

The 49-9 Project



Re-entry Program



**The Salvation Army
Oberlin Service Unit**

I will say to the prisoners, 'Come out in freedom,' and to those in darkness, 'Come into the light.' They will be my sheep, grazing in green pastures and on hills that were previously bare.

---Isaiah 49:9 NLT

Returning to the community from a period of confinement can be a daunting task. There are so many issues to be addressed: reconnecting with family, finding a place to live, securing employment just to name a few.

The Salvation Army Oberlin Service Unit is here to help through our 49-9 Project and this guide. You will need to find your own way as you work through your reentry, but I encourage you to use this guide and the resources listed to aid in a successful move back into the Lorain County community.

----Mark Fahringer
The Salvation Army
Oberlin Service Unit

- Change what is inside your head--reinvent and improve yourself.
- Live in prison how you will live outside--focus on attitudes, behaviors and habits.
- Set realistic goals and take necessary steps to achieve them.
- Don't rush it--have patience--one day at a time.
- Persevere--develop an attitude of not giving up.
- Think before you act--one false move and you could be back.
- No one owes you anything--no chip on your shoulder.
- Find your own spirituality.
- Stay in a positive living situation.
- Apologize to your victims.
- Keep in touch with family members--rebuild relationships and bonds of trust.
- Talk to your children--apologize for not being there--stay involved.
- Carry yourself with dignity and respect--you will be more likely to be treated that way.
- ***Take time out to read this book.***

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PREPARING FOR YOUR RELEASE

While you are in prison...

- Learn a trade or get a marketable skill.
- Participate in education programs. Get your GED.
- Address personal issues through treatment for addictions and mental health counseling.
- Modify(change) your child support order if needed.
- Work toward finding a positive place to live when released.
- Apply for government benefits as soon as you can.
- Keep in touch with family members.
- See if family members can send you clothing for your release (check with your institution).
- Get a Social Security card and birth certificate.
- Develop a resumé.
- Practice interviewing for a job.
- Work with your case manager to prepare for release.

from Going Home To Stay: A Guide for Successful Reentry By Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy 2011 Edition

FIRST STEPS AFTER RELEASE

When you are released, take it one day at a time...

- Contact a reentry program and/or an employment program.
- Stay in a positive living situation.
- Get proper clothing, food.
- Find your way around—know the transportation options.
- Get a birth certificate if you don't have one.
- Get a photoID/driver's license.
- Get your Social Security card if you don't have it.
- Sign up for government benefits.
- Keep in touch with your parole officer.
- Take care of health and dental needs.
- Take care of mental health needs.
- Get help for alcohol or other drug abuse.
- Make arrangements for child support.
- Take care of childcare or parenting needs.
- Get more training or education.
- Clean up your record and get legal help if needed.
- Clean up your credit and spend money wisely.
- Register with selective service. Register to vote.

from Going Home To Stay: A Guide for Successful Reentry By Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy 2011 Edition

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT

Agencies

Lorain County Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services

Men's Services

120 East Avenue, Elyria, OH 44035

440-989-4900

Women's Services

1882 East 32nd Street, Lorain, OH 44055

440-277-8190

The Nord Center

Addiction Services

440-204-4161

24 Hour Emergency 800-888-6161

Lorain UMADAOP

2314 Kelly Place, Lorain, OH 44052

440-246-4616

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous

Lorain Intergroup of A.A., Inc

440-246-1800 or www.aaneoh.org

to find local meetings

Al-Anon (for families, friends)

216-621-1381 or www.clevelandal-anon.org

to find local meetings

Cocaine Anonymous

Just For Today

The First Pilgrim Church

Corner of Winkles & Broad Streets, Elyria, OH 44035

440-667-5492

Elyria Group

1741 North Ridge Road, Elyria, OH 44035

440-714-4962

Narcotics Anonymous

888-438-4673 or www.nabuckeye.org

to find local meetings

CASE MANAGEMENT / SUPPORT / INFORMATION

49-9 Project

The Salvation Army Oberlin Service Unit
305 Artino Street Suite C
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-774-3434

Lorain Citizen Circle (Elyria)

Spitzer Plaza Building 2nd Floor
511 Broad Street
Elyria, OH 44035
4th Tuesday of every month, 10 AM
Chalene Mudd 440-653-7648

Lorain UMADAOP

2314 Kelly Place
Lorain, OH 44052
440-246-4616

Reentry Coalition of Lorain County

Goodwill Industries of Lorain County
1600 Broadway Avenue, 1st Floor
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-3174 ext 226

CHILD CARE AND PARENTING

Child Care Services and Referrals

Child Care Resource Center

5350 Oberlin Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
800-526-5268

Head Start

Lorain County Community Action Agency
506 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44052-0245
440-204-3148

Lorain County Job & Family Services

Child Care Unit

42485 North Ridge Road
Elyria, OH 44035-1057
440-323-5726
440-244-4150 (Lorain)

Oberlin Early Childhood Center

317 East College Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-774-8193

Parenting Help

Catholic Charities Family Center of Elyria

628 Poplar Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-366-1106

Help Me Grow

40 East Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
800-729-TOTS (8687)

Educational Service Center of Lorain County

1885 Lorain Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-324-5777

CHILD SUPPORT AND CUSTODY

Child Support Tips:

- The parent paying child support is called the NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT or OBLIGOR.
- The parent receiving child support is called the CUSTODIAL PARENT or OBLIGEE.
- A Support Order tells you how much child support must be paid each month. If you have to pay child support, you are still responsible for that amount the whole time you are in prison. In fact, the total amount you owe keeps increasing unless payments are being made on your case.
- If you are incarcerated, check with your worker .You may be eligible for a modification of your order.
- Notify the Support Enforcement Agency anytime your address, phone number or employment changes.
- If you are the one that is owed child support, contact the Support Enforcement Agency to see what you can do to start collecting again once you are released.
- Do not make payments directly to the custodial parent. That will not count. You will still owe that money.
- Pay the amount you owe each month. If you are having trouble paying this amount, contact the Support Enforcement Agency right away. You might be able to get your payment changed through a Support Order Modification if you qualify.
- If you are more than one month behind in child support, your driver's license can be suspended before your incarceration or after your release. Your driver's license will not be suspended while you are incarcerated. If, upon release, you find that it was, contact your worker right away.
- The agencies listed in this section may help with issues regarding child support.
- You could go back to prison for not paying child support.

Support Order Modification

In some cases, you may qualify to get your Support Order modified (changed) while you are in prison or right after you get out, so that the amount you have to pay each month is less. This process takes several months.

Modification does not help with what you already owe. Your new payment amount would not start until the month after the entire modification review process is completed. Even with a new Support Order payment, you will still have to pay off the past due child support that you owe.

Because the State of Ohio does not consider being in prison an automatic reason not to pay child support, you must qualify for modification under one of the following reasons:

- Three years have passed since the establishment of the Support Order or the last review process
- Loss of employment for 30 consecutive days or more
- Verified disability
- Incarceration beyond the child's 18th birthday
- 30% change in gross income
- Children are 18 or older and no longer in high school
- To determine the availability of health insurance

Don't worry too much about whether you qualify under these guidelines. Just contact the Support Enforcement Agency and explain your situation, such as a lack of a job, and they will let you know if you qualify. If you request a modification while you are still incarcerated, the new support payment will be based on the amount of your prison wages.

Child Support and Custody Resources

Lorain County Child Support Enforcement Agency

Customer Call Center
Monday through Friday 7:45 AM to 4:15 PM
440-284-4401

Lorain County Children Services

226 Middle Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-329-5340

Genesis House Domestic Violence Center

P.O. Box 718
Lorain, OH 44052
24 Hour Hotline
440-244-1853 / 440-323-3400
Toll Free 866-213-1188

Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services Child Support Consumer Hotline

For child support information and general questions
800-686-1556

CLOTHING

If you do not have clothing sent to you by your family or friends, you will have to wear your prison clothing when you are released. Some prisons will allow people to send you clothing to wear upon release. Ask your institution if they will accept and keep a packet of clothing for you to wear when you are going home and what your family or friends will have to do to get the clothing to you.

If you do not have family or friends to help with clothing and you need clothing right after you are released, try the following:

The Salvation Army

Phone or go to the office closest to you. They may provide clothing or vouchers for you to get clothing from a Salvation Army Thrift Store. Bring your Release Papers or Prison ID if you have these.

Elyria Corps

716 Broad Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-3026

Lorain Corps

2506 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-1921

Lorain County Service Units

Amherst

440-984-2550

Avon/Avon Lake

440-933-5639

Grafton

440-926-3883

LaGrange

440-355-4203

North Ridgeville/Columbia Station

440-236-8600

Oberlin (Kipton)

440-774-3434

Vermilion (Birmingham)

440-967-5446

Wellington

440-647-7600

Thrift Stores

167 Cleveland Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-3977

2506 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-1921

Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain

203 West 8th Street
Lorain, Ohio 44052
440-244-9915

Love, INC - Lorain County Office

PO Box 1773
Elyria, OH 44036
440-322-5683 or www.loveinclorainco.org

DROP-IN CENTERS (DAY SHELTERS)

Drop-in Centers are places where people who are homeless can spend time during the day.

Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain (“8th Street”)

203 West 8th Street

Lorain, Ohio 44052

440-244-9915

EDUCATION

GED

Improving your reading and math skills may increase your chances of getting a job. If you did not finish high school, your first step is to work toward a GED. A GED is a certificate for people who did not finish high school and do not have a high school diploma. In order to get a GED, you will need to pass a GED test. There are programs that will help you improve your skills so that you can earn your GED.

The Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE) Program offers help for adults who want to improve their basic reading and math skills or prepare for the GED test. Some places offer English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), social studies, science, employment skills, and citizenship preparation.

Ohio Literacy Network

800-228-7323 or www.ohioliteracynetwork.org

Provides the opportunity to study for the GED through either a computer-based program or television-broadcast. Practice tests for the GED are also offered.

Ohio Dept. of Education

State GED Office

877-644-6338 or www.ode.state.oh.us (click on GED)

Offers information on where to go for GED testing and copies of GED test scores.

Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain

203 West 8th Street

Lorain, Ohio 44052

440-244-9915

Lorain County Community College

Adult Basic and Literacy Education Consortium

440-366-4523

Lorain County JVS Adult Career Center

ABLE/GED Program

15181 State Route 58

Oberlin, OH 44074

440-774-1051 ext. 2241

Trade and Technical Schools

Lorain County JVS Adult Career Center

15181 State Route 58

Oberlin, OH 44074

440-774-1051

Colleges / Universities

Colleges and universities offer courses for people who want to earn a degree beyond a high school diploma or GED. There are many colleges and universities, and they each have different requirements you must meet before you can be accepted as a student. One local school is listed below. Classes are offered at several locations.

Lorain County Community College

1005 Abbe Road North

Elyria, OH 44035

440-366-4100

Paying for School / Financial Aid

There are services that can help you pay for your education. Call the Financial Aid Office at the school where you would like to attend and ask about the different types of aid that may be available. If you are in an employment program, ask them for help with finding money to help pay for your education.

There is money offered through the federal government, state government and schools that may be available to you to help you pay for your education. If you are looking for help to pay for school, you should complete and submit a FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Under a new federal law, students who were convicted of drug crimes prior to their enrollment and application for federal financial aid, will no longer be subject to a delay or a denial of aid due to their conviction. As of July 1, 2006, the federal financial aid ban will only apply to students who are convicted of a drug offense while they are in school and receiving federal financial assistance.

Federal Student Aid Information Center

800-433-3243 or www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov

For information and to fill out and send in a FAFSA online: www.fafsa.ed.gov

FAFSA applications may also be completed at Ohio Benefit Bank locations. To find a location near you: www.ohiobenefits.org

EMPLOYMENT

1. Gather all documents that an employer would need to hire you.

Here are items you may need:

- Driver's License or State ID
- Social Security Card
- Original or Certified Copy of your Birth Certificate • High School Diploma, College Diploma or GED
- Vocational Certificates
- Inmate educational record/transcript
- Résumé
- A list of three references (names and phone numbers of people who can comment about your work ability)

2. Clean up your criminal record and credit report.

Make sure wrong information gets fixed and see if you can have a past conviction or arrest expunged/sealed.

3. Understand your rights.

An employer cannot generally use your arrest record to deny you a job.

An employer may review your record of convictions and can consider the relationship between the conviction and the job in deciding whether to employ you. The employer has a lot of freedom when making this decision.

An employer may conduct a background check on you. If the employer conducts the background check himself, he does not need your permission to do it. However, if the employer asks a third-party to do it (like a security company), they need to let you know and get your written permission. If they use anything in that report to deny you a job, you have to be provided with a copy of the report and a period of time to dispute the entries.

There are laws in Ohio that prohibit people with certain convictions from working in some jobs. The types of jobs with legal prohibitions are generally in the areas of childcare, education, law enforcement, nursing and home health care – areas where there are “vulnerable” populations like children and older adults.

If you want a career where a professional license is required or helpful (such as a social worker), make sure you check with the agency that grants the license before you decide to go into that career. See if they will give a license to someone with your type of conviction. Many agencies do not have an outright ban on all ex-offenders.

There are no specific laws that protect ex-offenders from job discrimination simply because they are ex-offenders. But, there are laws that protect people from discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability and genetics. Sometimes, it gets hard to tell what caused the discrimination. If you think you were passed over for a job, or discriminated against in other ways that have to do with employment, you can file a Charge of Discrimination with the agency listed below. You can file a charge by telephone, in person or over the Internet. They will contact you after they receive it.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

1240 East 9th Street, Suite 3001
Cleveland, OH 44199
800-669-4000 or www.eeoc.gov

If you have questions about fair labor practices such as how much you are being paid, working overtime or being fired, contact:

U.S. Department of Labor

Wage and Hour Division - Cleveland District
1240 East 9th Street, Room 817
Cleveland, OH 44199-2054
216-357-5400 or www.dol.gov/esa

4. Learn about Fidelity Bonding.

If you were convicted of a crime such as theft, forgery, embezzlement or other “dishonest” act, there is a FREE federal fidelity bonding program that may help you get a job. The fidelity bond is a short-term insurance policy for the employer. It reimburses the employer should you steal anything. You can let employers who are thinking about hiring you know about this program. There are a few things you should know:

You have to have a job offer for permanent work of at least 30 hours per week to qualify.

Coverage is up to \$5,000 for six months.

The employer should phone for information.

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

770 West Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43222
614-728-1534 or www.drc.ohio.gov

5. Learn about the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC).

WOTC is a tax credit for the employer. It is meant to encourage employers to hire ex-felons and other people who might have a hard time finding a job. The employer could get as much as a \$2,400 tax break per worker. You can let employers who are thinking about hiring you know about this program. The employer just needs to complete two forms within a certain time period after the start-to-work date. Forms and directions are available from the agency listed below.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services WOTC Section

Bureau of Support Services
P.O. Box 1618
Columbus, OH 43216-1618
614-644-0966 or www.jfs.ohio.gov/wotc

6. Work with an agency that has experience with ex-offenders:

Goodwill of Lorain County
1600 Broadway Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-3174

7. For those age 55 or older, there is a program called the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

This helps low-income persons get part-time, on the job training. This does not focus on helping ex-offenders, but they may serve them. Contact the following agency for more information:

Mature Services, Inc.
42495 North Ridge Road
Elyria, OH 44035
440-324-3588 or www.matureservices.org

Job seekers also may determine their eligibility by applying online through the Ohio Benefit Bank www.ohiobenefits.org

8. Try other programs that can help you get a job.

The Employment netWork
42495 North Ridge Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035
440-324-5244

9. Consider temporary employment agencies.

These agencies place you in jobs at different companies for short periods of time. You are employed by the temporary agency, not the company. You may work at a company for one day, one week, or for many months. Temporary jobs can, but don't usually, result in permanent employment. You are generally paid weekly.

It is a good idea to sign up with more than one temporary agency because each may have different job openings and pay rates. Make sure you understand exactly how much you will be paid, and what benefits are offered. Many temporary agencies do not offer health care or paid vacations. Always get information about your pay and benefits in writing and keep a copy.

For temporary agencies, you can look in the Yellow Pages under Employment Contractors - Temporary Help, or contact the Cleveland Better Business Bureau for listings.

Cleveland Better Business Bureau
800-233-0361 or cleveland.bbb.org

10. Start your own business/entrepreneurial resources.

Starting your own business requires a business plan and money. Talk with one of the agencies listed below before you start up. They can provide free advice and guidance on self-employment.

SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives)
Provides counseling for starting or maintaining businesses. Referrals to local chapters.
800-634-0245 or <http://www.score.org>

U.S. Small Business Administration

Provides information, training and literature on starting and financing small businesses.
800-827-5722 or <http://www.sba.gov/about-sba>

11. Use libraries as resources.

Libraries usually have computers and access to the Internet available for free. They also have a good selection of books about careers and jobs. There are books that are written specifically for ex-offenders. Some of them may also have workshops on résumé writing and interviewing skills.

Elyria Public Library System

Central Library
320 Washington Ave.
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-5747

For other locations: <http://www.elyria.lib.oh.us/locations.html>

Lorain Public Library System

351 West 6th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-1192

For other locations: <http://www.lorain.lib.oh.us>

Oberlin Public Library

65 South Main Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-775-4790 or <http://www.oberlinpl.lib.oh.us>

FOOD

Food Assistance (Food Stamps)

The food assistance program is for those with very little income and assets. Instead of food coupons, Ohio issues the Ohio Direction Card. It works like a debit card. Each month, money is transferred to the card electronically for you to buy food.

- People who have committed a felony may still apply for food assistance.
- Single men and women may apply for food assistance. It is not necessary to have children in the household.
- For a single person with no children, you can make around \$1,174 per month or \$14,088 per year and still qualify.
- If you think you might be eligible, you should apply.
- The maximum a one person household may get is \$200 a month.

If it looks like you might qualify, you will be asked to also apply for unemployment compensation when you apply for Food Assistance. You will still get Food Assistance right away, but your income will be budgeted.

Lorain County Job & Family Services

42485 North Ridge Road
Elyria, OH 44035-1057
Main Phone: 440-323-5726
Lorain: 440-244-4150

Cash/Food/Medical Call Center:
440-284-4300

Applications may also be completed at Ohio Benefit Bank locations. To find a location near you:
www.ohiobenefits.org

School Breakfast and Lunch Program

This program provides free or low cost breakfast and lunch for school children from lower income families. Kids in this program receive the same food as those who pay full-price, so your child will not feel bad or singled out. Contact your school's pupil services office to apply.

Home Delivered Meals

This program delivers meals to the elderly and/or disabled who can't shop, prepare food for themselves, or travel to a location where they can get food.

Meals on Wheels

Amherst Office on Aging
(Amherst, Amherst Township, South Amherst)
440-988-2817

Elyria United Methodist Village
(Elyria)
440-284-9372

First Lutheran Church
(Lorain)
440-244-6288

Lorain County Community Action
(Elyria, Lorain, Amherst)
440-245-1870

Lorain Neighborhood House
(All of Lorain County)
440-277-8269

Lorain County Office on Aging, N.E.
(Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield Lake, Sheffield)
440-949-8146

North Ridgeville Office for Older Adults
(North Ridgeville, Grafton, Carlisle Township, LaGrange, North Eaton)
440-353-0857

Oberlin Community Services
(Oberlin)
440-774-6579

Vermilion Meals on Wheels
(Seven mile radius of the city located in Lorain County)
440-967-5186

Wellington Office on Aging
(Wellington Village)
440-647-4626

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program

WIC provides food coupons, information on healthy eating and referrals to health care. The food coupons can be used at the grocery store to buy milk, formula, baby cereal, cereal, fresh fruits and vegetables, cheese, eggs, and lots of other products. You can continue getting help until your child's 5th birthday.

You may qualify if...

- You are lower income (185% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) AND

- You are pregnant OR
- You have a child up to the age of five OR
- You gave birth, had a miscarriage or an abortion no more than six months ago.

Lorain County General Health District

9880 South Murray Ridge Road
 Elyria, OH 44035
 440-322-6367
 440-244-2209

Food Pantries

Food pantries are places that will give you free groceries, usually once a month or in emergency situations. Many require ID's and/or proof of income. Call the location to verify what documentation you need for that site. The following pantries are listed by city:

Amherst Church of the Nazarene

210 Cooper Foster Park Road
 Amherst, OH 44001
 440-988-9014
 (Last Tuesday of the month)

First United Methodist Church of South Amherst

201 West Main Street
 Amherst, OH 44001
 440-986-2461
 (Last Saturday of the month)

Good Shepherd Baptist Church

1100 Cleveland Avenue
 Amherst, OH 44001
 440-988-4506
 (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by appointment)

Heritage Presbyterian Church

515 Leavitt Road
 Amherst, OH 44001
 440-988-9409
 (Second Thursday of the month)

Avon/Avon Lake Community Resource Services

33501 Lake Road, Suite L
 Avon Lake, OH 44012
 440-933-5639
 (Tuesday and Thursday)

New Life Wesleyan Church
11149 West River Road
Columbia Station, OH 44028
440-236-8600
(First Saturday)

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
25801 Royalton Road Rte 82
Columbia Station, OH 44028
440-236-5095
(First Monday)

The Salvation Army - North Ridgeville and Columbia Station Unit
1149 West River Road
New Life Wesleyan Church
Columbia Station, OH 44028
440-236-8600
(By appointment)

Asbury United Methodist Church
1611 Middle Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-9596
(First and Third Saturdays of the month)

Community United Methodist Church
680 North Abbe Road
Elyria, OH 44035
440-365-7391
(Friday)

Elyria Hospitality Center
244 3rd Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-9409
(Monday, Wednesday and Thursday)

First Congregational United Church of Christ - Elyria
330 2nd Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-5454
(Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

Lorain County Office on Aging
320 North Gateway Boulevard
Elyria, OH 44035
440-326-4800 - Elyria area
440-244-6261 - Lorain area
(By appointment)

Mount Olivet Alliance Church

626 Lorain Boulevard
Elyria, OH 44035
440-322-1773
(Second Tuesday)

Saint Andrew's Church

300 3rd Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-322-2126
(Thursday and Friday)

Saint John Lutheran Church

1140 West River Road North
Elyria, OH 44035
440-324-4070
(Wednesday)

The Salvation Army Elyria Corps

716 West Broad Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-2026
(Monday to Thursday)

Our Lady Queen of Peace

702 Erie Street
Parish Hall
Grafton, OH 44044
440-926-2364
(First Saturday)

The Salvation Army Grafton Unit

973 Mechanic Street
United Methodist Church of Grafton
Grafton, OH 44044
440-926-3883
(Monday to Saturday by appointment)

Kipton Community Church

511 Church Street
Kipton, OH 44049
440-774-4148
(Tuesday)

LaGrange Lions Club

Confidential Address
440-355-5466
(First Saturday)

Catholic Charities of Lorain County
Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain
203 West 8th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-9915
(First and Third Thursday)

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
4501 Clinton Avenue
Lorain, OH 44055
440-277-6123
(Second and Fourth Monday)

Church on the North Coast
Love Center Food Cupboard
1405 East 28th Street
Lorain, OH 44055
440-960-1100 ext 251
(Thursday)

El Centro De Servicios Sociales
2800 Pearl Avenue
Lorain, OH 44055
440-277-8235
(Third Thursday)

First Lutheran Co-op
603 Washington Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-6286
(Varies)

Greater Saint Matthews AME Church
1909 West 24th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-245-3244
(Second Thursday)

Lorain Christian Temple
940 West 5th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-5883
(Second Wednesday)

Lorain County AIDS Task Force
221 West 21st Street, Suite LL-2
Lorain, OH 44052
440-233-1086
(For AIDS/HIV Patients - Wednesday)

Lorain Lighthouse United Methodist Church

3015 Meister Road
Lorain, OH 44053
440-282-2383
(Fourth Thursday)

Love Extended

5490 Broadway
Broadway Assembly Church
Lorain, OH 44052
440-233-8575
(Fourth Tuesday)

Pass It On

1310 Colorado Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
440-277-1335
(Third Tuesday)

Saint Mary Church

309 West 7th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-245-5283
(Fourth Monday)

The Salvation Army Lorain Corps

2506 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-1921
(Monday to Friday)

United Hearts Life Mission Center - Lorain

2367 North Ridge Road
Lorain, OH 44055
440-240-0271
(By appointment)

We Care We Share Ministries

1701 East 29th Street
Lorain, OH 44055
440-714-2690
(Tuesday and Thursday)

North Ridgeville Community Care

34015 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-353-9716
(Monday to Thursday)

Oberlin Community Services

285 South Professor Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-774-6579

(Second Saturday / Monday to Friday as needed)

Park Street Community Outreach Center

99 South Park Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-774-1266

(Third Sunday and following Wednesday and Thursday)

Lorain County Office on Aging - Northeast Office

4575 Lake Road
Sheffield Lake, OH 44054
440-949-8146
(By appointment)

Vermilion United Church of Christ

990 State Street
Vermilion, OH 44089
440-967-5186

(Third Friday or weekdays for emergencies)

Well-Help

127 Park Place
Wellington, OH 44090
440-647-2689
(Monday to Friday)

Hot Meals / Soup Kitchens

These are places such as churches where you can go to get a free meal.

- You must go on the day and time that the meal is served.
- You generally don't need a photo ID or any paperwork.
- Call to verify days and times.

The following locations are listed by city:

Amherst Church of the Nazarene

210 Cooper Foster Park Road
Amherst, OH 44001
440-988-9014
(Last Thursday)

Heritage Presbyterian Church

515 Leavitt Road
Amherst, OH 44001
440-988-9409
(Second Thursday)

His Banquet Table

New Life Wesleyan Church
11149 West River Road
Columbia Station, OH 44028
440-236-8600
(First Saturday)

Community United Methodist Church

680 North Abbe Road
Elyria, OH 44035
440-365-7391
(Friday)

Cornerstone United Methodist Church

2949 West River Road North
Elyria, OH 44035
440-324-1202
(Third Saturday)

First United Presbyterian Church

200 East Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-322-5982
(Last two Thursdays)

King's Glorious Kitchen

995 Foster Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-284-0097
(Third Thursday)

Mount Olivet Alliance Church

626 Lorain Boulevard
Elyria, OH 44035
440-322-1773
(Fourth Tuesday)

Saint Andrew's Church

300 3rd Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-322-2126

(First Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; Second Monday and Wednesday; Fourth Wednesday;
Fourth or Last Monday)

Saint Mary Catholic Church Elyria

Saint Mary School
237 4th Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-5539

(Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Tuesday)

The Salvation Army Elyria Corps

716 West Broad Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-2026

(Last full week of the month; Every Saturday and Sunday)

Washington Avenue Christian Church

301 Washington Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-4213
(Third Saturday)

Free Grafton Community Meal

The Salvation Army Grafton Unit
973 Mechanic Street
United Methodist Church of Grafton
Grafton, OH 44044
440-926-3883
(Second Saturday)

Catholic Charities Services of Lorain County

Catholic Charities Family Center of Lorain
203 West 8th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-9915

(Lunch Monday to Friday, Dinner Wednesday)

Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

647 Reid Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-3134

(Third and Fifth Thursday)

First Congregational Church of Lorain

423 Washington Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-6283

(Fourth Sunday)

First Lutheran Co-op
603 Washington Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-6286
(Varies)

Lorain Christian Temple
940 West 5th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-5883
(Wednesday and Fifth Sunday)

Lorain Lighthouse United Methodist Church
3015 Meister Road
Lorain, OH 44053
440-282-2383
(Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

The Salvation Army Lorain Corps
2506 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-1921
(Monday to Friday during the last full week of the month)

North Ridgeville Community Care
34015 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-353-9716
(Last 7 days of the month)

Saint Julie Billiard Catholic Church
5500 Lear Nagle Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-327-1978
(Last Thursday of the month)

Grace Lutheran Church
310 West Lorain Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-775-3271
(Third Saturday at 5 PM)

Oberlin Weekday Community Meals
Christ Episcopal Church
162 South Main Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-775-2501
(Monday to Friday at 5 PM)

Park Street Community Outreach Center

99 South Park Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-774-1266
(Third Sunday)

Rust United Methodist Church

128 Groveland Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-774-4905
(Every Sunday at 9 AM)

Grace's Kitchen

Trinity Lutheran Church
3747 Liberty Avenue
Vermilion, OH 44089
440-967-4225
(Tuesdays and Thursdays)

First Congregational Church

140 South Main Street
Wellington, OH 44090
440-647-3308
(Last Thursday of the month 5-6 PM)

First United Methodist Church

127 Park Place (South Main Street)
Wellington, OH 44090
440-647-3263
(Last Monday of the month 5-6 PM)

New Life Assembly

108 West Street
Wellington, OH 44090
440-647-3483
(Last Sunday of the month 5-5:30 PM)

HEALTH CARE / DENTAL CARE

It is very important that you have medical care. One way of getting care is to get health insurance. Most people get health insurance through their employer because it is very expensive to get on their own. People who are low income, are disabled, or are 65 or older, may be able to get government health insurance to pay for their health care. If you don't have health insurance, try the following options.

Medicaid

Medicaid is health insurance paid for by the government. There are two types of Medicaid: Covered Families and Children (CFC) and Aged Blind and Disabled (ABD). CFC is for low-income families with children living in the home (in some cases may cover young adults age 18-21). ABD is for those who are age 65 or older and/or for those who are blind, or have a disability. You must prove that you have applied for or are receiving Social Security Disability income (SSD) to receive this coverage and there are income restrictions that may affect the way this coverage is provided. Certain health care providers have agreed to accept Medicaid Insurance. When you seek care, you should always ask the provider if they accept Medicaid.

Medicaid covers some prescription drugs, doctor visits, hospital care, laboratory and x-rays, medical equipment and supplies, some dental care, mental health (including some prescription medication), vision, alcohol and drug rehabilitation and other services. Some services will have small fees that you will have to pay. For seniors and disabled, Medicaid may pay for long-term care.

- You may apply for Medicaid on the day you are released from prison.
- If you were eligible for Medicaid at the time you entered prison, and you were incarcerated for no longer than 12 months, you will be issued a temporary Medicaid card (good for 60 days). You must reapply for Medicaid during those 60 days.
- If you are 65 or older and low income, or if you have qualified before for Social Security Disability or SSI, you will probably qualify immediately for Medicaid.
- This program may help pay medical bills dating back three months from your application date but not further back than your date of release.

You can apply at:

Lorain County Job & Family Services

42485 North Ridge Road
Elyria, OH 44035-1057
Main Phone: 440-323-5726
Lorain: 440-244-4150

Cash/Food/Medical Call Center:
440-284-4300

Applications may also be completed at Ohio Benefit Bank locations. To find a location near you:
www.ohiobenefits.org

Medicare

Medicare is a health insurance program for people age 65 and older, or disabled people younger than 65, who have worked under the Social Security system or are dependents of someone who has. Medicare provides hospitalization coverage (Part A), supplemental insurance for things like doctor's visits (Part B), and offers prescription drug coverage (Part D). Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans) is through private companies that provide Part A and Part B benefits to anyone eligible to enroll, many plans cover prescriptions as well.

- When you go to prison, you do not lose your Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) benefit, so you don't need to re-enroll.
- You will only lose your Part B (Supplemental Insurance) and Part D (medication) if you stopped paying for it while you were in prison.
- If you stopped paying for Medicare Part B, or Part D, you should re-enroll within 63 days of release. Otherwise, you may be penalized for late enrollment or you may have to wait until the next general enrollment period (January through March) for coverage to start the following year. You may be subject to a higher premium when you re-enroll.
- Medicare offers a subsidy to help pay costs associated with its Part D program. If you qualify based on your income (150% or less of the Federal Poverty Guidelines) and assets, it may pay part of your premium, deductibles, and/or co-payments for services provided under Part D. The amount of help varies depending on income, family size and the person's resources.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

800-MEDICARE or www.medicare.gov

Offers information to those who are already on Medicare.

Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program (OSHIIP)

800-686-1578 or www.insurance.ohio.gov

For information about health insurance options. Volunteers can provide one-on-one assistance.

Social Security Administration

800-772-1213 or www.socialsecurity.gov

To apply/enroll for Medicare.

Prescription Drugs

Avon/Avon Lake Community Resource Services

33501 Lake Road, Suite L

Avon Lake, OH 44012

440-933-5639

Beyond the Band-Aid

Helps people in the Oberlin area apply for drug company programs which provide prescription medications free of charge or at a reduced cost. Must not have any type of insurance that covers the medication (most programs are not open to those who are eligible for Medicaid or Medicare). You must have a doctor who can prescribe the medications. Contact The Salvation Army Oberlin Service Unit at 440-774-3434 or mark.fahringer@use.salvationarmy.org for more information.

Drug Repository Prescription Assistance

The goal of the program is to use donated prescription drugs to benefit individuals who are in need and have limited or no prescription drug coverage.

For more information regarding program details, donations, guidelines, and prescription availability call the Prescription Assistance Phone line at 440-284-3064. For more information contact your local medical provider, call Buderer Drug Company at 419-873-2800 or visit www.budererdrug.com

Karen P. Nakon Breast Cancer Foundation

35765 Chester Road
Avon, OH 44011
440-933-7621

Provides assistance for breast cancer patients

Lorain County Free Clinic

3323 Pearl Avenue
Lorain, OH 44055
440-277-6641

Patient Medication Assistance Program representative available daily

Love, INC - Lorain County Office

PO Box 1773
Elyria, OH 44036
440-322-5683 or www.loveinclorainco.org

North Ridgeville Community Care

34015 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039

Oberlin Community Services

285 South Professor Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-774-6579

The Salvation Army - Lorain County Locations

Elyria Corps

716 Broad Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-3026

Lorain Corps

2506 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-1921

Lorain County Service Units

Amherst
440-984-2550

Avon/Avon Lake
440-933-5639

Grafton
440-926-3883

LaGrange
440-355-4203

North Ridgeville/Columbia Station
440-236-8600

Oberlin (Kipton)
440-774-3434

Vermilion (Birmingham)
440-967-5446

Wellington
440-647-7600

Health Clinics

Lorain County Free Clinic

The Free Clinic in Lorain County provides a wide range of services to fit the needs of its residents. Primary Care services, referral services, vision, and plenty of prescription drug programs allow residents who normally cannot receive medical care to receive some of the best in Lorain County.

On-site Services:

Dermatology
Diabetic/Dietician Counseling
Women's Health
Infectious Disease
Medical Massage Therapy
Ophthalmology / Vision Care
Orthopedics Screening and Referral

Patient Medication Assistance Program representative available daily

Off-site Services:

Available for Registered Patients

Referrals to Sub Specialties:

Imaging and Diagnostic Testing at Mercy Regional Medical Center and EMH Healthcare

3323 Pearl Avenue
Lorain, OH 44055
440-277-6641

Lorain County General Health District

The services at Adult Health Clinics are for anyone ages 55 and over, regardless of income, but must be residents of area served by the Lorain County General Health District. The clinics are staffed by Registered Nurses, specializing in geriatrics, and by Clinic Health Aides.

Adult Health Clinic services include:

Physical Exams
Complete Immunizations
Assistance in identifying health needs
Height and Weight
Vision and Hearing
Information to help in adopting a healthier life-style
Diabetic Screening
Foot Checks
Self-breast Exam Lesson
Colon Cancer Screening
Blood and Urine Screenings
Information about local services

Adult Health Clinic Sites

Avon Senior Center 36784 Detroit Road Avon, OH	Wellington Fire Station #2 202 Kelly Street Wellington, OH
Sheffield Lake Community Center 4575 East Lake Road Sheffield Lake, OH	North Eaton Christian Church 35895 East Royalton Road Eaton Township, OH
Old Stone Church 553 S. Main Street Amherst, OH	Oberlin Senior Center 90 East College Street Oberlin, OH
Sugar Ridge Baptist Church 36600 Sugar Ridge Road North Ridgeville, OH	Church of Christ 5075 Toledo Road Sheffield Township, OH

Call for an appointment:

440-322-6367, 440-244-2209, or 440-236-8722

Lorain County Health & Dentistry

- Adult Medicine. For patients ages 19 and older. Same day sick appointments available. Call first.
- Pediatrics (child and adolescent). In pediatrics, LCH&D provides well child exams and immunizations, school and sports physicals, and gently cares for sick infants and children. While appointments are encouraged, LCH&D offers daily "open access" in pediatrics for sick children; walk-in, sign-in between 12:20 - 12:50 and your child will be seen by 2:30 pm.
- OB/GYN. For girls (age 12 and older) and women. Women's health and prenatal care.
- Asthma/Allergy. For patients of all ages. Located at 1800 Livingston Avenue.
- Podiatry. For patients of all ages. LCH&D encourages diabetic patients to see the foot doctor at least once each year.
- Confidential treatment for sexually transmitted diseases.

1205 Broadway Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052

3745 Grove Avenue
Lorain, OH 44055

412 East River Street
Elyria, OH 44035

Call 440-240-1655 for appointments at any location

HCAP (Hospital Care Assurance Program) Free Care at Ohio Hospitals

Every hospital in Ohio is required by law to provide basic, medically necessary, hospital-level services (both inpatient and outpatient) free of charge to people whose incomes are at or below the federal poverty level and who are not currently receiving Medicaid (may be on Medicaid spend-down, if you have not reached your spend-down amount for the month of treatment). This program is independent of immigration status, and requires no proof of status.

The hospital is required to notify patients of this program and must help people apply. Ask about this program. HCAP applies only to care by hospital employees in hospital facilities, not to independent corporations or private practices not under the hospital. However, a patient should request an "award letter" stating his or her qualification for HCAP, and show this to non-covered providers, who may choose to reduce their fees. Those with low incomes who do not qualify for HCAP should ask about individual hospitals' charity care programs.

Dental Care

Lorain County Health & Dentistry

The Health Center's 8-operator dental clinic is an inviting, modern and comfortable environment where professional staff members use the latest equipment and technologies to provide hygiene, restorative and emergency dental care.

Cleanings & Hygiene
Radiographs
Fluoride Treatment
Sealants
Oral Cancer Screenings
Fillings, Amalgams & Composites
Extractions
Examinations

Call 440-240-1655 for an appointment

HIV / AIDS

Lorain County AIDS Task Force

221 West 21st Street, Suite LL1
Lorain, OH 44052
440-223-1086

HOUSING

At least eight months before you are released, you should start thinking about where you will live. Work with your case manager to create a plan. Case managers on the outside at the reentry programs (see page 2 for a list) may also help you find housing. Think about the following options:

Permanent Housing

1. Living with family or friends:

Living with family or friends may be your best option. If you are planning on living with family or friends, make sure you tell your case manager about any criminal history of the people you will be living with. You may not be able to live with certain people. It is better to tell the case manager up front so you can get approval. Otherwise, you may be violating the conditions of your parole/post-release control.

2. Rental Housing:

To find an apartment or house to rent, try the following:

Look in the classifieds section of the major newspapers, The Chronicle-Telegram or The Morning Journal, or try the free or local papers around the county.

Walk or drive around the neighborhood you want to live in. For Rent signs are often posted on lawns and in windows.

Subsidized rental housing

Some rental housing is called subsidized because it is funded in some way by the government or by other sources. Because of this, you pay rent based on your income or a fixed rent that is generally less than other units on the market.

- Public housing: This is government-owned housing. All public housing may have long waiting list two years is not uncommon. However, this varies. Some persons (such as older adults or veterans) may be given priority for certain units and get in faster.

There are income and other eligibility requirements that vary by public housing authority. There are also some specific restrictions affecting ex-offenders, but many ex-offenders may still qualify for public housing. You are generally expected to pay 30 percent of your income for rent.

Here are some rules of all public housing authorities:

Federal law prohibits admitting households that include a member who has ever been convicted of methamphetamine production on the premises of federally-funded housing.

Federal law prohibits admitting households that include a member who is subject to a lifetime registration requirement under a state's sex offender law.

Ultimately, the housing authority may deny admission to any applicant whose habits and practices may reasonably be expected to have a negative effect on other tenants or on the facility.

- Housing Choice vouchers: Housing Choice vouchers were formerly known as Section 8 vouchers. If you qualify for a voucher, you have to find a private landlord that is willing to lease to you and accept the voucher. You will generally only pay 30% of your income toward rent.

Information and applications for both programs may be obtained through the following:

Lorain Metropolitan Housing Authority

1600 Kansas Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
440-288-1600

Temporary Housing (Shelters)

Family Promise of Lorain County

PO Box 179
Elyria, OH 44035
440-284-0494

(Family housing through an interfaith network)

Haven Center

1536 East 30th Street
Lorain, OH 44055
440-277-9272

St. Joseph Emergency Shelter

317 West 15th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-246-1517

(November through March)

Transitional Housing

Elyria YWCA

318 West Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035

Faith House

1561 East 30th Street
Lorain, OH 44055
440-277-4430

Foreclosure Assistance

If you own your home and are behind in your payments or think you may not be able to make your payments, you may be in danger of foreclosure (losing your home). The following initiative is administered by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) and connects distressed homeowners with local housing counseling agencies for help with the application process.

Save the Dream Ohio

888-404-4674 or www.savethedreamohio.gov

Housing Rights

Catholic Charities Services of Lorain County

628 Poplar Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-366-1106

Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio

175 south 3rd Street, Suite 250
Columbus, OH 43215
614-280-1984

El Centro de Servicios Sociales Inc.

2800 Pearl Avenue
Lorain, OH 44055
440-277-8235

Legal Aid Society

1530 West River Road North Suite 301
Elyria OH 44035
(440) 323-8240
www.lasclev.org

Lorain County Urban League

1530 West River Road, Suite 300
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-3364

Neighborhood House Association of Lorain County

3835 Clifton Avenue
PO Box 1039
Lorain, OH 44055
440-233-8768

IDENTIFICATION / PAPERWORK

Record of Arrest and Prosecution (RAP Sheet)

Your criminal record may consist of your arrests, convictions and/or other dispositions (such as a dismissal of your case). Here are a few important things to remember:

- You may need to contact several different agencies to get complete information and to make sure all records are correct.
- Know what you want. Do you need only your arrest records, or do you want to see your dispositions (outcome of your case such as a dismissal)? Do you want to see felonies, misdemeanors, or both?
- If you just want to view a detailed record of your felony cases in Lorain County, try the Clerk of Courts online database. It is free at <http://cp.onlinedockets.com/loraincp/>
- If you want to make sure all records are correct, some people recommend starting your search with the city in which you were arrested and working your way up through the county. The following Lorain County Municipal Courts have online databases to search for free:

Avon Lake Municipal Court

(Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield Village)

<http://www.avonlakecourt.com/search.php>

Elyria Municipal Court

(Elyria, Columbia Station, Grafton, LaGrange, North Ridgeville)

<http://elyriamunicourt.org/index.php?id=records-schedules>

Lorain Municipal Court

(Lorain, Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Township)

http://www.cityoflorain.org/municipal_court/public_access

Oberlin Municipal Court

(Oberlin, Amherst, Wellington)

<http://www.oberlinmunicipalcourt.org>

Vermilion Municipal Court

<http://www.vermilionmunicipalcourt.org>

Out-of-County Information

If you have committed felonies in other counties in the State of Ohio, contact the police department, sheriff's department and county clerk of court in that community for information.

You can also get a "background check" on yourself. The Attorney General's Office for the State of Ohio provides Ohio Civilian Background Checks. You can view all felonies reported to them throughout Ohio. Information on these checks is available in the following section.

There are also private companies that offer background checks. In some cases, these are less expensive than the Ohio Civilian Background Checks. Be sure to check with the Better Business Bureau at 216-241-7678 or www.clevelandbbb.org to get information on these companies before giving them money.

Ohio Civilian Background Checks / State Criminal Repository Records

For a record of your Ohio felonies that have been reported to the State Attorney General's Office, you can request a civilian background check from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. To do this, you must go to an agency that has an electronic fingerprint machine. Fees vary by location, but are usually around \$30-\$60.

To find a location near you, go to the web site listed below. Click on "Services" and then "Background check." You should call for more information before you go.

Be prepared with the following:

- Photo ID
- Payment (often must be cash or money order)
- Your phone number
- Your mailing address

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation

PO Box 365, London, OH 43140

877-224-0043

www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov

What to do if you're stopped by the police

- Think carefully about your words, movement, body language and emotions.
- Don't get into an argument with the police.
- Remember, anything you say or do can be used against you.
- Keep your hands where the police can see them.
- Don't run. Don't touch any police officer.
- Don't resist even if you believe you are innocent.
- Don't complain on the scene or tell the police they're wrong or that you're going to file a complaint.
- Do not make any statements regarding the incident.
- In order to preserve your right to remain silent, you must clearly tell the police officer that you are invoking your right to remain silent.
- Ask for a lawyer immediately upon your arrest.
- Remember officers' badge & patrol car numbers.
- Write down everything you remember ASAP.
- Try to find witnesses and their names and phone numbers.
- If you are injured, take photographs of the injuries as soon as possible, but make sure you seek medical attention first.
- If you feel your rights have been violated, file a written complaint with the police department's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board, or call the ACLU hotline, at 216-472-2200.

Produced by the ACLU of Ohio Foundation

4506 Chester Ave., Cleveland, OH 44103

216.472.2200

www.acluohio.org

Birth Certificates

A certified (official) birth certificate is a very important document that you should have. It is often required when applying for a State ID, driver's license, marriage license, passport, school enrollment, or to access other benefits. A certified birth certificate will generally have a raised, embossed, impressed or multicolored seal. Non-certified copies are not acceptable for legal purposes.

Write or visit the vital statistics office in the state, city or county where you were born. Often these offices will be part of the health department, but not always. The library can help you locate information for the city, county or state you need.

Fees vary, but in Ohio, you can expect to pay around \$15-25. If you cannot pay for this, a social service agency may be able to help. If you are already working with an agency, ask them for assistance.

There are some places that may help you get your Birth Certificate even if you are not working with them, but the availability may change from month to month. You can call The United Way of Greater Lorain County at 211 or 1-800-275-6106 to see what help is available.

County and local offices usually process requests quicker than the state offices. The fastest way to obtain a birth certificate is in person (same-day). If you request it by mail, it may take 3-8 weeks from the time the request is received. Some offices may allow requests by phone with a credit card.

Services on the Internet such as www.vitalcheck.com can expedite delivery (7-10 business days) and can help you get out-of-state birth certificates, but you must pay by credit card and the cost is higher.

Be prepared with the following information to get your birth certificate:

- Your full name and your gender (sex)
- Your father's full name (if available)
- Your mother's maiden name
- Your month, day and year of birth
- Place of birth (city/county/state; name of hospital, if known)
- Telephone number
- Address where it will be sent (if mailed)
- Notarized sworn statement (California only)
- Photocopy of picture I.D. if necessary (not required in Ohio)

IF YOU WERE BORN IN LORAIN COUNTY...

Lorain County General Health District

9880 South Murray Ridge Road

Elyria, Ohio 44035

(440) 322-6367

Cost: \$22

IF YOU WERE BORN IN OHIO (LORAIN COUNTY INCLUDED)...

Ohio Department of Health
Vital Statistics
PO Box 15098
Columbus, OH 43215-0098
614-466-2531
www.odh.ohio.gov
Phone M-F: 8:00am-5:00pm; Cost: \$21.50

IF YOU WERE BORN ELSEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES...

US Department of Health and Human Services
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road
Hyattsville, MD 20782
800-232-4636
cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.html

For information on contacting the vital statistics office in the area where you were born.

IF YOU ARE AN AMERICAN CITIZEN BORN ABROAD...

US Department of State Passport Services
Vital Records Section
1111 19th Street NW Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036
202-955-0307
travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_825.html

Credit Reports

A credit report is a detailed history of how you pay your bills (whether they are on-time or late) and how you manage your debt, loans and credit. In addition, public information such as judgments, bankruptcies and delinquent child support payments are included.

You should review your credit report periodically to make sure everything is accurate. It is not unusual for mistakes to occur, and you want to take care of those so they don't affect your ability to get a job, rent an apartment, buy a home or get a credit card. Landlords, employers (with your permission) and others with legitimate business purposes can get a copy of your report.

The report may include a "credit score," which is a number that is used to predict how credit-worthy you are. The higher the score, the better. You may benefit from talking with a credit-counseling agency if you think you need help managing your credit. Here are helpful things to know:

- There are three companies (TransUnion, Equifax and Experian) that maintain credit reports and each company may have different information.

- You can get a FREE copy of your credit report once every 12 months (ONLY through the Annual Credit Report Request Service). You can request all three reports at once so you can compare them, or you can space them out so you can keep track of changes - as long as you don't request the same report more than once in a 12-month period. However, your free copy does not include your credit score.
- You can also get a free copy of a report that was used to take an "adverse action against you" such as denying you employment, credit or insurance, as long as you request it within 60 days of receiving notice of the action. The notice will give you the name of who to contact to get the free copy.
- If you are unemployed and intend to apply for employment in the next 60 days OR you are on welfare, you can also get a free copy of your credit report.
- If you find something that is wrong on your credit report ,contact BOTH the company that produced the credit report and the company that provided the original information (such as a credit card company) to dispute the information.
- Generally, if you dispute something, the credit reporting company must begin to investigate it and make a note in your file or delete the error within 30 days of receiving your original request. They don't have to FIX the error within 30 days, just note that they are working on it.
- If you think you would benefit from credit or budget counseling, or you need help understanding your options, contact one of the nonprofit money management agencies listed later in this guide.

To get a FREE copy of your credit reports once every 12 months, contact the following. DO NOT call any other advertised service; they are usually trying to get money out of you, even if they say it is free.

Annual Credit Report Request Service
 PO Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281
 877-322-8228
www.annualcreditreport.com

If you need a report more often than that, or you want a report with your credit score, contact the following. There is a fee for these services unless you qualify for a free report based on the points mentioned on the prior page.

TransUnion
 800-888-4213
www.transunion.com

Equifax
 800-685-1111
www.equifax.com

Experian
 888-397-3742
www.experian.com

DD-214 (Military Discharge Papers)

DD-214s are official discharge papers. This is proof that you were discharged from military service. If you do not have a certified copy of your DD-214, it is important that you get and keep a copy. You may need a DD-214 to access many services available to veterans.

To get a copy of your DD-214:

Contact the National Archives and Records Administration and ask for form SF-180. You will need to complete the form and send it back by mail or fax. A written request may be sent without the form, but you should phone first to receive more information. You may also initiate your request through the Web site archives.gov. Usually, copies of DD-214s are free.

National Archives and Records Administration

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
866-272-6272
FAX: 314-801-9195

After you receive your DD-214, it is a good idea to have it recorded at the Lorain County Recorder's Office. They will keep a copy on file in their office for you.

If you had your DD-214 recorded with the Lorain County Recorder's Office, you may go there to obtain a certified replacement copy:

Lorain County Recorder

226 Middle Ave.
Elyria, OH 44035
Elyria: 440-329-5148
Lorain: 440-244-6261
<http://www.loraincounty.com/recorder/>

Driver's License / State Identification Card

Driver License Suspensions

If you want to make sure that you have a valid Ohio driver's license or you want to know what suspensions or blocks you have on your license, call the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). They can give you information by phone, you can visit in-person, or you can request that they mail you a summary letter which lists all suspensions and/or blocks and the fines that you owe to remove these.

If you need to have your license reinstated (get your license back) and you are eligible, you can do this by mail (takes 7-10 business days) or in-person. In-person is faster, but call first to make sure you bring the correct documents. If your license was suspended because you did not pay child support, you must pay what the Child Support Enforcement Agency requires before you can get your license reinstated. See page 4 for detailed information.

There is also usually a fee to reinstate your license and that will vary depending on the number and type of offenses. Reinstatement Fees may be paid at the following Deputy Registrar License Agencies in Lorain County:

Agency #4721

684 Avon Belden Road, Suite D
Avon Lake, OH 44012
(440) 933-3266

8:00-5:00 M-W-Th-F
8:00-6:30 Tuesday
8:00-noon Saturday

Agency #4723

Chestnut Commons Drive
Elyria, OH 44035
(440) 322-0723

8:00-6:30 Monday
8:00-5:00 Tues. - Fri.
8:00-2:00 Saturday

Agency #4718

805 Patriot Drive, Unit D
Wellington, OH 44090
(440) 647-6022

8:00-6:30 Monday
8:00-5:00 Tues. - Fri.
8:00-1:00 Saturday

Agency #4755

2290 Kresge Drive
Mayflower Square
Amherst, OH 44001
(440) 988-9064

8:00-6:30 Monday
8:00-5:00 Tues. - Fri.
8:00-noon Saturday

Mail correspondence to:

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles

P.O. Box 16520
Columbus, Ohio 43216-6520
614-752-7500
800-589-8247
www.bmv.ohio.gov

If you are low income and think you need legal assistance to help reinstate your license, try calling the following:

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Lorain County Office

1530 West River Road North Suite 301

Elyria OH 44035

(440) 323-8240

www.lasclev.org

Driver License Renewals / Duplicates / New Licenses

If you need a duplicate copy of your license (because your license was confiscated or lost), a new license, or you need to renew your driver's license, contact the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. If your license has been expired for more than six months, you will need to purchase the temporary packet and retake the driving test.

To schedule a driving exam:

Driver Exam Station

657 Chestnut Commons Drive

Elyria, OH 44035

(440) 323-9466

Open Tues. - Sat.

(Call for hours)

If you have a Release Identification Card (see page 47), you can use this as the only form of ID needed to get a driver's license (as long as there are no conflicts between what is on the card and what is on the BMV record). If you do not have the card, you must provide proof of the following: full legal name, date of birth, social security number, proof of residency, and citizenship or legal alien status. Numerous forms of documents are acceptable:

Primary Documents

(Must include full legal name and date of birth)

- * Certificate of Birth - Either an original or certified copy with a seal, issued by an appropriate government agency. Must contain gender.
- Certified Copy of Court Order - Must contain the full name and date of birth of the applicant.
- Concealed Weapons Permit - A valid Ohio issued permit with photograph.
- Driver License - Any state, territory or possession of the United States, with photograph, current or expired not more than six months.
- Military Identification - A valid United States military service or dependent identification document with photograph.
- Offender Release Card - Valid issued by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction or DYS Department of Youth Services; containing the person's photograph, name, date of birth and Social Security number.
- State-Issued Identification Card - Any state, territory or possession of the United States, with photograph, current or expired not more than six months.
- State-Issued Learners Permit - Any state, territory or possession of the United States, with photograph, current or expired not more than six months.

- United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) Documents - Must be an original and valid, or like documents issued by the successor agency to the USCIS.
- Valid Passport - A valid United States Passport or United States Passport Card, with photograph or a passport with photograph from another country accompanied by appropriate USCIS documents.
- Any other genuine and reliable document approved by the BMV Registrar (not deputy registrar)

Secondary Documents

(Must Include Social Security Number if not on Primary Document)

- Bureau of American Indian Affairs Card or American Indian Treaty Card - Tribal Identification card is not acceptable.
- Certified Copy of a Court Order – A certified copy of a court order with or without the date of birth.
- Credit Card
- Department of Human Services Card - May or may not have photo.
- Employer Identification Card - With photograph.
- Foreign Birth Certificate - Accompanied by an approved translator if the birth certificate is not in English.
- Gun Permit - With photograph.
- Health Insurance Card – Current and valid.
- Internal Revenue Service or State Tax Form - Issued by the appropriate governmental agency within the last 3 years. W-2 forms are not acceptable.
- Marriage Certificate – Or marriage license.
- Medical Records – From a doctor or hospital.
- Military Dependent Identification - Must be valid with photograph.
- Military Discharge – Separation papers.
- Motor Vehicle Title – But no vehicle registration.
- Pilot's License
- Public Assistance Card – Issued by a governmental agency.
- School Record or Transcript - Must be certified copy.
- Social Security – An official social security card or number identification (numident) printout issued by the social security administration, but not a metal card.
- Student Identification Card - With photograph issued by a recognized school or university.
- Voter Registration Card
- Any other genuine and reliable document approved by the BMV Registrar (not deputy registrar)

Residency Documents

(Must Include Ohio Residency Street Address)

If the primary and secondary documents presented do not establish the applicant's current Ohio residence street address, the applicant shall present additional documents containing the applicant's name and current address within Ohio to establish that address to the satisfaction of the registrar or deputy registrar. A post office box or other mail box address is not acceptable.

The following documents shall be acceptable if the applicant's current Ohio residence street address is included in the document. Only original documents or a copy bearing an original certification by the issuing authority are acceptable. Uncertified copies or copies of certified documents are not acceptable. Failure to provide two acceptable identification documents and proof of residency in Ohio shall result in the denial of the application.

- Insurance Policy - Any current and valid automobile liability, premises liability, or life insurance policy.
- Bank Statement - Any checking or savings account statement, including on-line statements, dated within the last 60 days.
- Child Support Check Stub - From the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services with the name and address of the applicant.
- Income Tax Return Filing - Copy of federal or Ohio income tax return filing not more than 18 months old, with proof of filing.
- Certified Copy of Court Order - Must be court order of probation, order of parole, or order of mandatory release.
- School Records - Must contain satisfactory proof of identity, Ohio residency, and relationship of the parent or guardian to the child applicant.
- Certified Statement of Residency - In the case of a dependent child, the BMV may accept a certified statement of residency from a child's parent or guardian, signed in the presence of a BMV official. Satisfactory proof of identity, Ohio residency, and relationship of the the parent or guardian to the child applicant is also required.
- Certified Statement of Residency - In the case of a married person, the BMV may accept a certified statement of residency from the applicant's spouse, signed in the presence of a BMV official. Satisfactory proof of identity, Ohio residency, and marital relationship is also required.
- Installment Loan Contract - From a bank or other financial institution.
- Major Credit Card Bill - Statement – or major retail store credit card statement with Ohio street address.
- Mortgage Account - Or proof of home ownership.
- Ohio Certificate Of Title
- Ohio Mail-in Renewal Notice
- Valid Ohio Voter Registration Card
- Paycheck Stub - Issued within the last six months.
- Professional License - Issued by an Ohio government agency.
- Property Tax Bill - Or receipt of payment.
- Hunting/Fishing License - Ohio resident hunting or fishing license valid during the current or previous year.
- Sales Tax or Business License - Must show Ohio residence address.
- Selective Service Registration Acknowledgement Card
- Certification of Residency - From a nursing home or homeless shelter on a form prescribed by the registrar for that purpose.
- Utility Bill - From an electric, telephone, water, sewer, cable, satellite, heating oil, or propane provider issued within the last 60 days.
- Concealed Carry Permit - Valid concealed carry weapons permit.
- Public Assistance Check Stub - Check stub, food stamp card, or letter on government letterhead (issued within the last 12 months), issued by a government public assistance agency.
- Social Security Administration Document – with Ohio street address
- TSA letter
- Other - Any other genuine and reliable document approved BMV Registrar (not deputy registrar).

US Legal Presence Documents

- * Certificate of Birth – Either an original or certified copy, with a seal, and issued by an appropriate government agency.

- Valid Passport – A valid United States Passport or United States Passport Card, with photograph or a passport with photograph from another country accompanied by appropriate USCIS documents.
- Naturalization Document – Issued by the United States.
- United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) Documents – Must be an original and valid, or like documents issued by the successor agency to the USCIS.

* In line with Puerto Rican law, effective Monday, November 1, 2010, Ohio's BMV - like the BMVs in other states - can only accept certified copies of Puerto Rican birth certificates that are issued on or after July 1, 2010.

Note: Additional documentation may be required if the documentation provided is questionable. Contact must be made by Deputy Registrar to the BMV License Control Help Desk for more information.

Current fees are: Temporary Instruction Permit: \$22; Driver's License Renewal: \$25.75; Duplicate Driver's License: \$24.50.

You can walk in to any license agency for service (see page 42).

Automobile Insurance / Car Insurance

In Ohio, it is illegal to drive any motor vehicle without insurance or other financial responsibility (FR) proof. It is also illegal for any motor vehicle owner to allow anyone else to drive the owner's vehicle without FR proof.

If you are asked to show proof of insurance or financial responsibility and cannot, you will lose your driver's license for at least 90 days for the first offense (work privileges are available after 30 days in some cases), and you may face other penalties.

For more information, contact the following:

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Safety Responsibility Division - Driver License Suspensions Section
P.O. Box 16583, Columbus, Ohio 43216-6583
614-752-7700
www.bmv.ohio.gov

Ohio Dept. of Insurance
50 W Town Street, 3rd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
800-686-1526
www.insurance.ohio.gov

This agency offers a "Shoppers Guide to Automobile Insurance" under publications on their web site that may be helpful.

State Identification Card

If you do not have a valid driver's license, you can apply for a State ID Card. There are two forms of a State ID — temporary and permanent. If you have a suspended driver's license and you plan on driving again, ask for a temporary ID. If you get a permanent ID, you'll have to re-take the exam if you want to drive again. An application for a permanent State ID will cancel out your driver's license. Make sure you know the status of your driver's license before you apply for a State ID.

If you have a Release Identification Card (see below), you can use this as the only form of ID needed to obtain a State ID. If you do not have that, you must have two documents to obtain a State ID: one that verifies your name and birth date (like a certified birth certificate) and another that proves your Social Security Number (such as a Social Security Card). Acceptable documents are listed on pages 43-46.

The current fee for a State Identification Card is \$8.50.

You can walk in to any license agency for service (see page 42).

Prison Records

Release Identification Card

A free, non-replaceable photo ID will be given to you on the day of your release if you have a Social Security number that can be verified by the Social Security Administration. The card will include your birth date and Social Security number. You can show this card to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles as documentation to get a State ID, temporary permit or driver's license. However, you still have to pay the cost of getting the license, permit or State ID.

Release Papers

If you do not have to be supervised when you are released - called "straight release," then you will receive a document called Expiration of Sentence. It is also known as an Expiration of Stated Term. It proves that you are no longer under the supervision of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Keep this document.

If you have to be supervised, then you will receive a Parole Certificate or a Post Release Control Certificate informing you of who your parole officer is and where you should report.

Certification of Incarceration

If you lose your release papers or you just need to verify your release from prison and/or the dates of your incarceration, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction can provide that paperwork. This service is free. Requests generally take 10-14 days to process.

All requests must be in writing and must contain the following:

- First and last name
- Inmate number OR both Social Security number and birth date
- Explanation of what you need
- Return address
- Your signature

Requests may be faxed or mailed to:

ODRC Bureau of Records Management

770 Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43222
614-752-1076
Fax: 614-752-1086
www.drc.state.oh.us

Inmate Educational Records

When you complete educational programs while in prison, such as career-technical classes or your GED, a record is kept of what you complete. That record is called a transcript. You can request a transcript free of charge.

All requests must be in writing and must contain the following:

- First and last name
- Inmate number or Social Security number and birthdate
- Name of the institution where you received the training
- Year you received the training (if remembered)
- Explanation of what you need
- Return address
- Your signature

Requests may be faxed or mailed to:

Ohio Central School System

PO Box 207
Orient, OH 43146
614-877-2306 x3360
Fax: 614-877-0704

A word about your GED:

Although completion of your GED is noted on your inmate educational transcript, some employers or schools may want a copy of your GED transcript from the Ohio Dept. of Education. That transcript is free if you note on the top of the form that you were incarcerated when you received your GED and you note which institution. You can get a free copy only once, after that there is a fee. To receive a free copy, you must order by mail rather than on the Web site.

Call and request that they mail a form or print the request from the Web site. You cannot fax requests. Once you submit your request by mail, it takes up to two weeks to process.

Ohio Department of Education

GED Office
25 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215
877-644-6338
education.ohio.gov

Inmate Medical / Mental Health Records

When you are provided with health or mental health care while in prison, these services are noted on paper. That is your medical record.

Only a licensed doctor or a lawyer can request your medical record, and only with your permission. You cannot request your own medical record. The Social Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may also request a copy of your record because they have licensed doctors on staff.

A copy of the record is free and it will come in the form of a CD. You are only allowed ONE request per patient/client in a 12-month period. Requests generally take 10-14 days to process.

All requests must be in writing on official letterhead and must include the following:

- A Medical Release form signed by the patient/client
- First and last name of the patient/client
- Inmate number or both Social Security number and birthdate
- Explanation of what is needed
- Return address of the requesting professional

Requests may be faxed or mailed to:

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Bureau of Records Management
777 W. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43222
614-752-1080
Fax: 614-752-1086
drc.state.oh.us

Recovery Services - Records

If you participated in an alcohol and/or other drug recovery program while in prison, and you need a record of this, you may contact the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections. The procedure to request your records is the same as requesting a Certification of Incarceration (see page 47).

Selective Service Registration

The Selective Service System is the agency of the United States Government that exists to register men who could be asked to help the Military in a time of war or other national crisis. Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S., who are age 18 through 25, are required to register. Eligible people are automatically registered when issued a driver's license or State ID. Registration forms are also available at post offices or online. Registration is free.

When someone reaches age 26, they can no longer register. If they were born on or after January 1, 1960 and did not register before they turned 26, they may be ineligible for certain Federal benefits, including U.S. citizenship, job training programs and student financial aid. However, they can still get a driver's license or State ID in the State of Ohio.

It is important to know that someone who fails to register cannot be denied any benefit if he can “show by a preponderance of evidence” that his failure to register was not knowing and willful. The final decision regarding eligibility for programs is made by the agency granting the benefit, not the Selective Service. Some agencies may have an appeals process.

Agencies may ask you to provide an official response from the Selective Service regarding the fact that you did not register before age 26. In that case, it is possible to request a “status information” letter. You will have to describe what stopped you from registering and provide documents showing periods that you were incarcerated, hospitalized, etc., between your 18th and 26th birthdays. Processing time for this document may take up to 90 days.

For more information on Selective Service issues contact:

The Selective Service System

P.O. Box 94638
Palatine, IL 60094-4638
888-655-1825
www.sss.gov

Social Security Number / Card

A Social Security number is important because you need it to get a job, open a bank account, get credit, collect certain benefits and receive some other government services.

If you have never applied for a Social Security number before and you are age 12 or older, you must apply in person at a branch office. If you have a Social Security number, and you just need a replacement card, you can do this by mail or in person.

This service is free, but you will need certain ORIGINAL documents (or copies “certified by the custodian of record”). The documents you will need depend on your status and what you are requesting. Call or visit the Web site before you apply so that you know exactly what documents you need. A copy of the application is available on the Social Security Web site.

It may take anywhere from 10 days to several months to process your application depending on your status. A U.S. Citizen from Ohio can usually expect the process to take 4-5 weeks.

US Social Security Administration

Lorain Office
221 W 5th St
Lorain OH 44052
(866) 415-0172
(440) 245-3904 Fax
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov>

US Social Security Administration

800-772-1213
TTY: 800-325-0778
www.socialsecurity.gov

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Expungement of Adult Criminal Records

Expungement is the sealing of a criminal record (convictions, acquittals, dismissals, etc.). If your record is expunged, you don't have to tell people that you have been convicted, arrested, or charged when you apply for most jobs or housing. However, your expunged convictions can still be seen by certain employers and law enforcement agencies and your fingerprints will not be sealed. The expungement process can take 6-8 months. It is up to a judge whether to grant your request.

Eligibility For Expungement of Convictions

- Expungement of convictions is only for first time offenders with no charges pending and no arrest warrants. If two or more convictions are connected with the same act, they may count as one conviction. Three offenses that occurred within a 90-day period and were tried at the same time may count as one conviction.
- People who have committed certain crimes are not eligible for expungement. Those crimes include, but are not limited to, sexual crimes, first or second degree felonies, crimes committed while armed, felonies involving a minor, convictions with a mandatory prison term, motor vehicle crimes (including DUIs), and crimes of violence except for a simple misdemeanor assault.
- For felony convictions, you must wait at least three years from the time you are off probation, parole or straight release and after all court costs and any fines, restitution or community service have been paid or completed. However, if all you have left to pay are court costs (you've paid your restitution and fines), you might qualify for expungement.
- For misdemeanor convictions, you must wait at least one year from the time you were convicted and after all court costs and any fines, restitution or community service have been paid or completed. However, if all you have left to pay are court costs (you've paid your restitution and fines), you might qualify for expungement.

Eligibility For Sealing Records Other Than Convictions

- You do not have to be a first time offender to get a dismissal, finding of not guilty (acquittal) or nolle sealed from your record. There is no waiting period. You can apply right away. However, if you have more than one conviction, the court may not seal the record.
- If you were indicted and the Grand Jury returned a no bill, you must wait two years to file. You do not have to be a first-time offender to file.
- If you successfully completed a Diversion Completion or Treatment in Lieu of Incarceration program, there is no waiting period. You can apply right away.
- If you were arrested and released (no court was involved), you do not need to file for expungement or record sealing with the court. You can write a letter to the chief of police or head of the law enforcement agency that arrested you and request that he or she remove or seal your arrest record. You do not have to be a first-time offender to request this. However, whether your request is approved is up to the discretion of the chief.

Getting Help With Expungement

You file your motion for expungement in the court where you were charged. For example, if you were charged with a felony in Lorain County, your expungement paperwork would be filed with the Lorain County Clerk of Courts.

It is recommended that you file for expungement with the help of an attorney. If you cannot afford one, you may be able to get help from the following organizations.

Remember to ask them about filing a "Poverty Affidavit" form. This form requests that the court waive the filing fee, which is usually \$50-\$100.

Make sure you keep a copy of all paperwork that you complete.

Lorain County Clerk of Court of Common Pleas

Criminal Division
Lorain County Justice Center
225 Court Street, Room 106
Elyria, OH 44035
440-329-5538
FAX: 440-329-5404
<http://www.loraincounty.com/clerk/>
(does not provide legal assistance)

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Lorain County Office

1530 West River Road North Suite 301
Elyria OH 44035
(440) 323-8240
www.lasclev.org

Helps with expungement of misdemeanor convictions for those with incomes at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Currently (2011), this is approximately \$13,000 a year for a family of one and \$28,000 a year for a family of four. However, they will consider people with incomes up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Will not help expunge a felony conviction.

Lorain County Bar Association, Inc.

401 Broad Street
Elyria OH 44035
(440) 323-8416
(440) 323-1922 Fax
<http://loraincountybar.org>

If you don't qualify for free help, you can contact the Lorain County Bar Association to get a referral to an attorney.

The following Web sites may help you better understand the expungement process:

Ohio Legal Services
ohiolegalservices.org

Expungement and Sealing of Juvenile Records

You file for expungement or sealing in the court where your case was handled. In Lorain County, this would be the Lorain County Juvenile Court. Expungement means that your record is destroyed and it is like you never had one. Sealing means that your record is “hidden” and that most people/organizations cannot see your record, but there are some exceptions.

- If your case was dismissed, or you were found not delinquent, you would apply to have your record expunged.
- If you were found to be delinquent, unruly or a juvenile traffic offender, you would apply to have your record sealed. You have to wait at least two years from the termination of the court order or your unconditional discharge from the Ohio Department of Youth Services in order to apply. There is a fee.
- After your record has been sealed, it will automatically be expunged after a five year period or upon your 23rd birthday (whichever comes first). However, you can apply to have your record expunged at any time after it is sealed. If you are already 23 when your record is approved to be sealed, it will automatically be expunged.
- You cannot seal records for the following crimes: rape, gross sexual imposition, sexual battery, aggravated murder and murder.
- It is recommended that you seek assistance from an attorney.

For information or applications for Lorain County cases contact:

Lorain County Juvenile Court
225 Court Street, 4th Floor
Elyria, OH 44035
(440) 329-5277

Waiving Court Costs, Fines and Supervision Fee

During your sentencing, you have the right to ask a judge to remove the court costs, discretionary fines and the supervision fee that resulted from your criminal case. You can't request this waiver once you have been sentenced. This process is for those who are poor and cannot afford to pay these costs. The judge has the right to say yes or no, and may request that you do community service (volunteer) to pay off these fines and costs. You cannot request a waiver of the restitution fees you had to pay your victim or for any mandatory fines.

Executive Clemency

Executive Clemency is granted by the Governor of Ohio. Applications for clemency are processed through the Ohio Parole Board. Requests for clemency generally take six to eight months to process. There are three types of Executive Clemency:

- A pardon grants forgiveness of guilt. A pardon does not erase or seal your conviction. If granted, you will get a certificate from the Governor. This certificate may be helpful in getting a job or in other areas. It also reinstates your civil rights and privileges. A pardon is generally requested by those who have served their time, are no longer under supervision and are now living crime-free. However, anyone may apply.
- A commutation is the reduction of a penalty to one less severe. Commutations are generally requested by inmates serving extremely long minimum or definite sentences.
- A reprieve is the temporary postponement of the execution of a sentence. This is rarely used except for inmates sentenced to death.

All requests for an application for clemency must be made in writing (email, fax or mail). Submit your name and address along with your request. It will generally take 7-10 days to process/send you an application.

Ohio Parole Board
 Attn: Clemency
 770 W Broad Street
 Columbus, OH 43222
 888-344-1441
 Fax: 614-752-0600
 Email: DRC.clemency@odrc.state.oh.us

Help for Non-U.S. Citizens Upon Release

If you are not a U.S. citizen, and you have been convicted of certain felonies (including but not limited to murder, manslaughter, rape, drug trafficking, certain firearms offenses, and certain crimes related to national security) there is a chance that you will be deported after you have completed serving your sentence.

No matter what your criminal offense was, it is extremely important that you hire a lawyer who can represent you well in the matter of your immigration status. You should do this before your release if possible, but definitely as soon as you can.

The following organizations may help you find a lawyer who specializes in immigration cases.

American Immigration Lawyers Assn.
 800-954-0254
ailalawyer.com

Immigrant Worker Project
 701 Walnut Ave. NE
 Canton, OH 44702
 330-454 - 2220
 Fax: 330-454 - 2255
 Email: info@iwphio.org

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Lorain County Office

1530 West River Road North Suite 301

Elyria OH 44035

(440) 323-8240

www.lasclev.org

Provides legal help for immigration matters, including family petitions, naturalization and defense removal proceedings for certain documented persons.

Lorain County Bar Association, Inc.

401 Broad Street

Elyria OH 44035

(440) 323-8416

(440) 323-1922 Fax

<http://loraincountybar.org>

General Legal Aid

The organizations listed below provide free legal information and/or representation for low income people who need assistance with legal matters. Call to see if they can help you.

El Centro de Servicios Sociales Inc.

2800 Pearl Avenue,

Lorain Ohio 44055

440-277-8235

Fax: 440-277-9236

The program provides services to citizens who are having trouble advocating for themselves and accounting community services due to the lack of resources of bilingual/bicultural services in Lorain County.

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Lorain County Office

1530 West River Road North Suite 301

Elyria OH 44035

(440) 323-8240

www.lasclev.org

If you don't qualify for free help, you can try contacting the following agency to get a referral to an attorney:

Lorain County Bar Association, Inc.

401 Broad Street

Elyria OH 44035

(440) 323-8416

(440) 323-1922 Fax

<http://loraincountybar.org>

MAILING ADDRESS / VOICEMAIL / PHONE

Mailing Address

The address where you have your mail sent to is called your mailing address. Most people use the address where they live as their mailing address. If you do not have a permanent address or think you may be moving a lot, you should establish one place to pick up your mail. A few options are listed below:

- Check with the shelter, halfway house, transitional housing or other residential facility where you are living to see if they will allow for your mail to be sent there.
- Check with social service agencies where you are a client. They may allow you to have your mail sent there and they will keep it for you until you can pick it up. Be sure to make arrangements with the agency before having your mail sent there.
- A post office box (P.O.Box) is a locked box located on the wall in the post office where your mail will be delivered. A key or combination to open the box will be given to you. Only you will have this. You will have to go to the post office where your box is located to pick up your mail. Some items such as packages may not be sent to a post office box. There is a monthly fee for a post office box. The smallest box will cost around \$22-\$30 for six months.
- To apply for a post office box, you will have to walk into the post office branch where you would like your mail sent. Before going in, it is best to phone first to find out if boxes are available at that location.

Amherst Post Office

350 North Leavitt Road
Amherst, OH 44001
440-988-3421

Avon Post Office

36225 Detroit Road
Avon, OH 44011
440-934-7145

Avon Lake Post Office

33501 Lake Road Suite B
Avon Lake, OH 44012
440-933-4246

Columbia Station Post Office

26535 Royalton Road
Columbia Station, OH 44028
440-236-5433

Elyria Post Office

345 E Bridge Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-0263

Grafton Post Office

926 Main Street
Grafton, OH 44044
440-926-9065

Kipton Post Office

206 State Street
Kipton, OH 44049
440-774-8018

LaGrange Post Office

112 Public Square
LaGrange, OH 44050
440-355-4673

Lorain Post Office

439 W 4th Street
Lorain, OH 44052
440-288-8593

Lorain Colorado Avenue Post Office

3190 Colorado Avenue
Lorain, OH 44052
440-288-8593

North Ridgeville Post Office

34760 Center Ridge Road
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
440-327-8806

Oberlin Post Office

68 S Main Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-776-9847

Wellington Post Office

101 McCormick Street
Wellington, OH 44090
440-647-2122

Free Voice Mail

Cleveland Community Voice Mail (CCVM) provides free local voice mail numbers in Cuyahoga and Lorain Counties for people in transition or crisis. This program helps people who are in a domestic violence situation, homeless, or who are otherwise without permanent housing or reliable telephone access. It ensures that people receive critical messages from employers, landlords, health professionals, friends and family.

Voice Mail numbers are offered to clients through participating nonprofit agencies. Agencies pay a small fee for their clients to have access. If you are not a client of a participating agency, but qualify for voice mail, CCVM staff will work to connect you.

For more information about how to get voice mail for yourself or your clients, contact us at 216-436-2082 or by email at clevelandcvm@gmail.com.

Phone

If you are homeless, the drop-in center listed on page 8 may have a phone available for your use. If you are renting or own a home and are low income, ask the phone company about a program called “Lifeline or Link Up” for discounted service.

You may be eligible for a program that provides a cellphone with very limited monthly service called Safelink. Phone 800-977-3768 or go to safelinkwireless.com

MENTAL HEALTH / COUNSELING

Mental health deals with how your brain functions and with your emotions and feelings. It deals with how you interact with others, how you react to change or stress, and your self-esteem.

People who need help from mental health professionals may feel depressed, angry or not able to cope with parts of their lives. Or, they may simply need to talk to someone about a life problem.

If you are diagnosed with a mental health issue while in prison, you will meet with a Community Linkage Social Worker before you are released. This social worker will make an appointment for you at a mental health agency in the community. If you are taking medication, the institution you are leaving will provide you with a two-week supply upon release.

If you have not been diagnosed in prison, and you are reading this after your release, the following may help:

- If you feel out of control or suicidal, seek help right away. You can reach the Lorain County Board of Mental Health Crisis Hotline at 1-800-888-6161. Remember to call 911 if your situation is life-threatening or a medical emergency.
- If you have a doctor, talk to him or her about a referral to a mental health professional.
- If you have health insurance, call the company. Some or all of your treatment, including prescriptions, may be paid through your insurance. If you are on Medicaid or Medicare, make sure you understand what is covered. Go to a professional that accepts Medicaid or Medicare. If you do not have Medicaid or Medicare, you may want to apply. See page 27 for information.
- If you are having trouble dealing with anger, personal issues, stress, depression, trauma, sexual abuse, or other mental health issues that are getting in the way of work, relationships, or daily activities, you should seek help.

Lorain County Board of Mental Health

1173 N. Ridge Road, East Suite 101

Lorain, OH 44055

440-233-2020

Nord Center

6140 South Broadway

Lorain, OH 44053

440.233.7232

Crisis: 800-888-6161

(Includes hotline and psychiatric bed stay)

Also 211 or 1-800-275-6106 are telephone numbers to dial for information and referral services to human service organizations 24 hours/day, every day.

Psychiatric Emergency Room

You may walk in to a psychiatric emergency room for help. If you have run out of your medication, they may be able to provide you with a limited supply. The following medical center has emergency psychiatric services available:

Mercy Regional Medical Center

3700 Kolbe Road
Lorain, OH 44053
(440) 960-4000

MONEY MANAGEMENT

If you have a history of managing your money well, you may have a better chance of getting a job, a car, a house and other things. Managing your money means paying your bills on time, sticking to a budget, building good credit and staying out of debt. A list of organizations that can help you manage your money appears at the end of this section.

Checking and Savings Accounts

Your first step when you have an income is to open up a checking account. This is a bank or credit union account that allows you to write checks and/or use a debit card so you can pay your bills easier. It also helps protect your money from being lost or stolen.

- Open an account with a bank or credit union close to your work or home.
- Aim for a free checking account that has no minimum balance (the amount of money you have to keep in the account to get the service), low initial deposit and no monthly fees.
- Some banks have “second chance” programs for people who have been turned down for checking accounts before and are listed in Chex Systems (for writing bad checks, having lots of overdrafts, etc.) There may be a minimum amount you need to deposit and other restrictions, but this may be a very good way to get a checking account.
- Some nonprofit organizations may help you open an account or help you save. See pages 63-64 for a list of organizations.

To open an account, just walk into the bank. You will generally have to provide:

- Your first and last name and address
- Social Security number
- Driver’s license or State ID
- If your driver’s license or State ID was issued in the last 60 days, you may need verification of address such as pay check stub, recent utility bill or other official correspondence (SSI, unemployment, etc.) with your name and current address.

Budgeting

As soon as you have income coming in, you should create a budget to help you pay your bills. A budget lists all of your expenses and how much you can spend on each item such as rent and food.

Try to go easy on your expenses until you can establish that you have enough money to pay for everything. Don’t buy new cars or expensive clothes, don’t spend a lot of money going out to eat, don’t buy extras like cable/DISH and watch your phone expenses until you know you can afford it.

Pay your bills before you spend money on things like clothes and entertainment.

- Make a list of all the bills you have to pay and the dates they are due.
- If you are paying your bills by mail, mail them at least one week before the due date.
- Don't pay attention to "grace periods." Just make it a habit to pay your bills at least a week before the due date.
- Make paying credit cards or bank loans (including car loans) a high priority. Nonpayment can affect your credit.
- Paying your rent or mortgage should also be a priority.
- Stay up to date on your insurance.
- Stay current on your utilities. Many agencies listed in this guide, including The Salvation Army, may be able to assist in keeping your utilities current.
- Work with an agency that will help you budget. See pages 63-64 for a list of organizations.

Debt

If you are having trouble paying your bills, there are agencies that can help you set up a budget and work with your creditors to arrange payment plans. There are even agencies that can help with a gambling problem if that is what is causing the debt. As soon as you sense you are having a problem paying your bills, contact one of the organizations listed on page 63-64.

Credit

When you buy things using "credit," a company gives you a loan that you are promising to pay back a little at a time. You are borrowing someone else's money. When you get a loan to buy a car, you are using credit. When you buy something at a department store using a credit card, you are also using credit.

It is important for you to build a good "credit history" if you ever want to get a home loan, auto loan or get good interest rates on your credit cards. A credit history is simply a record of how you use credit.

There are people who have a bad credit history because they do not pay their bills on time, and there are people who have no credit history because they never had any loans or credit cards.

If you have never had any credit, it is very important to start building your credit history. Without a credit history, it may be hard to get a car, a job, rent, or start phone service and other services. You may be turned down or you may be asked to pay a high interest rate. The interest rate is the amount you are being charged to borrow that money.

Tips on Building a Credit History:

- Before you apply for credit, make sure you have steady, verifiable income.
- Try to stay at one job and live at one address for as long as you can.
- Before you apply for any credit card, make sure that the lender reports to a credit bureau. If not, you will not be building your credit history!
- Get a card with NO ANNUAL FEE if possible.
- Watch out for high interest rates. Shop around for the best rates before you decide to apply. READ THE FINE PRINT.
- If you think you cannot get a credit card on your own, think about getting a co-signer – someone who will be responsible for paying off the card if you don't.
- Open a bank account. This makes you look better to a lender. If you need more information about this, see page 61.
- Only apply for the credit cards whose requirements you think you meet—there are usually minimum income requirements. Getting turned down a lot looks bad.
- Don't apply for a bunch of credit cards at once or obtain more credit cards than you truly need.
- Secured credit cards are a last resort, but are an option. These cards require you to pay a deposit to get the card – the deposit could be a few hundred dollars. If you don't make your payments, you may lose your deposit AND still have to pay your balance. These cards often have fees and higher interest rates. Try to find the lowest fee you can. After a few months of making payments on time on the secured credit card, you may be able to get a regular credit card.

Maintaining Good Credit:

- To avoid paying a lot of interest, it is best to pay off the balance in full and on time every month.
- At the very least, you must pay the minimum payment in full and on time every month.
- Don't pay attention to "grace periods." Just make it a habit to pay your bill at least a week before the due date.

Money Management Organizations

If you think you need help understanding your options or you need help managing your credit, contact one of the organizations listed below. There may be a fee for some services.

Catholic Charities Community Services

Lorain Family Center
203 West 8th Street
Lorain, Ohio 44052
440-244-9915

El Centro de Servicios Sociales Inc.

2800 Pearl Avenue,
Lorain Ohio 44055
440-277-8235

Lorain County Urban League

1530 West River Road, Suite 300
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-3364

Identity Theft

Identity theft is when someone uses your personal information and takes on your identity without you knowing. If you think you are a victim of identity theft, report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). They will tell you how to work with credit bureaus and law enforcement agencies. They can also provide information on preventing identity theft.

Federal Trade Commission

877-438-4338
www.ftc.gov/idtheft

Income Taxes

The money you make, such as your inmate income or money you earn on a job, may need to be reported to the government. There are federal, state and local government taxing agencies. At the end of each year, you may be required to “file” a tax return with each agency. It is the law that employers and others mail out the documents that you will need for your tax returns by January 31st of each year. The W2 form is the most common one of these forms.

You may not be required to file certain tax returns if your income is very low or in some other situations. However, you may want to file just to see if you can get money back – a tax refund.

There are free programs to help you file if you make less than \$60, 000 per year (2011 tax year). These programs will do your taxes for you. They will not force you to file. Many sites offer both paper filing and free electronic filing (E-File) which allows you to receive your refund fast — in as little as 7-14 days. If you have a checking or savings account, you can have your return deposited directly. To locate a free tax preparation site in your area, dial 211 or contact the Ohio Benefit Bank at www.ohiobenefits.org

Watch out for places that offer you an immediate refund. These refunds are actually loans called Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs). They could keep as much as half of your refund as a fee. And, if your refund is less than they thought, you could owe them money. Remember, there are free tax preparation sites available to you.

For Federal Income Tax Questions:

IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center

1240 E 9th Street, Room. 493

Cleveland, OH 44199

800-829-1040

irs.gov

Must walk-in to make an appointment.

For State Income Tax Questions:

The Ohio Department of Taxation

615 W Superior Avenue, 5th Floor

Cleveland, OH 44113

800-282-1780

tax.ohio.gov

For local income tax information:

City of Amherst

Income Tax Department

480 Park Avenue # 204

Amherst, OH 44001

440-988-3745

Lorain City

Income Tax Department

605 W. 4th St.

Lorain, Ohio 44052-1605

440-204-1002

<http://www.cityoflorain.org/treasurer/>

Regional Income Tax Agency

Cleveland Area Office

10107 Brecksville Road

Brecksville, Ohio 44141

440-526-0900

<http://www.ritaohio.com>

(all Lorain County municipalities not listed separately)

South Amherst

Income Tax Administration

103 West Main Street

South Amherst, OH 44001

440-988-2877

PAROLE / POST RELEASE CONTROL

If you did not come out of prison on “straight release,” then you were probably told you had to report to a parole officer. You would have received a Parole or Post Release Control Certificate informing you of who your parole officer is and where you should report.

Within the Cleveland region, the following agency is responsible for investigation and supervision services. They are responsible for people on parole — which means release from prison before your sentence expires, and those on post release control — which means supervision after your sentence is over. Post release control can only be mandated for crimes committed after July 1, 1996.

You are responsible for reporting to your parole officer according to the conditions of your supervision. This includes letting your parole officer know of a change in employment or where you live. If you want to move out of Lorain County, you will have to discuss the transfer request with your parole officer before you move. The county that you want to move to has to approve the transfer.

**Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Adult Parole Authority - Cleveland Region**

Lorain Office
631 Griswold Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035
440-365-5000

TRANSPORTATION

Contact a friend, family member, or other person you know to pick you up from the institution when you are released. If you have no one to pick you up, the institution will take you to the nearest bus station.

From there, if you don't have someone to pick you up, you will have to buy your own bus ticket to wherever you need to go. If you have no money, the institution will buy a ticket for you, but this has to be arranged BEFORE you leave the prison.

Bus Service in Lorain County

Lorain County Transit operates a very limited bus schedule in the Lorain and Elyria areas. A Dial-A-Ride is also service. General information is listed below. For more detailed information, questions or to purchase tickets, please contact:

Lorain County Transit

Lorain County Administration Building
226 Middle Avenue, 4th Floor
Elyria, OH 44035
440-329-5525
440- 244-6261
440-365-0224
Fax: 440-323-3357
transit@loraincounty.us

Customer Service: 8 am - 4:30 pm (Mon. - Fri.)

After hours, please contact the Scheduling Department at 1-800-406-7541, or 440-365-0224.

Fixed Routes

Route 1 Lorain / Elyria via Washington:

BUS STOP LOCATIONS

Meridian Plaza	N. Ridge & O'Neil
Broadway at Center City	Sheffield Center (May Co.)
Washington & W. Erie	Sheffield Center (Apples)
Washington & 5th	Sheffield Center (Video Store)
Washington (Between 8th & 9th)	Lorain County Job & Family Services
Washington & 10th	N. Ridge & Rolling
Washington (Between 13th & 14th)	N. Ridge & Globe
Washington & 18th	N. Ridge & S. Pearl
Washington & 20th	N. Ridge & Pearl
21st & Beech	N. Ridge & Antrim
W. 21st & Oakdale (After U-turn)	N. Ridge & Clinton
Oakdale & 24th	N. Ridge (George's Restaurant)
Oakdale & 27th	N. Ridge & Dute
Oakdale & 30th	Lorain Blvd. & N. Ridge
W. 30th & Broadway (Dairy Mart)	W. River & N. Ridge

Broadway & 32nd			W. River (Across from Red Cross)
Broadway & 39th			W. River & Schadden
Broadway & 46th			W. River (Foxes Lair)
Nord Center (Rte. 254 & Broadway)			Transfer Point

SOUTHBOUND SERVICE - (MON. - FRI.)

Meridian Plaza	Broadway & 30th	Job & Family Services	Transfer Point
7:00 am	7:10 am	7:20 am	7:25 am
9:00 am	9:10 am	9:20 am	9:25 am
11:00 am	11:10 am	11:20 am	11:25 am
1:00 pm	1:10 pm	1:20 pm	1:25 pm
3:00 pm	3:10 pm	3:20 pm	3:25 pm
5:00 pm	5:10 pm	5:20 pm	5:25 pm

NORTHBOUND SERVICE - (MON.-FRI.)

Transfer Point	Job & Family Services	Broadway & 30th	Meridian Plaza
6:30 am	6:40 am	6:50 am	7:00 am
8:30 am	8:40 am	8:50 am	9:00 am
10:30 am	10:40 am	10:50 am	11:00 pm
12:30 pm	12:40 pm	12:50 pm	1:00 pm
2:30 pm	2:40 pm	2:50 pm	3:00 pm
4:30 pm	4:40 pm	4:50 pm	5:00 pm

Route 2 Lorain / Elyria via Broadway:

BUS STOP LOCATIONS

Meridian Plaza	31st (Oakwood Dr.)
Broadway & 6th	31st & Grove (Across from Fire Dept)
Broadway (Between 10th & 9th)	Palm & 34th
Broadway (Between 14th & 15th)	Palm & 42nd
Broadway & 17th	Palm & Homewood
Broadway & 20th	Palm & Globe
Broadway & 23rd	Palm & Fairless
Broadway & 26th	Palm (By Bank)
E. 28th & Broadway (By old BP)	Fairless (Just pass Burger King)
E. 28th & Denver	N. Ridge & Dute
E. 28th & Toledo	N. Ridge (Across from Maple Inn)
E. 28th & Fulton	N. Ridge & W.River (Maple Inn)
E. 30th (HavenCenter)	W. River (Across from Red Cross)
E. 30th & Globe	W. River & Schadden
E. 30th & Pearl	W. River (Foxes Lair)
31st & Seneca	Transfer Point

SOUTHBOUND SERVICE - (MON.-FRI.)

Meridian Plaza	Broadway & 20th	Palm & Fairless	Transfer Point
6:00 am	6:05 am	6:20 am	6:25 am
8:00 am	8:05 am	8:20 am	8:25 am
10:00 am	10:05 am	10:20 am	10:25 am
12:00 pm	12:05 pm	12:20 pm	12:25 pm
2:00 pm	2:05 pm	2:20 pm	2:25 pm
4:00 pm	4:05 pm	4:20 pm	4:25 pm

NORTHBOUND SERVICE - (MON.-FRI.)

Transfer Point	Fairless & Palm	Fulton & 28th	Meridian Plaza
5:30 am	5:40 am	5:50 am	6:00 am
7:30 am	7:40 am	7:50 am	8:00 am
9:30 am	9:40 am	9:50 am	10:00 am
11:30 am	11:40 am	11:50 am	12:00 pm
1:30 pm	1:40 pm	1:50 pm	2:00 pm
3:30 pm	3:40 pm	3:50 pm	4:00 pm

Route 51 East Elyria / Broad Street Loop:

BUS STOP LOCATIONS

Transfer Point	Abbe & Taylor (By Burger King)
Leona & Griswold (by Denny's)	N. Abbe & Duffy (Opposite Drug Mart)
Midway & Moran (In front of Marc's)	N. Abbe & Sycamore
Midway & W.River (Near McDonalds)	N. Abbe & Hilliard
W. River & David Dr. (Library)	N. Abbe & Hartford
W. River & S.E. Mall Blvd.	N. Abbe & Sandalwood
W. River (Southwyck Manor)	LCCC (P.C. Campana Bldg)
W. River & Furnace (Near Marathon)	N. Abbe & Hoag (Bus Shelter)
Lake & Chestnut (Harr Plaza)	Ohio Business College
Broad & Chestnut (Kaplans)	Detroit & N. Abbe
Broad & Middle (Square by Clock)	Detroit & Transportation Dr.
Broad & Cedar (Rite Aid)	Detroit & E. River
Broad & E.River (EMH)	Detroit & Fair
Broad & Park	Detroit & W.River (Car Dealership)
Broad & Prospect	Midway & Moran (In front of Marc's)
Broad & Fairlawn	Midway & W. River (Near McDonalds)
Broad & Boston	Transfer Point
Broad & S. Abbe	

ROUTE SCHEDULE - (MON.-FRI.)

Transfer Point	Lorain County Transportation & Community Center	Broad St. & Abbe Rd.	LCCC	North Abbe Rd. & Hoag Rd	Lowes & Red Roof Inn	Transfer Point
7:30 am	7:45 am	7:50 am	8:00 am	8:09 am	8:22 am	8:27 am
9:30 am	9:45 am	9:50 am	10:00 am	10:09 am	10:22 am	10:27 am
11:30 am	11:45 am	11:50 am	12:00 am	12:09 am	12:22 am	12:27 am
1:30 pm	1:45 pm	1:50 pm	2:00 pm	2:09 pm	2:22 pm	2:27 pm
3:30 pm	3:45 pm	3:50 pm	4:00 pm	4:09 pm	4:22 pm	4:27 pm
5:30 pm	5:45 pm	5:50 pm	6:00 pm	6:09 pm	6:22 pm	6:27 pm

Route 52 East Elyria /Abbe Road Loop:

BUS STOP LOCATIONS

Transfer Point	Chestnut Ridge & Abbe
Leona & Griswold (By Denny's)	Chestnut Ridge & Rosemere
Midway Mall	Fuller Rd. (Wilkes Villa)
Midway Service Rd (On Service Road)	R.J. Gordon Manor

Gulf & Poplar	Middle & Maple
Gulf & Ohio	Middle & 16th
Cleveland & Homer (By Save-A-Lot)	West & 13th
Cleveland & Olive	Middle & 9th
Cleveland & Eady (Hazel's)	Middle & 4th
Taylor & Ternes	2nd & Court St
Ternes & Reaser	West Ave. (Police Station)
Ternes & Broad	Lake Ave. & Furnace
Sugar Ridge & Adult Parole	Furnace & W. River (After Marathon)
Broad & Abbe (Big Lots)	Midway Service Rd (On Service Road)
Abbe & Case	Midway Mall
Abbe & University	Transfer Point

ROUTE SCHEDULE - (MON.-FRI.)

Transfer Point	Market Square Entrance	Taylor & Ternes	Fuller Rd.	Middle Ave. & Third St.	Midway Mall Entrance	Transfer Point
6:30 am	6:40 am	6:50 am	7:00 am	7:05 am	7:20 am	7:25 am
8:30 am	8:40 am	8:50 am	9:00 am	9:05 am	9:20 am	9:25 am
10:30 am	10:40 am	10:50 am	11:00 am	11:05 am	11:20 am	11:25 am
12:30 pm	12:40 pm	12:50 pm	1:00 pm	1:05 pm	1:20 pm	1:25 pm
2:30 pm	2:40 pm	2:50 pm	3:00 pm	3:05 pm	3:20 pm	3:25 pm
4:30 pm	4:40 pm	4:50 pm	5:00 pm	5:05 pm	5:20 pm	5:25 pm

Dial-A-Ride Service

Hours of Operation: 6 am - 6 pm (Monday-Friday)

Dial-A-Ride is a curb-to-curb service available only for LCT customers living and/or traveling to points within the Paratransit Boundary (an area ¾ of a mile on either side of an existing fixed route bus line), in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For current Dial-A-Ride rates, please see Fare Information on page 73.

Ride Scheduling

Ride scheduling priority is given to ADA-certified disabled customers and customers needing Dial-A-Ride service for urgent medical purposes (e.g. hemodialysis, medical appointments). Personal Care Attendants (PCA) ride at no charge. The scheduler or dispatcher must be advised that a PCA will be riding with the passenger.

Service Availability

LCT's Dial-A-Ride services are available all weekdays on an advance call-in, seat available basis. Trips may be scheduled up to two weeks in advance subject to availability. To arrange a trip call the Scheduling Department at 1-800-406-7541 or 440-365-0224.

A passenger is a "no show" when the vehicle arrives within the pick up time window and the passenger does not board the vehicle or declines the trip. It is the passengers' obligation to cancel a reserved ride before 4:30 pm the day before the scheduled pick up. Any cancellation received after this time will be counted as a late cancellation.

ADA Regulations

ADA regulations require wheelchairs or other mobility devices be secured during transport. LCT requires wheelchair passengers to be secured with a LCT installed seatbelt.

ADA regulations also require that a person who cannot enter a vehicle using the stairs and who does not use a wheelchair must be allowed to enter the vehicle using the lift, if equipped with grab bars. Driver will ride the lift with the passenger to help steady them, if requested to do so.

Fare Information

Fixed Routes and Community Connectors

Adults	\$3.35	
Senior Citizens (65 plus), Persons with Disabilities and Children Ages 3 thru 12		\$1.65
Children 2 and Under	Free	
Transfers (Limited 1 per trip)	Free	

All Day Pass

The All Day Pass is valid only for the date that it is purchased and is for use on fixed routes, but not Dial-A-Ride buses. The pass may also be purchased on board any LCT Fixed Route Bus with exact change.

Adults	\$6.00	
Senior Citizens (65 plus), Persons with Disabilities and Children Ages 3 thru 12		\$6.00

Fixed Route Ticket Book

Purchase a book of ten Fixed Route Tickets.

Adults	\$30.15	
Students (with a valid ID)	\$15.00	
Senior Citizens (65 plus), Persons with Disabilities and Children Ages 3 thru 12		\$15.00

Dial-A-Ride

Adults	\$8.50	
Senior Citizens (65 plus), Persons with Disabilities and Children Ages 3 thru 12		\$4.25
Children 2 and Under	Free	

Long Distance Bus Service

The Lorain County Board of Commissioners has entered into a bus slip agreement with Greyhound Lines, Inc. to provide bus service at the Lorain County Transportation & Community Center (LCT&CC). This agreement brings Greyhound back to Downtown Elyria and provides an important mode of transportation for the people of Lorain County.

Effective October 1, 2012, Greyhound's buses will use the Transportation & Community Center (40 East Ave., Elyria, OH 44035) as its new bus stop in Lorain County.

The Center's bus slip provides an overhead canopy and benches to accommodate Greyhound's customers while waiting for the buses arrival.

Interested customers can purchase and print E-tickets online at www.greyhound.com, and give them to the bus driver upon entering the bus at the Center.

The service currently operates 7 days a week, including Sundays and holidays. Hours of operation may be subject to change. Please call to verify hours before making travel arrangements. For questions or more information, please call (800) 231-2222 to contact Greyhound Customer Service.

Transit Alternatives for Transportation

CARPOOLING ASSISTANCE

Ohio Rideshare

LCT customers are encouraged to contact the Ohio Rideshare Program for help in finding shared-ride transportation, particularly for travel to and from work. For additional program information, please call 1-800-825-RIDE (7433).

TAXI SERVICES

Lorain County taxi companies provide local taxicab transportation throughout Lorain County, Ohio and offer a full range of taxi services. Please contact the following companies directly to inquire about various taxi service options that they provide.

Airport Oberlin Shuttle Service, Inc.
7 North Main Street, #N
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-774-4440

Aj's Taxi
1711 Tower Boulevard
Lorain, OH 44053
440-522-9528

Amherst Elyria Taxi
633 Broad Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-322-8294

A 2 Point B
331 South Pleasant Street
Oberlin, OH 44074
440-775-7222

Cruisin City Taxi II
3206 Elyria Drive
Vermilion, OH 44089
440-242-7833

Elyria Taxi, Inc.
192 Brace Avenue
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-8294

Lorain County Cab Co.
356 Broad Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-322-6555

Lorain County Metro Cab
42208 Albrecht Road
Elyria, OH 44035
440-284-0500

Safe & Reliable Cab Co.
33900 Lear Industrial Parkway
Avon, OH 44001
440-988-8294

Wats Taxis
860 Crosse Avenue
Amherst, OH 44001
440-988-8294

VOTING

Formerly incarcerated people are allowed to vote in the State of Ohio even if they have a felony conviction, as long as they meet all other general eligibility requirements for voting (U.S. citizen, age 18 or older on the day of the election, meet residency requirements, etc.)

People who have never voted before need to register before they can vote. Those who were incarcerated due to a felony conviction need to re-register to vote, even if they have registered before. Also, people who have not voted in recent elections and/or have moved should check with the Board of Elections to see if they need to re-register.

Be prepared to have the last four digits of your Social Security number or your driver's license number handy when you register (this will prevent you from having to send in additional paperwork), as well as your permanent address. You will need to register at least 30 days before the election. Registration is free.

Voter registration forms are available at libraries, Bureau of Motor Vehicle offices, County Boards of Elections and other locations.

For more information about voting contact:

Lorain County Board of Elections

1985 North Ridge Road, East

Lorain, OH 44055

440 326-5900

440 326-5901

<http://www.loraincountyelections.com>

League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area

104 Woodhaven Place

Oberlin, OH 44074

lwvoberlin@gmail.com

WELFARE / PUBLIC INCOME BENEFITS

OWF - Ohio Works First (Cash Assistance)

Ohio Works First is the name of the program that offers time-limited financial assistance and employment services to Lorain County families while a person is working towards self-sufficiency. Families must contain at least one minor child. A minor child is an individual who has not attained the age of 18 or an individual who has not attained age 19 and is a full time student in secondary or vocational school. OWF is also eligible to a pregnant individual in her 3rd trimester of pregnancy.

If you qualify, your grant amount will either be put directly into your bank account or on to an Ohio Eppicard. The amount will be based on the number of people in your family and your family's income. It is important to note that OWF cash benefits are limited to thirty six (36) months. This is just three years of cash assistance. Once this time period is exhausted, a person is no longer eligible for OWF cash for two years. After two years off cash assistance, a family can reapply giving "Good Cause" as to why they should be granted an additional 24 months of cash assistance. After this, a person has used their 5 years (60 months) of cash assistance and can never receive this benefit again. There are certain circumstances where you may be able to receive additional cash assistance once your time limit has been exhausted. You should have a discussion with a caseworker.

As a condition of receiving your cash benefits, you will be asked to sign a self-sufficiency contract. You will complete a Jobs Assessment Interview with an Employment Service Counselor who will evaluate your employment history and assist you in getting job training or making an assignment for you to attend Job Search activities within the agency. The agreement you sign is your commitment to complete thirty (30) hours of a work activity each week until you become self sufficient and you no longer need OWF cash assistance. LCDJFS work activities include working on a job, looking for a job, being enrolled in a job training program, going to college or a vocational school to obtain a certification, obtaining your GED, taking ESOL classes for those whose primary language is one other than English, and many more. We will connect you to a wide variety of programs to help you find a job, improve your skills and improve your employability.

Remember, participating in our jobs activities is a requirement of receiving OWF cash assistance. Signing the self-sufficiency contract is a requirement of receiving OWF cash assistance. If you fail to participate and complete the mandatory weekly hours of a work activity required by the State of Ohio, your OWF checks will be stopped and sanctions applied to your case rendering you ineligible for various periods of time.

Participants of the OWF Jobs Programs earn monthly participant allowances of up to \$50 which should be used for transportation cost and incidentals relating to your assigned activity. People also may qualify for bus tickets to their assignments and child care while at their assignments.

To apply, call the following agency:

Lorain County Job & Family Services
42485 North Ridge Road
Elyria, OH 44035-1057
Main Phone: 440-323-5726
Lorain: 440-244-4150

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)

- SSI provides payments to people with limited income and resources who are age 65 and older, blind or disabled.
- SSD pays benefits to disabled workers and their families. To be eligible, you must be disabled and must have earned a minimum number of credits from work covered under Social Security. The required number of credits varies depending on your age at the time you become disabled.
- To qualify as disabled, you must be unable to do any kind of substantial, gainful work “due to a physical or mental disability that is expected to last at least 12 months or result in death.”
- You are not eligible to receive SSI benefits for any full calendar month you are in prison.
- Social Security has a pre-release procedure you may use to apply for SSI benefits while still in prison. It is not available at all facilities. Check with your case manager at the prison.
- It may take a while to get your benefits. It could take six months or longer.

Social Security Administration

221 West 5th Street
Lorain OH 44052
866-415-0172

Applications and forms are available at our website: www.socialsecurity.gov

Social Security Retirement Benefits

- If you are age 62 or older and have worked enough under the Social Security System, you are eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.
- Working “under the table” does not count towards your work requirement for Social Security. You might want to keep this in mind when you are looking for jobs.
- You can receive this financial assistance in addition to unemployment compensation (although it may affect your unemployment benefits).
- You should apply at least 3 months before you want benefits to begin.
- If you choose to receive benefits before age 65, you will not be eligible for Medicare (health insurance) until you turn 65 or unless you qualify based on disability or certain health conditions.

Social Security Administration

221 West 5th Street
Lorain OH 44052
866-415-0172

Applications and forms are available at our website: www.socialsecurity.gov

Unemployment Compensation

Unemployment Compensation provides financial assistance for those who have been laid off and who are currently unemployed through no fault of their own. To qualify, applicants must have worked at least 20 weeks and earned an average of at least \$213 a week during the past year.

- Eligible workers receive up to 26 weeks of basic benefits - but those laid-off as the result of foreign competition can receive extended benefits known as Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA). Sometimes benefits are extended by the government if the unemployment rate is high.
- Apply for Unemployment Compensation immediately after losing your job. This may help you receive the maximum benefit amount and it may be several weeks until you receive your first check.
- If you are denied benefits ,you have the right to appeal.
- You may work and collect unemployment at the same time. However, working may reduce your payment.

For information and an application, contact:

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

1-877-644-6562

unemployment.ohio.gov

Veterans Benefits

The U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs is the government agency responsible for veterans' benefits. They can answer questions regarding eligibility for benefits, how to sign up for benefits, and reinstating benefits.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Regional Office

1240 East 9th Street, Federal Building

Cleveland, OH 44199

800-827-1000

va.gov

REINSTATING YOUR BENEFITS

During your time in prison, your veterans' benefits may have been stopped or reduced. After you are released from prison, it may be possible for you to start receiving your veterans' benefits again.

In general, to receive benefits you must have been discharged from military service under honorable or general conditions. No veterans' benefits are provided to veterans or their dependents that are wanted for an outstanding felony.

To find out if you can start receiving veterans benefits again, you will have to notify (in writing) the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs that you have been released from prison and that you would like to have your veterans' benefits reinstated.

Make sure to include in your letter:

- Your name
- Social Security number or VA claim file number,
- Address and phone number where you can be reached
- Your signature and date
- A copy of your prison release papers

Mail to:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Office
1240 East 9th Street, Federal Building
Cleveland, OH 44199

Before sending the letter, you may phone for more information: 800-827-1000

Veterans Financial Assistance

Lorain County Veterans Service Commission

42495 N. Ridge Rd Elyria, Oh 44035

440-284-4625

Fax: 440-284-4696

E-mail: veterans@loraincounty.us

Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Lorain County Veterans Service Commission exercises extreme care in determining those individuals entitled to eligible temporary financial assistance. The Commission is governed by Section 5901.01 through 5902.99 of the Ohio Revised Code; this law provides help to those veterans who have served our country honorably and are now in need of assistance.

In order to better serve the veterans of Lorain County, the Commission works closely with other agencies that provide care. Some of the agencies are: Ohio Job and Family Services, Ohio Bureau of Employment Services; Social Security Administration; Department of Veterans Affairs; and various other Federal, State and local agencies. Referral to an appropriate agency will be made as needed.

The Lorain County Veterans Service Commission financial assistance program is temporary in nature and is meant to prevent undue hardship for veterans and their families until other Federal, State, or local benefits can be obtained.

The purpose of financial assistance is to provide temporary financial aid to those who make a conscientious effort to find a permanent solution to their financial problems. Assistance will only be given to those who have a legitimate emergency or hardship as determined by the Veteran Service Commission and are otherwise eligible under the Ohio Revised Code, Section 5901 and 5901.08.

Eligibility Requirements

A person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States on active military duty and was discharged Honorably or under honorable conditions, and who either served at least 90 days of Military service for the purpose other than training, discharge prior to completing 90 days because of service connected disability, or completion of the period of obligated service for which the veteran was called to federal duty. While serving on active duty for training, incurred a disability recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense as service-connected; an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the spouse, surviving spouse, dependent parent, minor child, or ward of a veteran or active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

A Bona fide resident who has lived in Lorain County for 3 months prior to the date of application. Proof of residency is the responsibility of the individual seeking assistance.

Required Documents

- DD-214
- Current Picture Identification, i.e., drivers license or state ID card
- Marriage certificate/social security number & date of birth of spouse
- Divorce decree (if applicable).
- Birth certificates & social security numbers of dependent children (if applicable).
- Death certificate (if you are a surviving spouse or child of a deceased veteran).
- If unemployed & able to work - You must be registered with ODJFS. Please call Ron Ramsey at 284-4220 or Natalie Salisbury at 284-4320, for an appointment.
- If disabled - You must have disability statement from doctor, or Social Security.
- Everyone residing in the household over the age of eighteen, must provide income statements for the last 60 days - (All sources of income). Please provide: bank statements , paychecks, retirement benefits, VA compensation or pension, Social Security, SSI, Child Support, U.C. & workers compensation.
- Current unpaid monthly bills for the last 30 days:
 - Mortgage
 - Gas
 - Water/sewer
 - Trash

- Electric
- Auto/home/life/medical insurance
- Phone
- Car payment
- Property tax
- If renting a house or apt, a copy of the current lease

Financial Assistance is provided for basic living needs. These basic living needs may include:

- Mortgage / Rent
- Food
- Clothing
- Personal Hygiene
- Utilities
- Other financial assistance needs may be considered on a case by case basis

Those who desire financial assistance may contact our office their number below for your Financial Assistance Investigator for your area.

Jerelyn Scott Investigator
440-284-4630

Yolanda Bond Investigator
440-284-4641

Amherst
Avon
Avon Lake
Lorain
Sheffield
Sheffield Lake
Vermilion (Lorain County Half)
South Amherst

Elyria
Oberlin
North Ridgeville
Grafton
Lagrange
Columbia Station
Wellington

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The first page of this guide suggests that you “find your own spirituality”. The scope of this booklet does not allow a listing of all the faith traditions and houses of worship available in Lorain County.

However for those seeking Christian worship and pastoral care, and who may not have a current church home, The Salvation Army offers services and programs at the following Corps:

Elyria Corps

716 Broad Street
Elyria, OH 44035
440-323-3026

Lorain Corps

2506 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44052
440-244-1921

A rather extensive list of other worship centers can be found at <http://www.loraincounty.com/Religion/>

LORAIN COUNTY CITIES, VILLAGES AND TOWNSHIPS

Amherst.....	440-988-2420
Amherst Township.....	440-988-5894
Avon.....	440-937-7800
Avon Lake.....	440-933-6141
Brighton Township.....	440-647-4757
Brownhelm Township.....	440-967-0626
Camden Township.....	440-775-2015
Carlisle Township.....	440-458-4491
Columbia Township (Columbia Station).....	440-236-8802
Eaton Township.....	440-748-2236
Elyria.....	440-326-1400
Elyria Township.....	440-324-9462
Grafton.....	440-926-2401
Grafton Township.....	440-926-2166
Henrietta Township.....	440-965-4684
Huntington Township.....	440-647-3422
Kipton.....	440-775-2181
LaGrange.....	440-355-5555
LaGrange Township.....	440-355-4738
Lorain.....	440-204-2011
New Russia Township.....	440-775-7782
North Ridgeville.....	440-353-0853
Oberlin.....	440-775-1531
Penfield.....	440-647-2540
Pittsfield.....	440-775-3352
Rochester.....	440-647-3731
Rochester Township.....	440-647-3731
Sheffield.....	440-949-6325
Sheffield Lake.....	440-949-8590
Sheffield Township.....	440-233-5602
South Amherst.....	440-986-2202
Vermilion.....	440-204-2460
Wellington.....	440-647-4626
Wellington Township.....	440-647-3801

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NOTES

Inclusion in this directory does not imply endorsement of services nor does exclusion imply disapproval. Every effort has been made to supply complete and accurate information; however, The Salvation Army and The Salvation Army Oberlin Service Unit make no representation with respect to the accuracy and completeness of the contents of this directory and specifically disclaim any.

Special recognition is given to the Greater Cleveland Reentry Strategy and the United Way of Greater Cleveland's 211 for developing "Going Home To Stay: A Guide for Successful Reentry" which provided the model for this Lorain County Directory.

Compiled by:
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Oberlin Service Unit
305 Artino Street Suite C
Oberlin, OH 44074



DOING THE MOST GOOD™