

# North Carolina Department of Adult Correction

## Reentry Toolkit

Building Blocks for a Successful Transition

# Welcome

DRAFT

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# Get to know the Department.

The Department of Adult Correction (NCDAC) is responsible for the custody and supervision of all adults who are convicted and sentenced to a period of incarceration in a state prison or a period of probation, parole, or post-release supervision in North Carolina.

All NCDAC divisions protect the public by collaboratively focusing on rehabilitation, protection, innovation, accountability, and professionalism.

Visit [dac.nc.gov](http://dac.nc.gov) to learn more.



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# Start where you are.

Justice-involved people face many challenges to successful reentry. This toolkit provides you with information, tools, and resources to help guide you through some of those challenges.

The path to successful reentry looks different for every person. Whatever your journey, use this Toolkit to help you find your way.



The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.  
– Lao Tzu



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# Understand how to use this toolkit.

Sometimes you need help, but you don't know where to find it. This Toolkit will give you tips on where to start.

Use the online resources to find more information about the topics included in the toolkit. The Toolkit is just a starting point – you will have to follow up and find additional resources to meet your specific needs.

## Navigation Tools



The **pushpin icon** shares helpful tips to ease your journey.



The **suitcase icon** helps you find resources in any state.



The **caution icon** alerts you to common risks, pitfalls, and mistakes.



Use a notebook to write down contact information, conversations, and activities related to your reentry journey. This will help you remember names, dates, and conversations that may be useful down the road.

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# Don't believe the hype.

Myths and misinformation spread like wildfire throughout the justice-involved community. This Toolkit provides trusted resources that can help you separate fact from fiction.

Don't believe everything you hear, everything you read, or everything somebody tells you. Always go to trusted resources such as those included in this Toolkit for the most accurate, comprehensive, and up-to-date information.



This Toolkit highlights statewide resources and prioritizes government resources when possible. However, many local, state, and national organizations not included in the Toolkit may be available to help you. Do your homework before you seek help and always try to get information and assistance from trusted resources such as government agencies or well-known organizations.

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# Protect your information.

It is important to protect your personal and financial information to avoid the risk of fraud, scams, or identity theft. This means keeping important documents in a secure location, not sharing your personal information with others, and being especially careful when you are using the Internet.

Visit [USA.gov](https://www.usa.gov) to learn more about how to [protect yourself from scams and fraud](#).



The [North Carolina Department of Information Technology](#) offers [online safety tips and guidance](#) to help you stay safe online.

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# Driver Licenses and Identification Cards

You will need some form of picture identification to handle routine tasks such as going to the bank or getting a library card. A North Carolina driver license or identification card is a good place to start.

The [North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles](#) (NCDMV) provides driver licenses and state identification cards for North Carolina residents. Go to [MyNCDMV.gov](#) to learn more about North Carolina driver licenses, identification cards, and REAL IDs.

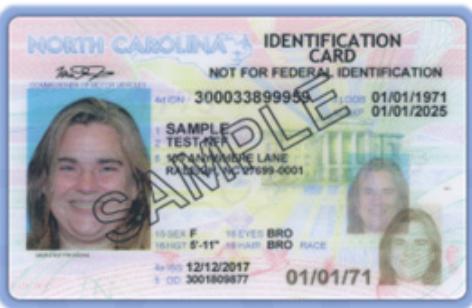


To get information for other states, go to [USA.gov](#) and search [motor-vehicle-services](#).



## North Carolina Driver License

NCDMV issues driver licenses. You must have a valid driver license to operate a motor vehicle on streets and highways.



## North Carolina State ID Card

NCDMV offers identification cards for customers who require a photo ID but do not require a driver license.



## North Carolina REAL ID

NCDMV also offers the N.C. REAL ID card, which requires additional information and requirements. The N.C. REAL ID is just like a traditional license or ID, but has a star at the top to indicate compliance with the REAL ID Act. The REAL ID Act requires a REAL ID, U.S. passport or another federally approved identification to board commercial flights and enter secure federal facilities, beginning May 7, 2025.



Passport books and passport cards also are REAL IDs. Visit [dhs.gov/real-id](#) to learn more about REAL IDs.

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# Social Security Card

A Social Security Number is a 9-digit number that is unique to you. You may need a Social Security number to get a job, file taxes, open a bank account, get a passport, or determine eligibility for certain government services.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers retirement and disability benefits, enrolls people in Medicare, and issues Social Security numbers.

Visit [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov) to find out how to obtain a new or replacement Social Security number or card from the Social Security Administration **for free** or to learn more about eligibility for SSA benefits. Using the [online services](#) is the best way to get help.



No Internet? Call 1-800-772-1213 or use the TTY number, 1-800-325-0778, if you're deaf or hard of hearing. You can also call or visit [your local office](#).

Social Security payments are suspended during incarceration. Learn more about reinstating your benefits by reviewing [Benefits After Incarceration: What You Need to Know](#) on the [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov) website.

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**REMEMBER:** There is no cost for a Social Security card that you obtain directly from the Social Security Administration. **You should not pay any company or person to help you get a Social Security card.**



Memorize your Social Security number, but do not carry the card on your person unless you need it for a specific purpose. Keep your Social Security card in a safe place and be cautious about disclosing your number to others.

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# Vital Records

Vital records include birth certificates, marriage and divorce records, and death certificates. You may need to provide vital records to apply for a driver license or other identification, obtain employment, get insurance, or access certain benefits and services.



## North Carolina Divorce Records

You may obtain divorce certificates from the clerk of court in the county where the divorce was finalized.

Visit [nccourts.gov](http://nccourts.gov) to find contact information for the clerk of court for the appropriate county.

## Birth, Death, or Marriage Certificates

You may obtain birth, death and marriage certificates from North Carolina Vital Records or from the local Register of Deeds in the county where the event took place. However, North Carolina Vital Records is the only place to get a birth certificate for an adopted child.

Visit [vitalrecords.nc.gov](http://vitalrecords.nc.gov) or call 1-919-733-3000 for more information about obtaining birth, death, or marriage records from North Carolina Vital Records.

Visit [ncard.us](http://ncard.us) for more information about obtaining birth, death, or marriage records from the Register of Deeds in the county where the event took place.



If you need to obtain vital records from a state other than North Carolina, visit [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) and search for [Where to Write for Vital Records](http://Where to Write for Vital Records) to find contact information for the appropriate state.

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# United States Passport

The United States Department of State issues passport books and passport cards. You will need a passport book or passport card if you want to travel outside the United States.



## Passport Book

A passport book can be used for international travel by air, sea, or land.

## Passport Card

A passport card can be used for entering the United States by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, Caribbean countries, and Bermuda.

The passport card **cannot** be used for international air travel.

Visit [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) for more information about how to obtain or renew a United States passport book or passport card.

Passport books and cards are REAL IDs. Visit [dhs.gov/real-id](https://dhs.gov/real-id) to learn more about REAL IDs.



Certain criminal convictions may affect your eligibility for a passport. Even if you have a passport, certain countries may bar entry based on a criminal record. Before you travel, check [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) to confirm whether your criminal record affects your travel plans.



If you are on probation, parole, or post-release supervision, you should always check with your probation officer before leaving the country.

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# Housing

A stable home environment is a key component of a successful reentry plan. Use these tips to help you find safe and supportive housing options in North Carolina.



## Check with friends and family.

Living with friends and family can be a good choice if the option is available to you. Talk with your friends and family to see if you can build a home with them.

## Consider renting.

You may have to consider renting a place to stay. [NCHousingSearch.org](http://NCHousingSearch.org) is an independent service that provides detailed information about apartments and homes for rent in your area and throughout the state. Visit the website or call 1-877-428-8844 for help.

## Talk to your probation officer.

If you are under active supervision, ask your assigned probation officer to provide leads on housing options in your area.

## Contact your local reentry council.

If there is a local reentry council (LRC) in your area, check with the LRC to learn about available housing assistance.



Learn more about LRCs on page 34.

## Use NCCARE360.

Visit [NCCARE360.org](http://NCCARE360.org) to search for housing services and support in North Carolina by location.



Learn more about NCCARE360 on page 35.

## Avoid homelessness.

If you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, contact the United Way of North Carolina by calling 2-1-1 or 1-888-892-1162 or visiting [NC211.org](http://NC211.org).



Learn more about NC211 on page 35.

## Explore specific resources for veterans.

Homeless veterans should visit [va.gov/homeless](http://va.gov/homeless) or call 1-877-4AID VET (877-424-3838) to access the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](http://NationalCallCenterforHomelessVeterans.org).



Are you moving out-of-state? Visit [USA.gov](http://USA.gov) to learn more about [housing support and services](http://housingsupportandservices.gov) in other states.

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# Employment

A stable job will help your chances of successful reentry. Use these tips to help you find employment opportunities in your area.

## Visit NCcareers.org.

[NCcareers.org](#) is an online resource for job and career information that allows users to identify skills and interests, explore occupations and employer needs, find education and training opportunities, and prepare to reenter the job market.

## Use online resources at [NCWorks.gov](#).

[NCWorks Online](#) is a one-stop online resource for job seekers and employers in North Carolina. Job seekers can search for jobs, create resumes, and find education and training. You can download the NCWorks Online app on your mobile device.

## Find the NCWorks Career Center near you.

The Department of Commerce has 80+ career centers across the state. NCWorks Career Centers can help you find work, improve your skills, and connect to resources to help you succeed. Find a career center near you at [NCWorks.gov](#).

## Visit [CareerOneStop.org](#).

[CareerOneStop.org](#) is an online source for career exploration, training, and jobs, sponsored by the United States Department of Labor.

## Ask for referrals.

Let your friends and family know that you are looking for a job and ask if they have any leads. If so, find out how to get your foot in the door.

## Attend a job fair.

A job fair brings together employers and job seekers in one location. Find job fairs through [NCWorks.gov](#), your local NC Works Career Center, or Internet searches for job fairs in your area (ex. job fairs Raleigh NC).

## Contact your local reentry council.

If there is a local reentry council (LRC) in your area, check with the LRC to learn about available job training and employment assistance.



Learn more about LRCs on page 34.



## Follow the signs.

Many businesses have signs posted to show they are hiring. If so, follow the instructions on the signs or ask staff about the job and how to apply.

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# Employment Incentives

Justice-involved people have skills that can help employers meet business needs. In addition, incentives are available to help businesses who hire qualified people with certain barriers to employment.



Visit [commerce.nc.gov](http://commerce.nc.gov) to learn more about incentives to hire qualified people who meet certain criteria.

## Federal Bonding Program

The United States Department of Labor established [The Federal Bonding Program](#) in 1966 to provide Fidelity Bonds for “at-risk,” hard-to-place job seekers. The bonds cover the first six months of employment at no cost to the job applicant or the employer.

Visit [bonds4jobs.com](http://bonds4jobs.com) or call 1-800-233-2258 to learn how the federal bonding program can help you.

## Work Opportunity Tax Credit

The [Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#) (WOTC) is a federal tax credit available to employers who hire individuals from eligible target groups who are qualified for positions but face significant barriers to employment.

Visit [commerce.nc.gov](http://commerce.nc.gov) to learn more about the [work opportunity tax credit](#).

## On-the-Job Training

North Carolina also offers [On-the-Job Training \(OJT\)](#) opportunities that provide wage reimbursement to offset the cost of training new employees with limited skills.

Visit [commerce.nc.gov](http://commerce.nc.gov) to learn more about [OJT](#).

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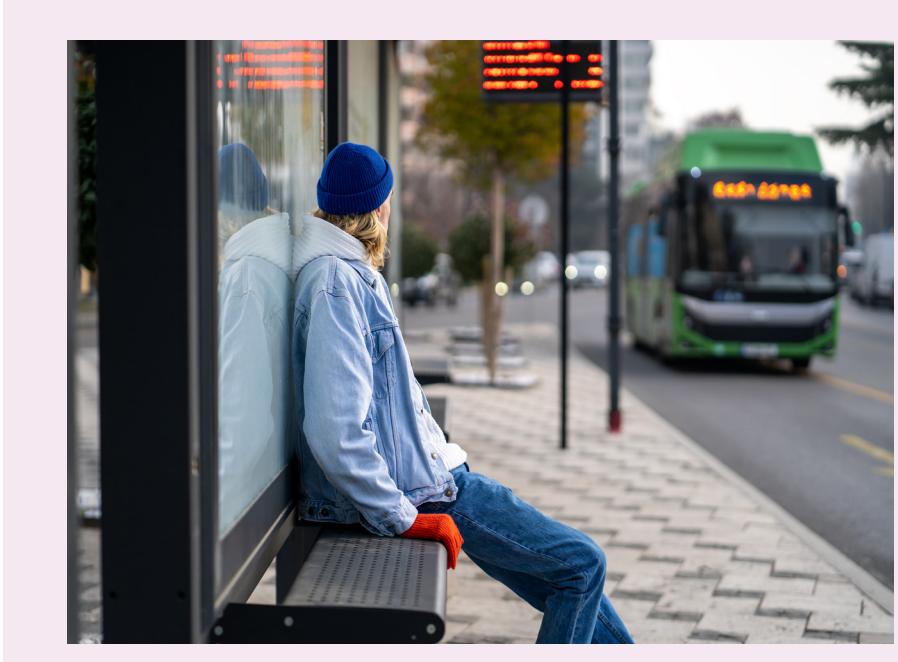
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# Transportation

You will need a reliable way to get to work, appointments, and other places you need to go. Public transportation may be an option for getting you there.



Public transportation services are available in all 100 counties in North Carolina.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation offers information about North Carolina's public transit network. Visit [ncdot.gov](http://ncdot.gov) and search for "[Public Transit Services](#)" to learn more about public transportation options in your area.



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires public transportation authorities to offer paratransit services for people who can't use standard public transportation because of a disability. Contact the transportation provider to learn how to access paratransit services.

## Rideshare Companies



Rideshare companies such as Uber and Lyft may be a transportation option if they operate in your area. These companies offer one-way transportation for a fee. You will need to download the company's app and create an account to pay for services.

## Reentry Partners



Local reentry councils, nonprofits, and community or faith-based organizations may have resources to help provide transportation assistance for you. Use this Toolkit to learn more about available reentry support services in your community.



## Private Transportation

If you operate a motor vehicle, you must have a valid driver license and required insurance -- even if you do not own the vehicle. You will also need money to pay for gas, regular maintenance, and unexpected expenses.



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# Basic Needs

Housing, transportation, and employment are critical basic needs. You also may need help with other basic needs such as food, clothing, and personal care supplies.



Many local organizations offer support with basic needs such as food, water, clothing, household goods, personal care items, and other resources you need for daily living. Some agencies also may offer financial assistance to help with rent, utilities, child care, or other immediate needs.

Use the tips on this page to find food pantries, clothing closets, or other local resources that can help you meet your basic needs.

## Use NCCARE360.

Visit [NCCARE360.org](https://NCCARE360.org) to search for resources and support in North Carolina by location.



Learn more about NC-CARE360 on page 35.

## Contact NC211.

Visit [NC211.org](https://NC211.org) or call 2-1-1 or 1-888-892-1162 to receive free and confidential information on health and human services within your community.



Learn more about NC211 on page 35.

## Talk to your probation officer.

If you are under active supervision, ask your assigned probation officer to provide leads on options for assistance in your area.

## Contact your local reentry council.

If there is a local reentry council (LRC) in your area, check with the LRC to learn about available resources to help with basic needs.



Learn more about LRCs on page 34.

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# Education

Do you want to finish high school, prepare for college, or learn new job skills? North Carolina Community Colleges can help you meet your educational and career goals.



The North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) offers an array of programs for adults. You can complete your high school equivalency diploma, improve your job skills, enhance personal growth, earn an associate's degree, and more.

North Carolina has 58 community colleges located throughout the state. Visit [nccommunitycolleges.edu](http://nccommunitycolleges.edu) to learn more about opportunities near you.

## High School Equivalency Diploma

NCCCS offers free instruction to help you prepare to earn a high school equivalency diploma through GED® or HiSET®, but there are costs associated with taking the tests. Learn more about [classes, testing, and costs](#).



HiSET® testing is the only high school equivalency assessment offered inside NCDAC correctional facilities.

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships allow you to get on-the-job training while you earn money and credits toward national credentials, certificates, or degrees. Learn more about [apprenticeship opportunities through NCCCS](#).



Most people in North Carolina can drive to their closest community college in 30 minutes or less.

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# Health Care Options

Once you leave prison, you will be responsible for securing your own medical care in the community. Because health care can be expensive, it is important to find ways to reduce health care costs.



Many options are available to help make health care more affordable. You should begin by assessing your eligibility for employer-sponsored health insurance or federal health care programs.

Community health centers, [county health departments](#), and other community organizations also may offer health care services in your community.



Visit [USA.gov](#) to find [local health departments](#) in other states.

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# Medicaid and Medicare

Medicaid and Medicare are federal programs that provide affordable health care coverage for eligible beneficiaries. You may be eligible if you meet certain criteria.

## Medicare

Medicare generally is available for people 65 years or older, younger people with disabilities and people with End Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or transplant).

Visit [Medicare.gov](https://Medicare.gov) to learn more about eligibility for Medicare.

## Medicaid

Medicaid generally provides health coverage for eligible low-income people, families and children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Visit [Medicaid.gov](https://Medicaid.gov) to learn more about eligibility for Medicaid.



Incarcerated people in NCDAC facilities can apply for Medicaid and Medicare within 90 days of release. Prior incarceration does not make you automatically eligible for the programs, but you may be eligible if you meet specific criteria.

North Carolina expanded Medicaid coverage effective December 1, 2023, to open eligibility to adults ages 19-64 who were not previously eligible. Visit [medicaid.ncdhhs.gov](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov) or your [local Department of Social Services \(DSS\)](#) to learn more about eligibility, benefits, services, or how to apply.

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# The Affordable Care Act

If you don't qualify for Medicare or Medicaid and your employer does not offer insurance, explore your options under the Affordable Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA or Obamacare, is a comprehensive health care reform law that expands affordable health insurance options to more people. You can shop for ACA insurance plans using a service called the Health Insurance Marketplace, also known simply as the Marketplace or the exchange.

The Marketplace has an open enrollment period every fall when people can enroll in a health insurance plan for the next calendar year. Outside of the open enrollment period, the Marketplace offers special enrollment periods based on certain qualifying life events like getting married, having a baby, or losing other health coverage.



Leaving incarceration is a qualifying life event that makes you eligible for a special enrollment period. Visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) within 60 days of your release date to access the Marketplace and determine your eligibility, explore available plans, and learn more about plan prices.



You can also make an appointment to talk to a federally qualified health insurance navigator with the NC Navigator Consortium by calling 1-855-733-3711 or visiting [ncnavigator.net](http://ncnavigator.net). The navigator will ask you relevant questions and walk you through your coverage options through the Marketplace or through [Medicaid](http://Medicaid).

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# Mental Health and Substance Use

Many justice-involved people have mental health or substance use disorders. Resources are available to help you find treatment and support.

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) leads public health efforts to support behavioral health nationwide. SAMHSA provides information, treatments, resources, and supports to improve the lives of people living with mental and substance use disorders.

SAMHSA's information and referrals services are free, confidential, and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Visit [FindTreatment.gov](#) or call the SAMHSA National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) to find quality treatment and support near you. TTY users should call 1-800-487-4889.



While SAMHSA's information and referral services are free, treatment may not be free. Use the online or telephone services to learn more about the cost of treatment and payment options based on your individual circumstances.



The [Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services](#) (MH/DD/SAS) within the [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](#) provides information and support for people in North Carolina with intellectual disabilities, mental illness, and substance use disorders.

Visit [ncdhhs.gov](#) or call 1-800-662-7030 to learn more.

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# Suicide and Crisis Resources

Help is available 24/7/365 for people who are in suicidal crisis or emotional stress. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need help.



The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides free and confidential support for people who are depressed, going through a hard time, need to talk, or are thinking about suicide. Help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Visit [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) to chat with someone online or to learn more about crisis support. Veterans and active service members can also visit the Veterans Crisis Line at [veteranscrisisline.net](https://veteranscrisisline.net).

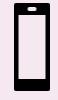


Visit [ncdhs.gov](https://ncdhs.gov) or call 1-800-662-7030 to learn about other [crisis services](#) available in North Carolina.

## 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline



Call 988



Text 988



Chat online @  
[988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)



Lifeline Options for Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
For TTY users, Use your preferred relay service or dial 711 then 988.

## Veterans Crisis Line



Call 988, then press 1



Text 838255



Chat online @  
[veteranscrisisline.net](https://veteranscrisisline.net)



Veterans Crisis Line Option for Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Call TTY at 1-800-799-4889.



## CALL 911

if you have an emergency and need immediate assistance



If you need police, ask for a **crisis intervention team officer** trained in behavioral health issues.

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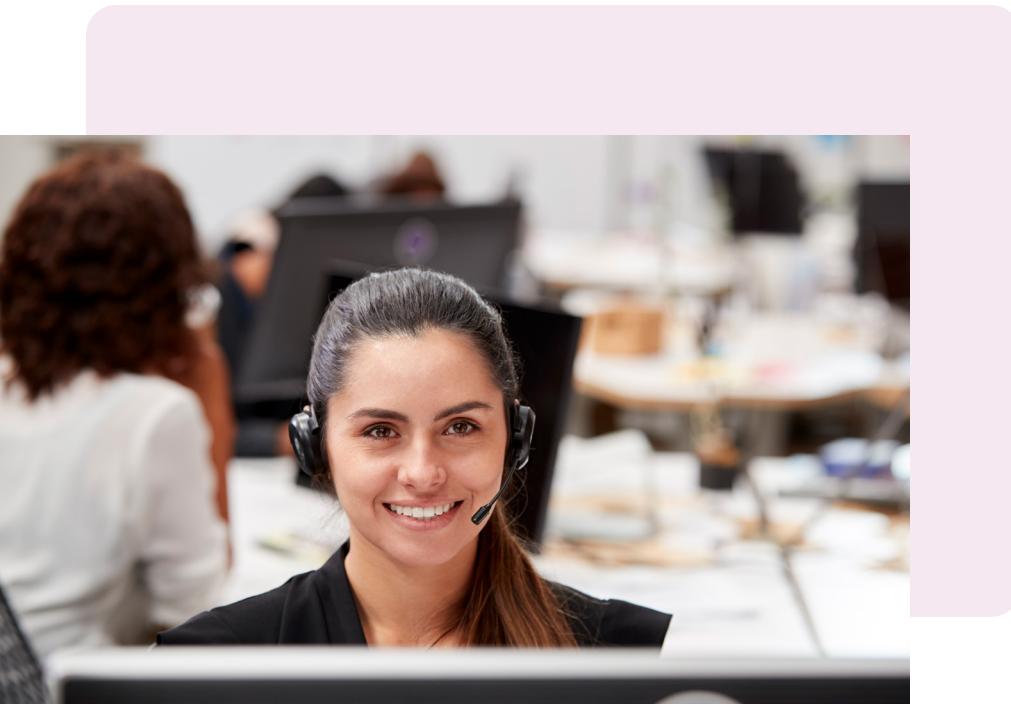
# Program Highlight - NC FIT

Some community programs provide services intended to enhance the health and well-being of justice-involved people. NC FIT is an example of these types of programs.

The Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program, sponsored by UNC Family Medicine, connects formerly incarcerated individuals who have a chronic disease, mental illness or a substance use disorder with appropriate health care services and other reentry resources.

FIT is available in six counties: Durham, Guilford, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Orange, and Wake.

Visit [ncfitprogram.org](http://ncfitprogram.org) to get contact information for each program.



FIT employs community health workers with a personal history of incarceration who work with local reentry partners to improve reentry outcomes.



Explore the resources in this Toolkit to help you find other programs in your community.



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# Voting

Voting is a fundamental part of American democracy. You should understand how your criminal conviction may (or may not) affect your eligibility to vote in North Carolina.



The North Carolina State Board of Elections (NCSBE) provides information about voting rights in North Carolina, with specific information for justice-involved people.

Visit [ncsbe.gov](http://ncsbe.gov) for more information about eligibility to vote, voter registration, ways to vote, elections, and other issues related to voting in North Carolina.



Voters in North Carolina will be asked to show photo identification when voting. Visit [ncsbe.gov](http://ncsbe.gov) to learn more about photo ID requirements.

## Misdemeanor

If you are convicted of a misdemeanor in North Carolina, **you do not lose your right to vote**, even if you are incarcerated.

## Felony

If you are convicted of a felony, you lose the right to vote in North Carolina **until you have completed your sentence**. This includes completing any aspect of the sentence in prison or jail, as well as any period of probation, post-release supervision, or parole associated with the felony sentence.



Once the period of supervision is over, a person convicted of a felony automatically regains the right to vote. However, you still must register to vote after completion of your sentence — even if you were previously registered to vote before the felony conviction.



If your period of felony supervision is over, you regain your voting rights even if you have unpaid debts associated with your sentence such as fines, fees, or restitution.



Need information about voting in other states? Go to [Vote.gov](http://Vote.gov) to get information about voting rights for any state. [Vote.gov](http://Vote.gov) is an official website of the United States government.

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# Taxes

You may be required to pay taxes if you make a purchase or sale, earn more than a certain amount of money in a year, or own property such as land, a home, or a vehicle.

People are subject to many different types of taxes. For example, you may owe state and federal income taxes on money you earn, sales taxes on things you buy, or property taxes on real and personal property that you own.

Make sure you understand your tax obligations. Failure to file or pay taxes as required can result in fines, penalties, criminal prosecution, wage garnishment, foreclosure, or other consequences.



Incarceration does not affect the obligation to file a tax return or to pay taxes.

## Federal Taxes

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is charged with helping people understand and meet their federal tax responsibilities. Visit [IRS.gov](https://irs.gov) to find out whether you need to file a federal tax return or to answer tax-related questions.



You may want to file a tax return even if you do not meet the minimum income requirements. You may be eligible for a refund if you had taxes withheld or qualify for certain tax credits.

## State Taxes

In North Carolina, the Department of Revenue oversees state taxes. Visit [ncdor.gov](https://ncdor.gov) to learn more about your state tax obligations in North Carolina.



Did you live in more than one state during the tax year? Go to [USA.gov](https://usa.gov) to get information about [state and local tax obligations](#) for other states.

## Property Taxes

Property taxes in North Carolina are local taxes generally collected by the counties. Contact your county government for more information about your tax obligations if you own real or personal property such as a home or vehicle in that county.



NCDMV now collects motor vehicle taxes for all counties under North Carolina's [Tag & Tax Together](#) system which makes vehicle registration fees and vehicle property taxes due at the same time.

## Sales and Use Taxes

Sales and use taxes are due on purchases or sales you make. Visit [ncdor.gov](https://ncdor.gov) to understand sales and use tax rates by county, as tax rates vary by county.



Be sure to factor in sales taxes when you are making a budget or planning for purchases.

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# Landlord/Tenant Issues

If you rent housing in North Carolina, it is important to understand your rights and responsibilities as a tenant. Get help if you are facing eviction, housing discrimination, or living conditions that affect your health and safety.



The [North Carolina Judicial Branch](#) and [Legal Aid of North Carolina](#) provide information and assistance regarding housing issues. Some local governments also offer resources that provide helpful information. See the examples below.

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg**  
A Rental Housing Handbook

**Raleigh**  
Tenants' Rights Handbook

## North Carolina Judicial Branch

The North Carolina Judicial Branch offers information and resources about foreclosures, the eviction process, security deposits, housing discrimination, and other landlord/tenant issues. You also can access a free online service to help you prepare court documents for certain case types.

Visit [nccourts.gov](http://nccourts.gov) and search for “*Housing*” under Help Topics.

## Legal Aid of North Carolina

Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) offers free legal assistance to North Carolinians with limited income, including education and assistance with evictions, housing discrimination, repairs and maintenance, and other landlord-tenant issues.

Visit [legalaidnc.org](http://legalaidnc.org) to learn more about LANC or to find help with landlord/tenant issues.



No Internet? Call  
1-866-219-LANC (5262)

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# Driver License Restoration

In North Carolina, your driver license can be suspended if you fail to appear in court or fail to pay fines and fees associated with a traffic ticket. Access available resources if you need help to keep or restore your driver license.



[NC Fair Chance](#) and [Resolve Traffic Debt NC](#) are two statewide resources that provide information and support to help you keep or restore your driver license. Other local programs also may offer assistance.

 Do not drive if you have a suspended license or don't have a license at all. Instead, find help to get back on the road legally. You create more problems for yourself if you are caught driving without a valid license.

## NC Fair Chance

NC Fair Chance helps drivers identify the issues causing a license suspension and provides steps to help clear suspensions and restore driver licenses.

Visit [NCfairchance.org](http://NCfairchance.org) to learn more about restoring your driver license.

### What can you accomplish at [NCfairchance.org](http://NCfairchance.org)?

-  Find out if you already have gotten relief from the court
-  Request a driver license restoration advice letter
-  Access self-help resources for license restoration

## Resolve Traffic Debt NC

Resolve Traffic Debt NC helps people prevent or resolve driver license suspensions based on unpaid traffic tickets.

Visit [resolvetrafficdebtnc.org](http://resolvetrafficdebtnc.org) to learn more about preventing or resolving a debt-related suspension.

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# Expunctions

An expunction is a legal process to remove a criminal conviction or a criminal charge from a person's record and to destroy the associated records. You may want to explore whether your criminal record has charges or convictions that qualify for expunction.



You must apply for an expunction in the county of conviction.



Expunction and expungement often are used interchangeably.



If you faced charges that were dismissed or resulted in a verdict of not guilty, those charges may still appear on your criminal record. An expunction may be required to remove those charges.

Not all convictions qualify for expunction. Instead, a specific statute must authorize the expunction and the person seeking the expunction must meet all of the statutory criteria.

Many organizations offer information and assistance with the expunction process. Check out the resources below to learn more about the process.

## North Carolina Judicial Branch

Visit [nccourts.gov](http://nccourts.gov) and search for “*Expunctions*” under Help Topics.

## Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC)

Call the Helpline at 1-866-219-LANC (5262) or visit [legalaidnc.org](http://legalaidnc.org) to apply online or to get help preparing the paperwork you need to file your own expunction.



LANC will call you within 72 hours after you complete your paperwork online. Make sure you answer the call.

## UNC School of Government

Visit [sog.unc.edu](http://sog.unc.edu) and search for *Relief from a Criminal Conviction: A Digital Guide to Expunctions, Certificates of Relief, and Other Procedures in North Carolina*.

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# Local Reentry Councils

Accessing local support and resources can be challenging. A local reentry council (LRC) may be able to help you make connections in your community.



A local reentry council (LRC) is an organized network of individuals and agencies from different disciplines and backgrounds that have a role or significant interest in supporting reentry initiatives. Focus areas include employment, mental health and substance abuse treatment, transportation, childcare services, vocational training, education and housing.

North Carolina has 17 state-funded LRCs that develop local reentry plans to address the barriers that justice-involved people face in their communities. Visit [dac.nc.gov](http://dac.nc.gov) to learn more about LRCs or to get [contact information for state-funded LRCs](#) across the state.



Some counties without state-funded LRCs have organizations that function like LRCs. Although those organizations are not state-funded, they provide valuable services for justice-involved people who need assistance.

## North Carolina Local Reentry Councils

- Buncombe Reentry Council
- Craven/Pamlico Reentry Council
- Cumberland Reentry Council
- Durham Reentry Council
- Forsyth Reentry Council
- Guilford Reentry Council
- Hoke Reentry Council
- Mecklenburg Reentry Partners Network
- McDowell Reentry Council
- Nash/Edgecombe Reentry Council
- New Hanover Reentry Council
- Orange Reentry Council
- Pitt Reentry Council
- Robeson Reentry Council
- Scotland Reentry Council
- Wake Reentry Council
- Wilson Reentry Council

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# Veterans Resources

Many government agencies and nonprofits provide benefits and services for veterans, including assistance with benefits, employment, education, housing, health care, records, and other critical life areas.



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a wide range of benefits for veterans. Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Visit [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) or call 1-800-698-2411 for more information.

The North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs assists veterans, active duty, Reserve, and National Guard members of the Armed Forces of the United States, and their family members. Visit [milvets.nc.gov](https://milvets.nc.gov) or call 1-844-624-8387 for more information.



## Need help with housing?

The [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](https://www.va.gov/homeless) offers free help for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Visit [va.gov/homeless](https://www.va.gov/homeless) to learn more or to talk to trained counselors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



No Internet? Call  
1-877-424-3838



## Are you a veteran in crisis or concerned about one?

The [Veterans Crisis Line](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) serves veterans, service members, National Guard and Reserve members, and those who support them. Visit [veteranscrisisline.net](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net) to access free support 24/7, 365 days a year.



No Internet? Call 988, then  
press 1 or Text 838255

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# Super Search Engines

Some government agencies and private organizations offer comprehensive search engines to help you find the services that you need. Use these tools to help you find services and support in your area.



USA.gov helps you locate and understand government benefits, programs, and information.

Go to [USA.gov](http://USA.gov) or call 1-844-USAGOV1 to learn more.



NCCARE360

NCCARE360 is a statewide network that unites health care and human services organizations with a shared technology that enables a coordinated, community-oriented, person-centered approach for delivering care in North Carolina.

Go to [NCCARE360.org](http://NCCARE360.org) to learn more.



NC 211 is an information and referral service provided by United Way of North Carolina.

Visit [NC211.org](http://NC211.org) or call 2-1-1 or 1-888-892-1162 to receive free and confidential information on health and human services within your community.

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# Give us your feedback.

The Department of Adult Correction is committed to providing accurate and helpful resources that target the needs of justice-involved people.

If you have information that could be a helpful addition to this Toolkit or want to suggest updates or edits, click [here](#) to send us an email.

We welcome your feedback.

# Thank you!

DRAFT



Information changes quickly and sometimes this Toolkit may not be updated as soon as the new information is available. We will do our best to make updates as appropriate, but always get your information from the best and most reliable recommended resource.

DRAFT

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### Street Address

214 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC

### Mailing Address

5201 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-5201

### Phone

919-733-2126

[dac.nc.gov](http://dac.nc.gov)



[Executive Order No. 303](#) establishes a unified and coordinated government approach to improving education, rehabilitation, and reentry services for justice-involved people in North Carolina. As part of the Executive Order, North Carolina joins [Reentry2030](#), a national initiative that aims to dramatically improve reentry success for people exiting prison and those under supervision.

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