

HOW AUTISM FRIENDLY IS YOUR COMMUNITY?

More and more New Jersey municipalities are rising to the occasion to help the 242,000 New Jerseyans with autism.

AUTISM-FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITIES CHECKLIST

- Municipal Staff Training on Autism**
Provide autism sensitivity training to all employees & volunteers
- Autism Acceptance Month (April)**
Issue a [proclamation](#) and provide information on municipal website and social platforms
- Autistic Perspectives**
Identify a municipal autism champion (i.e., someone who is autistic or has a deep connection to autism) to look at ordinances and provide perspective from the autism community
- Law Enforcement**
Share information about Autism New Jersey's Autism-Friendly Law Enforcement Practices publication, the Blue Envelope Program and the state law allowing an autism notation on driver's licenses and non-driver state identification cards
- 800.4.AUTISM Helpline Promotion**
Include the helpline on municipal websites and social platforms so people know where to turn
- Sports and Recreation Programs**
Offer a full range of adaptive sports and recreation programs for kids and adults with developmental disabilities

We're here to support you and your residents!

Autism New Jersey is a nonprofit that helps individuals, families and communities.

Our 800.4.AUTISM Helpline staff connects individuals and their caregivers to reliable resources for autism diagnosis, treatment, education and more. We help government leaders create autism-friendly laws, and we inform healthcare providers, law enforcement officers and other professionals about autism best practices. Through our awareness and engagement efforts, we work to create communities where people with autism are accepted and thrive.



Turn over for more information and a link to a free publication about how law enforcement is becoming more autism friendly statewide.



Autism
NEW JERSEY
The Power of Connection

800.4.AUTISM | www.autismnj.org | municipality@autismnj.org



Together, we can make every town and city in New Jersey a place where children and adults with autism and their families feel welcomed, supported, and included.

HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM LIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

242,000
New Jerseyans
with autism

64,000 OF WHOM HAVE
PROFOUND AUTISM

Characterized by
intellectual
disability, language
impairments, and
24/7 lifelong
support needs.



NEWARK
Population: 317,303
8,228 residents with autism



METUCHEN
Population: 15,049
387 residents with autism



VINELAND
Population: 60,692
1,525 residents with autism



These municipalities were selected for illustrative purposes and to provide balanced geographic and demographic representation.

PARTNERING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Autism New Jersey already has great partnerships with local police departments across the state through our Law Enforcement Initiative. And so many have adopted autism-friendly practices. Check them out! →



“Autism New Jersey is simply an excellent, caring, and empathetic organization. The leadership is second to none.”
NJIT Chief of Police Kevin Kesselman, father of a child with autism, and Autism New Jersey Board Member



“In just two years, Autism New Jersey’s Law Enforcement Advisory Committee and Director Doreen Yanik have laid the foundation and driven so much change happening in communities statewide.”
Franklin Borough Sergeant Jesse Babcock and father of a child with autism



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