **Step 2:** Get your request notarized by a Notary Public.
- **Step 3:** Prepare a check or money order for \$50, not cash. Make it payable to the “Department of State.”
- **Step 4:** Mail your request and fee

**Department of State, Passport Vital Records Sections
1150 Passport Services Pl 6th Floor
Dulles VA 20189-1150**

If you were born in another country and are not a U.S. citizen, contact your birth country's nearest Embassy or Consulate in the United States. Addresses and telephone numbers for these offices are listed in the U.S. Department of State Publication 7846, Foreign Consular Offices in the United States, available in many local libraries.

If no record of your birth certificate was found, a secondary record of your birth would be needed to serve its purpose. While not considered to be as reliable as an official birth certificate, secondary records can still help you obtain other forms of identification. These may include hospital records, census records, religious records confirming your birth date, a statement from the midwife that delivered you, early school records, and records of immunization.

HOW TO GET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER AND CARD:

Your social security number is a unique 9-digit number specifically assigned to you at birth if you were born in the United States. This number is essential for employment, income and tax purposes, benefits, banking, schools, hospitals, etc. It is crucial to keep this card in a safe place and only bring it with you when you need it. Most of the time, you will only need the number, so it is recommended that you memorize it.

Social Security Administration
(800) 772-1213
10000 Magnolia Ave, Riverside, CA 92503
[Office Locator](#)

- **In-person application** (recommended)
 - **Step 1:** Gather documents that prove your age, citizenship/legal presence in the U.S., and that you are still alive
 - Some primary documents that may prove all of these include a state-issued driver's license, state-issued ID card, or U.S. passport.
 - If you have never had a social security card and are applying for an original, you will need to provide more than one document proving this information.
 - If you do not have any of the above primary forms of ID, gather as much identifying information as possible for your application. The SSA will then decide whether it is enough proof of identity to provide you with your social security card.
 - **Step 2:** Go in person to the Social Security Administration and fill out the application
 - **Step 3:** Meet with an SSA employee to verify your identity
- **To apply by mail**, print out [the application](#) or call (800) 771-1213 and request them to send you one and fill it out to mail with your identity documents listed above. You will need to mail the original forms of these identity documents, not copies of them.

HOW TO GET A CA STATE I.D.:

- **Step 1:** Prepare the required information and documents
 - Social Security number
 - Proof of birth date and legal presence (U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport, U.S. armed force ID card, Certificate of Naturalization, Permanent Resident card, or foreign passport with a valid I-94)
- **Step 2:** Go to your local DMV to submit your application
 - There is a \$28 fee that you will be asked to pay unless you are eligible for a fee waiver
 - If you receive public benefits, you can pay a reduced fee of \$8
 - If you are over 62, you can get a free ID
 - If you are homeless, you should be able to get a free ID
- You will receive a temporary ID until your official one arrives, but this may not be a sufficient form of identification in certain circumstances



HOW TO GET A DRIVERS LICENSE:

Riverside DMV Field Office
6280 Brockton Avenue,
Riverside, CA 92506
(800) 777-0133

If you have never had a driver's license:

- **Step 1:** Fill out the [California Driver's License or ID Card Application](#). You can also do this in person at the DMV, but it is recommended to complete it online in order to save time.
- **Step 2:** Visit your local DMV. Here you will need to:
 - Provide your California Identification Card or proof of identity and residency
 - Pay the application fee
 - Pass a vision exam
 - Take a photo
 - Pass the knowledge test based on the [California Driver's Handbook](#)
- Once the above is complete, you will receive a provisional instruction permit. This will allow you to drive legally as long as a licensed adult is in the car.
- **Step 3:** Take the behind-the-wheel driving test

If you have a valid driver's license issued by another state

- **Step 1:** Fill out the [California Driver's License or ID Card Application](#). You can also do this in person at the DMV, but it is recommended to complete it online in order to save time.
- **Step 2:** Visit your local DMV. Here you will need to:
 - Provide your Social Security Number
 - Pay the application fee
 - Present an [acceptable identity document and acceptable residency documents](#)
 - Have your thumbprint scanned
 - Pass a vision exam
 - Have your photo taken
 - Pass the knowledge test based on the [California Driver's Handbook](#)

If your license has expired, go to your local DMV with you Social Security Number and proof of birth date, and legal presence along with the Application.

CHILDCARE

- **24-hour Riverside County Child Abuse Hotline:** (800) 442-4918
- **CalWORKs Child Care Assistance** provides qualifying families with childcare assistance for children under the age of 13. Help is also available to families with a disabled or special needs child older than 13. Suitable childcare providers get paid through a monthly reimbursement request.
 - (877) 410-8827
- **Childcare Finder** lists quality-rated childcare programs in Riverside
- **First 5 Riverside** offers community programming to support children between the ages of 0 and 5 and their families. This includes parenting classes, childcare and playgroups, and much more.
 - 585 Technology Ct. Riverside, CA 92507
 - (800) 248-0079
- **Diaper Bank and Little Free Libraries, The Junior League of Riverside**
 - 1860 Chicago Avenue G2, Riverside, CA 92507
 - (951) 683-4088
- **Catholic Charities - Riverside** provides clothing, appliances, diapers, formula, baby food, adult diapers, and household items to those in need.
 - 3020 Madison Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504
 - (951) 689-1803

Riverside County Public Social Services
(877) 410-8827



TECHNOLOGY

California Lifeline provides qualifying households discounted rates for cell phones and home phones. You can qualify based on income or the programs you are enrolled in. You can make free phone calls by connecting to free internet in places like a cafe or your public library without a data plan.

Obama Phone gives struggling low-income Americans free cell phones, voice minutes, and text.

Providers that offer the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which gives quality free or discounted phones and data plans, include **Assurance Wireless, TrueConnect, Tag Mobile, and Tracfone.**

If you are unable to get a phone, you can still get a phone number and make free calls using **Google Voice**. Google Voice lets you make calls and receive voicemails on any computer connected to the internet.

Google Hangout is another free platform that allows instant messaging via a web browser or app when connected to the internet.

Tech for Success program aims to assist Riverside County families with emergency technology assistance to help bridge the digital divide. This program distributes refurbished desktop computers to those who complete the necessary tasks.

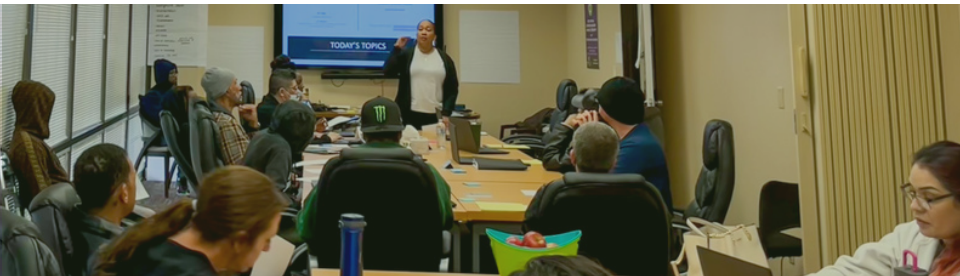
Learn My Way has free courses on how to use the Internet.

GCFGlobal has free courses on technology, reading, math, and more.

Northstar Digital Literacy tests your computer skills and helps you build them through in-person and online courses and training.

Creating an email with Google, also known as a **Gmail account**, will give you free access to sending and receiving emails and other useful Google products such as YouTube and Google Drive. The only information you need to make an account is your name and birthday. Make sure to pick a username that can be used in a professional setting if you intend to use it for those purposes.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES



- **CalJOBS** is a virtual job center that gives you online access to thousands of openings and tools to help you manage your career.
- **Employment Development Department** offers job services, training, and claims.
 - Apply for unemployment benefits, disability insurance, and paid family leave.
 - Southern California Fair and Workshops
 - Find out what jobs are the most in demand in your local area by leveraging the Labor Marketing Information.
- **The California Career Zone** site is a tool that helps job seekers explore, plan, and prepare for a career they will love.
- **Riverside County Workforce Development Center** helps job seekers find employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market
- **Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO)** wants to reduce recidivism through employment. They provide immediate paid employment, skills training, and ongoing career support to people returning from prison.
 - referralsinlandempire@ceoworks.org
- **Path2SEED, Starting Over Inc.** is an employment readiness program with bi-weekly classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Help with resumes, applications, job skills, employment skills, quality job leads in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, practice interviews, and more. Stipends, transportation, clothing, and assistance with business start-up fees are available. You can apply here.
 - tamara@startingoverinc.org
- **SCORE** offers free business mentorship, courses, and workshops.

WORKER RIGHTS AND RESOURCES

- **Warehouse Worker Resource Center** (WWRC)
 - 521 N. Euclid Ave, Ontario, CA 91762
 - (323) 423-6319 / (323) 422-8107
 - Call with a WWRC representative for free information on legal rights related to work in California.
 - (951) 394-0236
 - legal@warehouseworker.org
 - Attend a **free legal clinic** every fourth Wednesday of the month from 5:30-8pm to learn about issues such as unpaid wages, unemployment insurance, discrimination, wrongful termination, medical leave and more. Open to all workers paid low wages regardless of immigration status.
 - **La Escuelita Viva** offers educational sessions the first Saturday of each month as well as other community gatherings.
 - Check out their **resources** page to find more information and support with income taxes, quotas, housing, utilities and phone services, food assistance, your rights and more.

SO, WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?

- Minimum wage in California is \$15.50
 - Hourly workers should always be paid on time and for all time worked.
 - Employers must have enough money to cover paychecks up to 30 days after the issue date.
 - Employees are entitled to 1 rest period of at least 10 minutes for every 4 hours worked and 1uninterrupted meal period of at least 30 minutes for every 5 hours worked.
 - For more information, contact WWRC
- **Riverside County Workforce Development - Employee Relations Division - Human Resources Department**
 - File complaints regarding discrimination/harassment/retaliation and workplace violence
 - **Riverside Labor Law Attorneys** - free legal advice from an employment law lawyer and potential representation on a no win, no fees policy.
 - Call (951) 710-3206 for a free legal consultation and information

FINANCES

- **Altura Credit Union** is a not-for-profit credit union and financial institution that offers various services and financial products.
 - **The Credit Builder Loan** is designed for members to rebuild their credit score while increasing their savings. This loan allows you to take out a loan with Altura and requires monthly payments of less than \$90. This contributes to building one's score mainly through on-time payment history. One cannot access the money until the loan is paid off. Therefore both credit and savings are built up at once.
 - Programs to guide you toward financial success:
 - **MyBalance** is an online spending tool/budget creator.
 - **Debt and Budget Coaching**
 - **Credit Report Review**
 - **Homeownership Coaching**
 - **Rental Coaching**
 - **The Pathways to Homeownership Course** is a comprehensive online education program designed for first-time homebuyers to fully understand the process and obligations that come with becoming a homeowner.

Community Action Partnership of Riverside County
2038 Iowa Ave, Suite B-101, Riverside, CA
951-955-4900

- **VITA Tax Program**, offers free tax preparation services to low and moderate-income individuals and families with incomes up to \$75,000.
- **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LINEAP) and Sharing Households Assist Riverside's Energy (SHARE)** provides one-time assistance to help balance an eligible household or resident's utility bill.
- **Saving for Success** is a matched savings incentive program for residents of Riverside County who qualify. Designed to get families and individuals in a pattern of regular saving and to purchase a "productive asset."
- Financial Wellness Worksheets and Guides by 995HOPE

GET A LIBRARY CARD

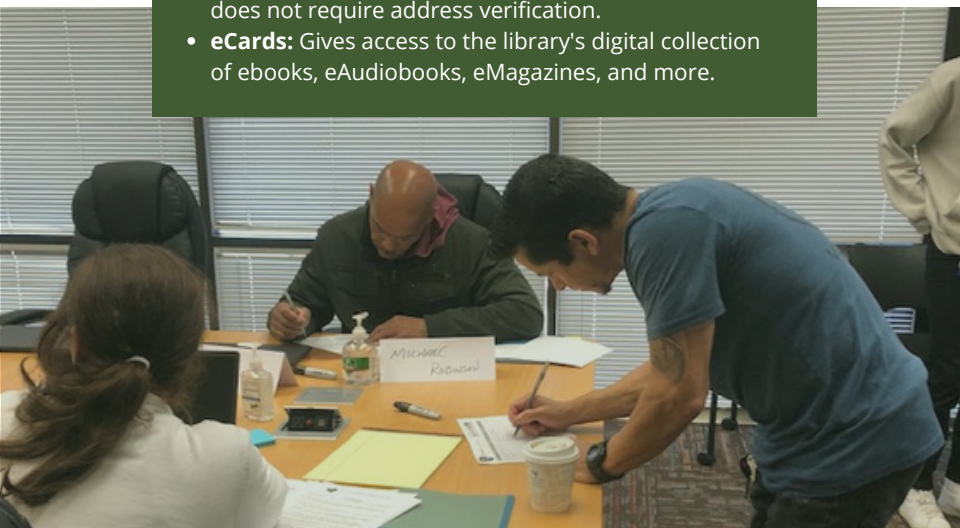
A California Library card can give you access to so many resources for free. These resources include computers, wifi, printing, free courses, and more!

Several online decarceration resources are also listed on the Riverside County Library System website.

Any resident of California can obtain a Riverside County Library System card. A valid California Driver's License with a current address or two forms of identification, one showing who you are and the other indicating your current mailing address in California, are required to receive a library card. Non-residents of California can get a library card for a \$10 annual fee. You can register for a card either in person or [online](#).

TYPES OF LIBRARY CARDS

- **Adult California Residents Card:** Can be used at any Riverside County Library System location as well as for online resources and must be renewed every three years.
- **Internet Only:** Can be used for access to library computers but not to check out materials. This card does not require address verification.
- **eCards:** Gives access to the library's digital collection of ebooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and more.



LEGAL SERVICES

- When released, call the **Public Defender's Office** to find your attorney and get questions answered about your case.
- **Fresh Start Program**, Riverside County Public Defender's Office
 - Information on the various types of post-conviction relief available. Services include dismissals/expungement, felony reduction, early probation termination, sealing arrest records, and more.
 - To apply, email [the application](#), financial declaration, and other necessary documentation to VEARroba@RIVCO.ORG. You may also mail or bring your completed application to the main office. You can also request that a packet be mailed to you by email or phone.
 - To find out what other documentation may be needed depending on what you seek help for, go to this website and scroll down to the table to see what else to include.

Law Offices of the Public Defender, County of Riverside
4075 Main St. Suite 100
Riverside, CA 92501
951-955-6000

- **Riverside Legal Aid**
 - Provide pro bono legal services, education, and counseling to qualified low-income residents of Riverside County.
 - Riverside office: (951) 682-7968
 - Eviction Prevention & Rental Assistance Program: (951) 888-2039
- **Participatory Defense** Inland Empire, Starting Over Inc.
 - Virtual meetings every Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 pm
 - Participatory defense is a community-based organizing strategy for people facing charges, their families, and communities to impact the outcome of cases and transform the landscape of power in the court system.”
 - To Join, text JOIN PD to (951) 357-3766 or (951) 230-6856
- **Legal Clinic**, A New Way of Life
 - Clinics are held on the second and fourth Saturday and third Wednesday of each month. Call 323-563-3575 to register.
- **Prison Law Office** has many helpful legal resources available to help protect the constitutional rights of people behind bars through advocacy, education, and litigation.

LEGAL SERVICES

- **Family Reunification, Equity & Empowerment (FREE) Project**, Starting Over Inc.
 - Biweekly Hub meetings occur Wednesdays from 12-2 pm and Fridays from 6-8 pm
 - Family members of those with convictions can create social biographies - compiled letters, videos, certificates, etc. - that offer a holistic picture of the person facing criminal convictions. This project supports families facing child dependency court and the child welfare system through free resources, court support, and strategy to advocate for family reunification.
 - Text name and email to (951) 347-4932 for a virtual meeting option



- **Root&Rebound**
 - **Re-entry Legal Hotline:** 510-279-4662
 - Call any Friday between 9 am and 3 pm for free legal advice
 - **Legal Clinics and Training:** Opportunities to meet one on one with a legal team member to help with record clearing along with other legal issues as well as educational trainings and workshops.
 - **Los Angeles and San Bernardino Community Lawyers:** Access to legal counsel and representation.
 - rightsinfo@rootandrebound.org

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

- **National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 800-799-7233
- **Alternatives for Domestic Violence**
 - 1005 N. State Street, Hemet, CA 92543
 - 951.425.8900
 - info@alternativestodv.org
 - **Counseling Services:** Provides individual counseling sessions by professionals that treat a wide range of mental and emotional disorders. Educational support groups that focus on various topics helpful to victims of domestic violence are also available.
 - Fees are based upon the ability to pay.
 - **24-hour Crisis Lines**
 - Riverside City Area and Out of County: 951-683-0829
 - Remainder of Riverside County: 800-339-7233
 - Also provide safety assessments, case management, referrals, life skills training, and court accompaniment.
- **California Victims Compensation Board (CalVCB)** provides victims of violent crimes compensation and restitution for expenses related to the crime and connects survivors with services and support.
- **Office of the District Attorney Victim Services** helps victims navigate the criminal justice system and their court cases, connects victims with helpful resources, provides court accompaniment, provides education on rights, and assists in the CalVCB application process.
 - 3960 Orange Street, Riverside, CA 92501
 - 951-955-5400
 - inquiries@rivcoda.org
- **Safe Family Justice Center of Riverside County** provides services to youth and adults who are at-risk or victims of domestic violence. These include prevention and intervention programs for youth and educational programs for adults and parents.
 - 3900 Orange St. Riverside, CA 92501
 - (951) 955-6100
 - info@safefamiliesca.org
- **Guide to Domestic Violence Related Restraining Orders, California Courts**

LGBTQIA2S+ SUPPORT

- **Trans Lifeline:** (877) 565-8860
- **Transgender Health and Wellness Center** offers food vouchers and rent and mortgage relief. They also offer mental health services, support groups, hair removal, name change assistance, and much more.

Riverside Transgender Health and Wellness Center #1
6700 Indiana Ave suite 252, Riverside, CA 92506
951-530-8257

- **The Trevor Project** is a national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ youth and young adults, ages 13-24, over the phone, online, and via text. Available 24/7, 365 days a year.
 - **Trevor Lifeline:** (866) 488-7386
 - **Trevor Text:** Text "START" to (678-678) to text with a trained counselor
 - **TrevorChat:** Confidential chat service with a trained volunteer counselor
- **California TRANScends** works to improve the lives of transgender Californians by advancing transgender health equity nationwide.
- **Black and Pink** is an abolitionist organization dedicated to liberating LGBTQIA2S+ people and people living with HIV/AIDS and affected by the prison system.
- **TransCanWork** provides job training, career support, networking, career fairs, and more.
- **LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert** has food banks, support groups, family support, and more for LGBTQ+ communities.
- **Family Acceptance Project** offers LGBTQ and Family Online Resources.
- **California Coalition for Women Prisoners** supports women and trans people in their re-entry process, fights for the release of women and trans prisoners, and monitors abusive conditions inside California women's prisons

DISABILITY SERVICES

- **Network of Care** for Seniors and people with Disabilities
- Adult Protective Services responds to reports of abuse against older and dependent adults in Riverside County
- **In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)** is a home care program that provides in-home care to those who meet Medi-Cal eligibility requirements, have a disability that is expected to continue for longer than 12 months, or have a physician or medical professional determine that you are unable to remain safely in your home without IHSS.
- **Disability Insurance** provides short-term wage replacement benefits to eligible California workers.
 - Disability is an illness or injury, either physical or mental, which prevents you from performing your regular and customary work. This includes elective surgery, pregnancy, childbirth, or other related medical conditions.
- **Inland Caregiver Resource Center** offers various services for seniors and families.
 - 1430 East Cooley Drive, Suite #240, Colton, CA 92324
 - (800) 675-6694
 - info@inlandcaregivers.org
- **City of Riverside Special Transportation** offers transportation to seniors and people with disabilities anywhere within the city limits via curb-to-curb pick-up.
 - Call (951) 687-8080 to request a ride
- **Senior Helpers** provides in-home non-medical care for seniors, such as companionship, meal preparation, light housekeeping, laundry, dressing, grooming, and personal care for as little as three hours once a week to a full 24 hours seven days a week. They specialize in Dementia and Alzheimer's Care.
 - 7177 Brockton Avenue, Suite 449, Riverside, CA 92506
 - (952) 374-0165
 - c gates@seniorhelpers.com
- **Care Connexus - Adult Day Services** provides an active and pleasant day service program for people dependent on others while allowing them to remain living at home.
 - 4130 Adams Street, Suite B, Riverside, CA 92504
 - (951) 509-2500
 - info@careconnexus.com

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

“Being supported through re-entry gives me courage to pursue my goals. The mentorship, positive reinforcement, and guidance to crossing that bridge to success. Everyone makes a difference and everyone matters and deserves another chance to pursue a better future. Thank you for all you do. :)”

“I feel more confident and determined. I've learned several lessons and I'm applying them to my daily life. I'm focused more on my future and I'm strong enough to accept the fact that everyone is not a part of my journey.”

“This [support] is vital for re-entry! It is comforting to have people there for me to help guide me, or even lead me, towards the necessities that I need to be a functioning part of society.”

“This program has assisted my financial, mental, and spiritual game to a new level. Really raised the bar for my expectations of my work ethic and critical thinking.”

“Being supported during ones re-entry is extremely important! And vital to ones journey to reentering society. Having someone's help along the way in suffering and assistance of any sort is beneficial because it makes a person feel comfortable and confident. Knowing that someone cares to help makes you feel loved and appreciated, so one would more than likely succeed.

“It empowers me big time. A lot of guys come out with no support at all. The easiest thing to do is give up which for a lot of us means relapsing into our old negative behaviors. Drugs, alcohol, a criminal mindset and a lack of self worth is the driving force to self-destruction. I personally feel great that I have family and community support/ I'm blessed!”

“Being supported makes me feel apart of a productive group. Productivity a successful feeling”

“I feel like I'm part of the community and not alone.”

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Please note that this guide is not comprehensive. The [Riverside County Information Line](#) (2-1-1) and [Riverside County Department of Public Social Services](#) are great tools for finding additional resources in Riverside County that may be available to you.

