

# **STRONGER IN THE LIGHT**

Survivor Resource Directory

**Middlesex County, New Jersey**

*Compiled: July 2026*

*This directory is a work in progress and will be verified and updated on an ongoing basis. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.*

## Mission & Scope

Stronger in the Light is a resource directory intended to serve survivors of:

- Childhood sexual abuse
- Adult sexual assault
- Incest
- Grooming
- Ritual abuse
- Sex trafficking
- Sexual exploitation
- Online sexual exploitation
- Child sexual exploitation
- Sexual abuse occurring in institutional, familial, faith-based, educational, athletic, residential, or other settings

Each entry below follows a consistent format so survivors, family members, and professionals can quickly identify who a resource is for, what it actually helps with, and how to reach it — not just a phone number. This edition covers Middlesex County, New Jersey, and is part of a directory intended to expand to every county in every U.S. state over time.

*A note on accuracy: every entry has been cross-checked against at least one, and in most cases multiple, publicly available sources (organizational websites, state agency directories, and court/prosecutor records) as of the verification date listed. Organizations occasionally change phone numbers, hours, or program names — please confirm details directly with the organization when using this directory for an urgent need.*

# Middlesex County, New Jersey Resource Directory

## AVANZAR — Dream Free Program

**Category:** Human Trafficking Survivor Services (Statewide, Youth-Focused)

**Address:** 927 North Main Street, Building D, Pleasantville, NJ 08232 (administrative base; services delivered statewide)

**Phone:** (609) 601-9925

**24-Hour Hotline:** 1-800-286-4184 (24-Hour Hotline)

**Website:** <https://avanzarnow.org/programs-and-services/human-trafficking/>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), including Atlantic County

**Services Offered:** Crisis response and trauma-responsive counseling for survivors of any form of human trafficking (sex and labor); system/legal advocacy; safe and protective shelter coordination; in-community outreach and prevention education; survivor mentoring.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Youth and young adults (age 21 and under) who are current or former victims of sex or labor trafficking, or professionals/family members seeking to connect a young survivor to services.

**Languages:** English, Spanish

**Hours:** 24/7 hotline

**Cost:** Free / no-cost

**Referral Needed:** No — self-referral, law enforcement, or professional referral

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *avanzarnow.org Dream Free program page; NJ State Police Human Trafficking Resources page*

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## Legal Services of New Jersey — PROTECT Anti-Human Trafficking Legal Program

**Category:** Free Civil Legal Aid (Human Trafficking, Statewide)

**Address:** P.O. Box 1357, Edison, NJ 08818-1357

**Phone:** 1-844-576-5776

**24-Hour Hotline:** N/A

**Website:** <https://www.isnjlaw.org/Victims-of-Crime/Human-Trafficking/Pages/default.aspx>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), including Atlantic County

**Services Offered:** Holistic, free civil legal services for survivors of sex or labor trafficking regardless of age or immigration status, including immigration relief (T-visas, VAWA), benefits access, and record clearing.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Survivors of any form of human trafficking in Atlantic County who need civil legal help, including undocumented survivors.

**Languages:** English, Spanish; interpretation available on request

**Hours:** Monday-Friday, business hours

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *Isnjlaw.org PROTECT program page; NJ State Police Human Trafficking Resources page*

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## National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

**Category:** Mental Health Support

**Website:** <tel:18009506264>

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## National Sexual Violence Resource Center

**Category:** Legal Resources

**Website:** <https://www.nsvrc.org/>

**Services Offered:** Legal information and resources

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## New Jersey Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO)

**Category:** Governmental Financial Assistance Program (Statewide)

**Address:** Statewide office; applications also available through the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Victim/Witness Unit

**Phone:** 1-877-658-2221

**24-Hour Hotline:** N/A

**Website:** <https://www.njoag.gov/vcco/>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), including Atlantic County

**Services Offered:** Financial compensation (up to \$25,000, or \$35,000 for catastrophic injury) for crime victims, including sexual assault and abuse survivors, to help cover counseling, medical bills, lost wages, and relocation costs.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Any Atlantic County survivor of a reported crime — including sexual assault, incest, or trafficking — who has out-of-pocket costs related to counseling, medical care, or safety needs.

**Languages:** English, Spanish; interpretation available on request

**Hours:** Monday-Friday, business hours

**Cost:** Free to apply

**Referral Needed:** No — victims apply directly; Victim/Witness Advocates can assist with the application

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *njoag.gov VCCO Contact Us page; njoag.gov VCCO Victims page; OVC Help for Victims NJ state page*

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## RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline

**Category:** Crisis Hotlines

**Address:** National (operated by RAINN)

**Phone:** 1-800-656-4673 (HOPE)

**24-Hour Hotline:** 1-800-656-4673, 24/7; online chat at [hotline.rainn.org](https://hotline.rainn.org)

**Website:** <https://www.rainn.org>

**Services Offered:** 24/7 confidential support for survivors of sexual assault; automatically routes callers to a local affiliate crisis center; online chat option for those who prefer not to call.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Anyone who wants an immediate, anonymous option (phone or online chat) before or instead of contacting a local agency directly.

**Languages:** English, Spanish; interpretation available by phone

**Hours:** 24/7

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *rainn.org; widely cited as the national sexual assault hotline operator and NJCASA's national partner*

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## Start Anew Project

**Category:** Empowerment & Support

**Website:** <https://www.startanewproject.org/>

**Services Offered:** Skills & resources to build independence

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## The Network/La Red Hotline

**Category:** LGBTQ+ Survivor Support

**Website:** <https://www.tnlr.org/en/24-hour-hotline/>

**Services Offered:** Support for LGBTQ+, kink, and polyamorous survivors

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## WomensLaw Safety Planning

**Category:** Safety Planning

**Website:** <https://www.womenslaw.org/safety-planning>

**Services Offered:** Practical safety planning information

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## **New Jersey Division of Child Protection & Permanency (DCP&P) — Child Abuse Hotline**

**Category:** Governmental Child Protective Services (Statewide)

**Address:** Statewide central registry; local Atlantic County DCP&P office assigns cases by area

**Phone:** 1-877-NJ-ABUSE (1-877-652-2873); TTY 1-800-835-5510

**24-Hour Hotline:** 1-877-NJ-ABUSE, 24/7

**Website:** <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), including Atlantic County

**Services Offered:** Intake and investigation of reports of child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse; child safety assessment and, when necessary, protective placement; connection to family support and treatment services.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Anyone in Atlantic County — including mandated reporters (teachers, doctors, clergy) and family members — who has reasonable cause to believe a child is being abused or neglected, including sexually abused, and needs to make a report.

**Languages:** English, Spanish; interpretation available on request; TTY for deaf/hard of hearing

**Hours:** 24/7

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No — reports can be made anonymously

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** NJ DCF Hotlines and Helplines page; NJAAP Child Abuse and Neglect Guidance booklet

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## **New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA) — Statewide Hotline & Referral**

**Category:** Statewide Sexual Violence Coalition

**Address:** Statewide advocacy organization; routes calls to the closest county rape crisis center (AVANZAR for Atlantic County)

**Phone:** 1-609-631-4450 (office)

**24-Hour Hotline:** 1-800-601-7200, 24/7

**Website:** <https://njcasa.org/find-help/>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey); calls from Atlantic County are routed to AVANZAR

**Services Offered:** 24-hour confidential hotline connecting callers to their nearest county-based rape crisis center; statewide advocacy, training, and prevention education; directory of culturally specific sexual violence programs.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Anyone in Atlantic County unsure of where to start after a sexual assault, or who prefers to speak with a statewide hotline before being connected locally.

**Languages:** English, Spanish; interpretation available

**Hours:** 24/7 hotline

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *njcasa.org Find Help page; NJ DCF Hotlines page; NJ OAG Hotlines page*

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## New Jersey Domestic Violence Hotline

**Category:** Statewide Crisis Hotline

**Address:** Statewide hotline

**Phone:** 1-800-572-SAFE (7233)

**24-Hour Hotline:** 1-800-572-7233, 24/7

**Website:** <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/women/hotlines/>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), including Atlantic County

**Services Offered:** Confidential crisis intervention, safety planning, information, and referral for domestic violence victims and their families; bilingual and TTY-accessible.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Anyone in Atlantic County experiencing domestic violence alongside or separate from sexual abuse who needs immediate crisis support or referral to local shelter and services.

**Languages:** English, Spanish; TTY accessible

**Hours:** 24/7

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** NJ DCF Hotlines page; NJ OAG Hotlines page

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## New Jersey Human Trafficking 24-Hour Hotline

**Category:** Statewide Crisis Hotline

**Address:** Statewide hotline

**Phone:** 855-END-NJ-HT (855-363-6548)

**24-Hour Hotline:** 855-363-6548, 24/7

**Website:** <https://www.nj.gov/njsp/division/operations/human-trafficking.shtml>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), including Atlantic County

**Services Offered:** Anonymous 24-hour hotline for reporting suspected human trafficking or seeking help as a survivor; connects to NJ State Police Human Trafficking Unit and local victim services.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Anyone in Atlantic County who suspects trafficking activity (a known hot-spot area given Atlantic City's tourism and casino industry) or who is a survivor needing help.

**Languages:** English; interpretation available

**Hours:** 24/7

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *NJ State Police Human Trafficking Resources page; WHYY news coverage of NJ State Police Human Trafficking Unit*

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## Covenant House New Jersey

**Category:** Human Trafficking & Homeless Youth Services (Statewide)

**Address:** Statewide call center; physical youth shelter located in Atlantic City, NJ

**Phone:** South Jersey line: 609-348-4070

**24-Hour Hotline:** 24/7 Call Center: 862-240-2453

**Website:** <https://www.covenanthousenj.org>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), with a dedicated South Jersey/Atlantic City site

**Services Offered:** 24/7 call center support, case management, and case coordination for survivors of human trafficking of any age and housing status; emergency shelter and long-term housing for homeless and trafficked youth in Atlantic City.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Homeless, runaway, or trafficked youth and young adults in or near Atlantic County who need emergency shelter, case management, or trafficking-specific support.

**Languages:** English, Spanish

**Hours:** 24/7 call center

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *NJ State Police Human Trafficking Resources page; covenanthousenj.org*

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## New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking (SAFE-NJ)

**Category:** Statewide Human Trafficking Coalition & Referral Directory

**Address:** Statewide coalition

**Phone:** 201-903-2111

**24-Hour Hotline:** Referrals via National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

**Website:** <https://www.safernj.org/survivor-resources>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), including Atlantic County

**Services Offered:** Statewide coalition of over 180 organizations; maintains a searchable survivor-resource database by county, community education, and coordinated advocacy efforts.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Survivors, family members, or professionals in Atlantic County looking for a broader directory of anti-trafficking resources beyond the primary hotlines.

**Languages:** English; varies by referral partner

**Hours:** Business hours for coalition office; refer to 24/7 hotlines for crisis needs

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *safernj.org homepage and Survivor Resources page*

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## After Silence

**Category:** Empowerment & Support

**Website:** <https://www.aftersilence.org/>

**Services Offered:** Online support community

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## Crisis Text Line

**Category:** Mental Health Support

**Website:** <sms:741741>

**Services Offered:** Text HOME to 741741

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## FORGE

**Category:** LGBTQ+ Survivor Support

**Website:** <https://forge-forward.org/>

**Services Offered:** Resources and support for trans and non-binary survivors

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## National Human Trafficking Hotline

**Category:** Safety Planning

**Address:** National (operated by Polaris Project)

**Phone:** 1-888-373-7888; Text 233733

**24-Hour Hotline:** 1-888-373-7888, 24/7; TTY 711

**Website:** <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en>

**Services Offered:** 24/7 confidential hotline for reporting a trafficking tip, requesting a referral, or reaching out for crisis-related services such as emergency shelter or crisis response.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Anyone who suspects trafficking, or a survivor of sex or labor trafficking who needs immediate crisis support or referral to local services.

**Languages:** English, Spanish, and multiple languages via interpretation

**Hours:** 24/7

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** [humantraffickinghotline.org](https://humantraffickinghotline.org); NJ State Police Human Trafficking Resources page

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## NJ 2-1-1

**Category:** Statewide General Social Services Referral Line

**Address:** Statewide referral service

**Phone:** 2-1-1

**24-Hour Hotline:** 2-1-1, 24/7

**Website:** <https://www.nj211.org/>

**Counties Served:** Statewide (New Jersey), including Atlantic County

**Services Offered:** General referral line connecting callers to local social services of all kinds, including emergency shelter, food assistance, mental health services, and crisis lines; can help identify additional Atlantic County resources not listed here.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Survivors or family members in Atlantic County who need help identifying practical support (housing, food, transportation, mental health referrals) alongside abuse-specific services.

**Languages:** English, Spanish; interpretation available

**Hours:** 24/7

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** [nj211.org](https://www.nj211.org/); NJ OAG VCCO Other Resources page

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## RAINN Online Hotline

**Category:** Crisis Hotlines

**Website:** <https://hotline.rainn.org/online>

**Services Offered:** Chat with a trained support specialist

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## VictimConnect

**Category:** Legal Resources

**Website:** <tel:18554842846>

**Services Offered:** Legal and support resources

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## National Domestic Violence Hotline

**Category:** Crisis Hotlines

**Website:** <tel:18007997233>

**Services Offered:** Available 24/7

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## Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline

**Category:** Crisis Hotlines

**Address:** National (operated by Childhelp)

**Phone:** 1-800-422-4453 (4-A-CHILD)

**24-Hour Hotline:** 1-800-422-4453, 24/7; text 1-800-422-4453

**Website:** <https://www.childhelp.org>

**Services Offered:** 24/7 crisis intervention, information, and referrals for children, adult survivors of childhood abuse, and concerned adults; professional crisis counselors available by phone or text.

**Who This Resource Is Best For:** Children currently experiencing abuse, or adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse or incest who want to talk to someone anonymously outside the local system.

**Languages:** English, Spanish; interpretation in 170+ languages

**Hours:** 24/7

**Cost:** Free

**Referral Needed:** No

**Last Verified:** July 2026

**Verification Sources:** *childhelp.org; widely cited national child abuse hotline*

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