

# PATHFINDER

**An online list of library resources to use as “ready references” for a variety of needs.**

## **VITAL HUMAN RESOURCES**

- 1. Affordable Care Act (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.healthcare.gov>**

**This website is used to purchase health insurance from various insurance companies via the marketplace. It is also used to renew or change one’s health insurance. Some taxpayers are not eligible for health insurance elsewhere or it is not offered by their employers. The toll-free number to receive more information is: 1-800-318-2596.**

- 2. Compass (n.d.). [Department of Human Services]. Retrieved from <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/>**

**A website where the citizens of Pennsylvania can apply for various social service benefits. There is also a mobile app for them to access those services on the go. They can take pictures of verification such as pay stubs, proof of other income, and shelter costs, then upload them and attach those documents onto their application. They can renew benefits, receive notices online, etc. They can also appeal unfavorable decisions regarding their benefits.**

- 3. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (2021). Retrieved from <https://naacp.org>**

**The NAACP is a civil rights organization which was founded on 2/12/1909 by a number of concerned citizens. Its mission was and still is to “... ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of the United States and eliminate race prejudice. The NAACP seeks to remove all barriers to racial discrimination through the democratic processes.” (NAACP,**

**2021) This site provides updated information on various lawsuits and other legal challenges, a visitor to the site can donate or become a member of the organization/renew membership. This site also informs the African American community about issues which affect them directly. One can also apply for a scholarship. There is much more addressed on the website which affects the African American community. Various forms of social media can keep us connected.**

**4. National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. (n.d.). *National Cancer Institute* online. Retrieved from <https://www.cancer.gov/>**

**This website provides information and support to cancer patients, medical personnel, and caretakers.**

**5. Office of Unemployment Compensation. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.uc.pa.gov>**

**This website is very useful for the recently unemployed; they can apply for unemployment benefits privately via online or they can print out the application and mail it off. They can reopen a claim, change their personal information, file bi-weekly claims and view their payments. (Labor & Industry, 2021) The telephone number to file a claim is: 1-888-313-7284. The recently unemployed will also be referred to career links (offices where they can job hunt, receive information about training and earning a GED, learn resume writing, etc.)**

**6. Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.phrc.pa.gov>**

**The PHRC is a governmental organization which handles discrimination complaints. The four types of complaints which can**

**be filed are: 1) employment, 2) housing [residential and commercial], 3) denial of services and facilities and 4) education. If someone feels that he or she has been discriminated against he or she must file a complaint usually within four months of the incident. They will be contacted to provide more information, then it is compiled into a legal document which is reviewed by the complainant. After the complainant has reviewed and approved it, it is served on the defendant. This is an extremely useful tool for people to get retribution/justice/financial compensation if it is found in their favor. It is also a useful tool to express oneself and to report maltreatment by a person, small or large business, a governmental department, or a non-profit organization. This agency is serving the Pennsylvania area, but a similar agency should be accessible to citizens in their home state.**

**7. Planned Parenthood. (2021). [family planning services]. Retrieved from <https://www.plannedparenthood.org>**

**This organization was founded by Margaret Sanger in 1916 and since this time, it has grown. This organization services teenagers, parents, and educators. It dispenses information about birth control, abortion, STDs, and family planning services. Women can schedule an appointment at the local health centers via online or they can call: 1-800-230-PLAN. It is a great resource for women to make decisions about their bodies and to be given accurate information to make the best decision for them.**

**8. The United States Social Security Administration. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.ssa.gov>**

**The citizens of the United States can visit this site to apply for social security benefits, replace a social security card, request a proof of income letter, create an account online, estimate their future social security benefits, and more.**

## RESEARCH

### Educational Websites:

1. **A & E Television Networks. (2021). *Biography* online. Retrieved from <https://www.biography.com/>**

**This website provides full length biographies including videos.**

2. **Black Past. (2021). *Black past* online. Retrieved from <https://www.blackpast.org/>**

**This comprehensive website provides a smorgasbord of African American and African Diaspora history. The specific links include African American history, Global African history, main features, special features and about us. This website also promotes a Black Past Store to fund this not-for-profit site. The search engine is wide enough to input data and see it as it is being written. There is also a donate button to help this valuable site remain relevant. The website provides a language drop down menu to translate to another language.**

3. **Encyclopedia.com. (2019). *Encyclopedia.com* online. Retrieved from <https://www.encyclopedia.com/>**

**This website claims that the viewer can search over 200 individual encyclopedias and reference books from the world's most trusted publishers. (Encyclopedia. Com, 2019)**

4. **Merriam-Webster, Inc. (2021). *Merriam-Webster* online dictionary. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>**

**This website provides definitions, synonyms, and antonyms for thousands of words. In addition, there is a highlighted word of the day, the origin of words, videos, and activities such as quizzes and games for children.**

5. **Britannica Procon.org. (2020). *Procon.org* online. Retrieved from**

<https://www.procon.org/>

**This website offers controversial topics that also consists of two points of view. The “Teacher’s Corner” offers lesson plans, videos, and quotes. It is a great source of topics for essays, research papers, debates, and class discussions. This website has been acquired by Encyclopedia Britannica in May of 2020.**

**6. Science News for Students. (2021). *Science News for Students* online. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/>**

**This website is an award-winning website which covers various science areas which include life, humans, earth, space, and tech.**

**7. ThoughtCo. (n.d.). *ThoughtCo.* Online. Retrieved from**

**<https://www.thoughtco.com/>**

**This website claims it is the world’s largest educational resource. It covers various subjects such as science, history & culture, languages, humanities, math, and animals & nature.**

**(ThoughtCo.com, n.d.) This website also lists several topics for debates, but these same topics can be used as topics for research papers, essays, and class discussions. In addition, it also provides a list of topics for essays at various grade levels, speech topics, et cetera.**

#### **Government Websites:**

**1. Federal Communications Commission. (n.d.). *Federal Communications Commission* online. Retrieved from <https://www.fcc.gov/>**

**The Federal Communications Commission regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. (FCC.gov, n.d.)**

**2. Institute of Education Sciences. (n.d.). *Education Resources Information Center* online database. Retrieved from**

**<https://eric.ed.gov/>**

**This website is dedicated to topics regarding education of all ages. The articles consist of both popular journals and scholarly journals. A user can indicate peer reviewed and /or full text. The database retrieves national and international authors, but all journal articles are written in English.**

**3. Library of Congress. (n.d.). *Library of Congress* online.**

**Retrieved from <https://www.loc.gov/>**

**This website is the nation's library. It is an archive of literature, videos, audio, and other library materials.**

**4. National Endowment for the Arts. (n.d.). *Artist and Art Education* online. Retrieved from <https://www.arts.gov/>**

**This website is an independent government resource to highlight art and artists. The organization offers grants, publications, videos, podcasts, slideshows, and webinars. There is also a blog to read the latest information.**

**5. National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse. (n.d.). *Fatherhood Topics* online. Retrieved from <https://www.fatherhood.gov/>**

**This website is an information and support clearinghouse for fathers.**

**6. U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). *Labor Statistics* online. Retrieved from <https://www.bls.gov/>**

**This website consists of various labor statistics, features various careers, provides publications, teacher/student resources, et cetera.**

**7. U. S. Congress. (n.d.). *Congress* online. Retrieved from**

**<https://www.congress.gov/>**

**This website informs the citizens about bills, laws, meetings, representatives, senators and more. A citizen can reach their representative or senator by clicking on the links on the right-hand side of the homepage, then choose his or her state of residence.**

**8. U. S. Fish and Wildlife. (2021). *Endangered Species* online. Retrieved from <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/>**

**This website lists animals on the endangered species list or close to this status. A viewer can research endangered species in their own county or state. The website also provides information on grants, laws, and permits.**

**9. U. S. Food and Drug Administration. (n.d.). *Food and Drug Administration* online. Retrieved from <https://www.fda.gov/>**

**This official federal agency oversees food, drug, medical devices, radiation-emitting products, vaccine, blood, biologics, animal & veterinary, cosmetics, and tobacco products. This agency also regulates recalls and more.**

**10. U. S. Government and Information Services. (n.d.). *USA Government* online. Retrieved from <https://www.usa.gov/>**

**The official U. S. Government and Information services website.**

**11. U. S. National Library of Medicine. (2021). *Medline Plus: Trusted health information for you* online. Retrieved from <https://www.medlineplus.gov/>**

**This website offers in layman's terms health information. It includes a medical encyclopedia and a National Institute of Health magazine. In addition, it includes videos and tools for citizens to access. Citizens can make better health decisions by utilizing the information presented.**

## **BUSINESS**

**1. Black Enterprise. (2020). *Black Enterprise* online. Retrieved from <https://blackenterprise.com/>**

**This website contains articles from successful entrepreneurs, information on upcoming events and more. This website is an extension of the popular magazine founded in 1970.**

**2. The African American Chamber of Commerce. (2016). *Business start-ups/support systems* online. Retrieved from <https://www.aachamber.com/>**

**The African American Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1993 due to discriminatory practices. It has evolved into a very powerful organization to support, to aid new business starters and to offer valuable information to those who aspire to start their own businesses. Business owners can become members to take advantage of the resources that this organization has to offer. It serves the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware States. Memberships packages range from \$100 - \$2,000.00**

**3. The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia. (2021). *Business support* online. Retrieved from <https://www.chamberphl.com/>**

“Since 1801, the Chamber has brought area businesses and civic leaders together to promote growth and create opportunity in our region.”  
(Chamberphl.com, 2021) This organization did not disclose their membership fees.

**4. U. S. Small Business Administration. (n.d.). *Government Business support* online. Retrieved from <https://www.sba.gov/>**

**The United States Small Business Administration is a great resource for the aspiring business owner. They offer advice, skills, loans, grants, legal advice, and continuing support. A business or aspiring business owner can visit a local office; they can visit this website and**

**choose the local assistance link at the top of the home page. On the next screen just enter a zip code and state, then the website will generate local offices in their area to visit. This website is very comprehensive and contains various resources and advice.**

## **LEGAL**

**1. Philadelphia Legal Assistance. (2021). *PLA* online. Retrieved from <https://www.philalegal.org/>**

**This non-profit legal service is free and accepts donations to continue pro-bono services to the low-income residents of Philadelphia, PA. This non-profit organization provides legal assistance in cases of family law, federal taxes, housing, public benefits, miscellaneous legal problems, and migrant farm worker legal problems. (PLA, n.d.)**

**2. Votes PA. (2021). *Pennsylvania Voter Services* online. Retrieved from <https://www.votespa.com/>**

**This government website is used by Pennsylvanians to learn about elections, voter registration etc. Pennsylvanians can register to vote online or print out their application and mail it to their local voter registration office.**

