

Financial Opportunity Centers (FOC) are career and personal financial service centers that focus on the financial bottom line for low-to moderate income individuals. This means changing people's financial behavior in a way that encourages them to make a long-term commitment to increasing income, decreasing expenses and acquiring assets. FOCs provide families with services across three areas: financial education and coaching; public benefits access; and employment placement and Career improvement. These core services are integrated together and provided to clients in a bundled fashion in order to reinforce one another and to provide a multi-faceted approach to income and wealth building. The model for these centers was developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

We encourage you to read below and answer the following questions. If you answer yes to any one of these questions then you are ready to join our program and take the leap into achieving financial security.

- Do you want to learn more about money and finance?
- Are you interested in making a long term change to become financially independent?
- Would you like to improve your personal financial situation and achieve financial stability?
- Would you like to learn how to open a bank account and begin saving for the future?
- Are you interested in learning how to prepare a personal budget?
- Do you want to learn more about your credit report and FICO credit rating and how to improve them?
- Would you like to find out if you qualify for public benefits that will help increase your income?

La Casa de Don Pedro

Fostering self-sufficiency, empowerment and neighborhood revitalization since 1972

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The Financial Opportunity Center is made possible thanks to the collaborative efforts and the generous financial support of the Citi Foundation which is committed to economic empowerment and financial inclusion of individuals, families, and communities.

This center is an initiative of the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) Greater Newark Neighborhoods program, which is dedicated to helping community residents transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity.

La Casa de Don Pedro

Lower Broadway

Financial Opportunity Center



LISC
Greater Newark
Jersey City

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Who We Are

La Casa de Don Pedro has been serving the residents and stakeholders of Newark's North End since 1972. It was founded by new arrivals seeking a means to achieve self-sufficiency and empowerment in a rapidly changing city. Today La Casa is well known as the advocate for the North End neighborhoods and for all residents throughout the City, County and State who seek to have viable communities and social justice for all. La Casa's community organizing, advocacy and social service infrastructure is recognized as the largest and primary link to the Hispanic community in Newark and beyond.

La Casa's programs are comprehensive and integrated because we recognize that the needs of individuals, their families and their children tend to be interconnected and benefit from a holistic approach. We urge and support our participants to use the full spectrum of services provided by our internal and external networks. As our programming has grown La Casa has also targeted its efforts based on strategic and comprehensive plans to positively impact families and the community at large.

La Casa's programs range from Early Childhood Education to Adult Education, from After School Enrichment to Prisoner Re-Entry, and from Energy Assistance and Improvement to Housing Development. Most recently we have launched our Financial Opportunity Center whose core goal is to build family income and wealth.

Services

- Financial literacy and education workshops on budgeting, long & short-term saving, asset building, and other financial strategies.
- Individualized financial coaching including access to TransUnion credit reports and FICO scores.
- Assistance with opening accounts in credit unions or banks
- Initial screening and assistance with applying for public benefits such as food stamps, welfare, WIC Program, Social Security, student financial aid, etc.
- Referrals to food pantries and clothes bank
- Assistance with applying for Earned Income Tax Credits
- Job preparation services and job placement depending on availability

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be 18 years of age or older
- You must be of low to moderate income
- You must live in the City of Newark
- You must be interested in learning more about financial literacy
- You must be willing to commit yourself long term in order to achieve financial independence

