



PHIL MURPHY  
Governor

TAHESHA WAY  
Lt. Governor

**State of New Jersey**  
Office of the Public Defender  
Human Resources  
25 Market Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 850  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0850

JENNIFER N. SELLITTI  
Public Defender

April 30, 2025

**Statewide Announcement**  
**JOB OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: 2025-008**  
**CLOSING DATE: May 23, 2025**

**OPEN TO:** Anyone who meets the education requirements listed in the announced title below.

**POSITION:** Investigator Apprentice Public Defender, Navigator Unit (1 position)

**FUNCTIONAL TITLE:** Mitigation Specialist/Defense Social Worker

**SALARY:** P-19 \$56,828.70 - \$80,241.12

**LOCATIONS:** Multiple location options available, including:

**Essex Trial Region**  
31 Clinton Street  
Newark, NJ 07102

**Mercer Trial Region**  
210 South Broad Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

**Camden Trial Region**  
520 Market Street  
Camden, NJ 08103

Other location options are available based on the candidate's preference and the operational needs. Some travel within the assigned region and the surrounding regions is expected and required for this position.

**EDUCATION:** Master's degree from an accredited college or university with specialization in social work, psychology, sociology, or closely related field; master's degree in social work is preferred but not required. Relevant professional experience can be substituted for the master's requirement.

**NOTE:** For candidates holding a master's degree in social work, licensure will be required but can be obtained after beginning in this role. In other words, a social work license is not required to begin working in this role.

**DESCRIPTION:** Under the close supervision of an Assistant Public Defender, Investigator 3, and/or other supervisory official, in a two-year training program, receives formal and on-the-job training to prepare cases and works on a collaborative, holistic team with attorneys and non-attorney staff. This position is part of the Navigator Unit of the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender. The Navigator Unit provides service linkage, mitigation, social work, and other investigation support to Public Defender clients who are court-involved and facing a loss of liberty due to criminal accusations and other court involvement.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Working on a holistic, interdisciplinary team with lawyers and other Public Defender staff.
- Investigating client background information including mental health, medical, education, trauma, strengths, resilience, and social history.
- Visiting and interviewing clients, family, and other collateral and community contacts to investigate personal background and history summaries.
- Developing well-written psychosocial histories, mitigation memoranda, and other reports to assist attorneys with client relationships and advocacy in all facets of representation.
- Interviewing Public Defender clients to investigate and assess the need for community-based resources.
- Investigating and linking clients to community resources, including treatment, counseling, housing, employment, transportation, and general support.
- Devising and implementing individualized service, treatment, and release plans.

*New Jersey is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

Posting # 2025-008

Investigator Apprentice PD- Mitigation Specialist/Defense Social Worker

- Developing cooperative relationships with community organizations and maintaining community resource guides.
- Attending meetings and intakes with clients, providing case management assistance.
- Appearing in court to explain the work done on the client's behalf.

**LICENSE:** Appointees will be required to possess a driver's license valid in New Jersey only if the operation of a vehicle, rather than employee mobility, is necessary to perform essential duties of the position. For this role, some in-state local travel is required.

**RESIDENCY LAW:** Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14-7 (L. 2011, Chapter 70), also known as the "New Jersey First Act," which became effective September 1, 2011, all persons newly hired by the Executive Branch on or after that date shall have one year from the date of employment to establish, and then maintain principal residence in the State of New Jersey. New Jersey State employees hired prior to September 1, 2011 who transfer from within Executive Branch or from another State of New Jersey Appointing Authority without a break in service greater than seven days but who reside outside the State of New Jersey are not required to change their principal residence to New Jersey in order to comply with the act.

**SAME APPLICANTS:** If you are applying under the NJ SAME program, your supporting documents (Schedule A or B letter), must be submitted along with your resume by the closing date indicated above. For more information on the SAME Program visit the website at: <https://nj.gov/csc/same/overview/index.shtml>, email: [SAME@csc.nj.gov](mailto:SAME@csc.nj.gov), or call CSC at (609) 292-4144, option 3.

**\*Special Note:** This position may be eligible to work remotely for up to two days in a calendar week.\*

**RESUME SUBMITTAL:** Candidates possessing the requirements listed above, should forward a current resume and cover letter via email to [OPD.Recruitment@opd.nj.gov](mailto:OPD.Recruitment@opd.nj.gov) (Note: Include the announcement number and title in the subject line) to:

William Wander, Director of Human Resources  
Office of the Public Defender  
P.O. Box 850  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0850

JOB POSTING AUTHORIZED BY:

  
William Wander, Director of Human Resources