

**YOUR FIRST**

**48 HOURS**



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# INTRODUCTION



**Your First 48 Hours Toolkit** is a resource guide for successful reentry after incarceration. The last three to six months before release and the first 48 hours after release are critical to sustainable reentry. This Toolkit aims to connect you to resources and service providers in the greater Durham County area to help navigate and overcome the barriers to a successful reentry.

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice (SCSJ)** is a nonprofit organization founded in 2007 by a multidisciplinary group, predominantly people of color, who believed that families and communities engaged in social justice struggles need a team of lawyers, social scientists, community organizers, and communications specialists to support them in their efforts to dismantle structural racism and oppression. Using a racial equity framework and community lawyering model, SCSJ partners with communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities across the South to defend and advance their political, social, and economic rights through the combination of legal advocacy, research, organizing, and communications. To learn more, visit [www.southerncoalition.org](http://www.southerncoalition.org).

**The information in this Toolkit is current as of September 1, 2024. Please call 919-323-3380 ext. 162 (or ext. 134) or email [jsr@scsj.org](mailto:jsr@scsj.org) if you have any questions or to suggest other service providers in Durham County that should be included.**





## READ FIRST

Getting a real person on the phone can be incredibly frustrating, especially when dealing with government agencies or other organizations for assistance. If you find yourself facing this challenge while trying to contact any of the services listed in this **First 48 Hours** toolkit, consider these suggestions:

**Utilize the service provider's website**, provided for each service in this guide, to gather all the necessary information without the need for a call. If an email address is available, consider reaching out via email for non-emergency inquiries.

**Prepare in advance by having all required materials** when calling the service provider, such as identification, application forms, etc.

**Remain patient while on hold**, and if waiting becomes impractical, consider leaving a voicemail if the option is offered. Clearly state your name, phone number, and reason for calling in your message, and ensure you're available for a callback during standard business hours. Alternatively, if you're unavailable during these times, provide a suitable time frame for them to return your call.

**Keep in mind that high demand for these services may result in waiting lists.** SCSJ recommends starting your search for assistance by contacting the service providers listed under the Pre-Release section (pages 5-7) of this toolkit, as they typically have the local resources and connections to provide more immediate and targeted assistance.



# PRE-RELEASE

Planning your return at least three to six months before your release date is important. Below are some ways to think about this transition home.

## CORRECTIONAL CASE MANAGERS

Your correctional case manager is the first bridge between your release and critical resources such as housing and education.

Case managers support, counsel, conduct assessments, develop case plans, answer questions, and make recommendations for you as you begin your transition back home. Developing a consistent and positive relationship with your case manager is the first step in establishing a strong home plan.



[1]

[2]

## IDENTIFYING RESOURCES – BUILD A PLAN

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Being able to rely on family and friends for a stable, safe environment is the most effective way to transition back into the community.

If you are returning on probation, make sure that your family is aware of all restrictions and requirements of your probation.



# FAITH

Churches and other religious organizations can often provide services and support, including financial assistance for temporary housing, clothing, food, and transportation to members and non-members.

For example, these houses of worship in Durham regularly support returning citizens:



## GREY STONE BAPTIST CHURCH, SECOND MILE MINISTRIES

Provides emergency rental assistance, utility assistance (water/electricity), and a food pantry.

**Address:** 2601 Hillsborough Road, Durham, NC 27705  
**Phone:** 919-286-3596  
**Website:** [www.rentassistance.org/program/grey\\_stone\\_church\\_second\\_mile\\_ministry\\_durham\\_nc.html](http://www.rentassistance.org/program/grey_stone_church_second_mile_ministry_durham_nc.html)



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOCIAL MINISTRIES

Provides emergency financial assistance, accredited immigration legal services, weekly food pantry, and nutrition classes for families. Food pantry hours are Wednesday: 10:00am-1:00 pm, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm; Thursday 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

**Address:** 2020 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite 30, Durham, NC 27707  
**Phone:** 919-286-1964  
**Contact Person:** Barbara Mazza (Barbara.mazza@raldioc.org)  
**Website:** [www.catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/dcfp](http://www.catholiccharitiesraleigh.org/dcfp)



## SUMMIT CHURCH

Helps with practical needs as men and women transition back into society.

**Address:** 233 Presidential Drive, Suite 114, Durham, NC 27703  
**Phone:** 919-383-7100  
**Website:** [www.summitchurch.com/prison](http://www.summitchurch.com/prison)

- PRACTICAL NEEDS
- HEALTHCARE ASSISTANCE
- HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- CHILD-CARE ASSISTANCE
- EDUCATION SERVICES
- EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES
- LEGAL SERVICES
- FOOD PANTRY
- TRANSPORTATION SERVICES



## SERVICE PROVIDERS

# [3]

Contact **reentry service providers** in the area that you are returning to as soon as possible. Reentry service providers in your area build connections between returning citizens and important services.



### DURHAM COUNTY JUSTICE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Durham Justice Services Department (JSD) is a local government entity that works to provide support and treatment to justice-involved citizens in Durham County, both impacted by incarceration and in the community. Services include behavioral health treatment, cognitive behavior intervention, employment training and

placement assistance, housing, wraparound services, and access to educational services.

**Address:** 326 East Main Street, Durham, NC 27701

**Phone:** 919-560-0500

**Website:** [www.dconcc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services](http://www.dconcc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services)

### REENTRY SERVICE PROVIDER

Provides services to individuals who have been released from incarceration to support their transition back into the community.



### DURHAM LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL

The Durham **Local Reentry Council** (LRC) is an organized network of individuals that provide support and services in partnership with the Justice Services Department. LRC connects those impacted by incarceration with services including employment assistance / job readiness training, substance use disorder treatment, transportation assistance, mental health referrals, transitional/short-term housing assistance, and child-care assistance.

**Address:** 326 E. Main St. Durham, NC 27701

**Phone:** 919-560-7589

**Email:** [durhamlrc@dconcc.gov](mailto:durhamlrc@dconcc.gov)

**Website:** [www.dconcc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services/durham-local-reentry-council](http://www.dconcc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services/durham-local-reentry-council)

### LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL

A network of individuals and agencies that help provide supervision and coordinate reentry support.



# YOUR FIRST 48 HOURS

The clock starts ticking the moment you are released. Your chances of making a successful reentry are greatly improved if you can secure identification, housing, employment, and other supports during your first 48 hours of returning.

## 3 HOURS

### N.C. DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- Photo Identification is required for most services you will need after being released.
- After being released, your first stop should be the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).



## 24 HOURS

### PRE-EMPLOYMENT

- Within your first 24 hours of being released, you should be identifying job readiness training, clothing for interviews and work, resume building, and job placement services.

## 5 HOURS

### HOUSING

- Finding affordable housing can be difficult and time consuming.
- If you are unable to stay with friends or family and do not otherwise have a home, there are other temporary options such as rehabilitation housing, reentry housing, and shelters.







# [FIRST 48]



## 48 HOURS EDUCATION

- Job training and continuing education programs are available to you for little to no cost.
- You are also eligible for limited financial aid if you are looking to enroll in longer educational or vocational programs.



## 36 HOURS EMPLOYMENT

- Within your first 36 hours, you should be updating resumes, searching for jobs, and applying for grants.
- Employment service providers, “ban-the-box” employers and federal bonding programs provide assistance in these areas.

## 48 HOURS BENEFITS

- After being incarcerated, benefits such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Social Security Disability, and healthcare are lost and can be time consuming to obtain.



## D.M.V.

Your Transition Document Envelope (TDE) should include official documents proving identification. These documents may include: an identification card; social security card; driver's license; prison identification; birth certificate; and official release documents. Documents enclosed in the TDE are crucial to a successful reentry process.



### PRIOR TO RELEASE

#### YOU CAN OBTAIN NORTH CAROLINA IDENTIFICATION FROM THE DMV

An identification card can be obtained with assistance from a Department of Corrections official or designee and the proper documents that verify your identity and permanent mailing address.

#### A REPLACEMENT DRIVER'S LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD CAN BE MAILED TO A PRISON FACILITY BEFORE YOUR RELEASE

The driver's license/identification card will be placed in a transition envelope. You cannot be in possession of either the driver's license or identification card while incarcerated.

### NCDAC AND DMV'S PHOTO IDENTIFICATION PARTNERSHIP

The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction (NCDAC) has partnered with the state Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to provide state-issued photo identification cards to incarcerated individuals nearing release. NCDAC sends a weekly list of eligible individuals who are interested in obtaining new photo identification to the DMV. If the DMV approves, they provide the photo identification.

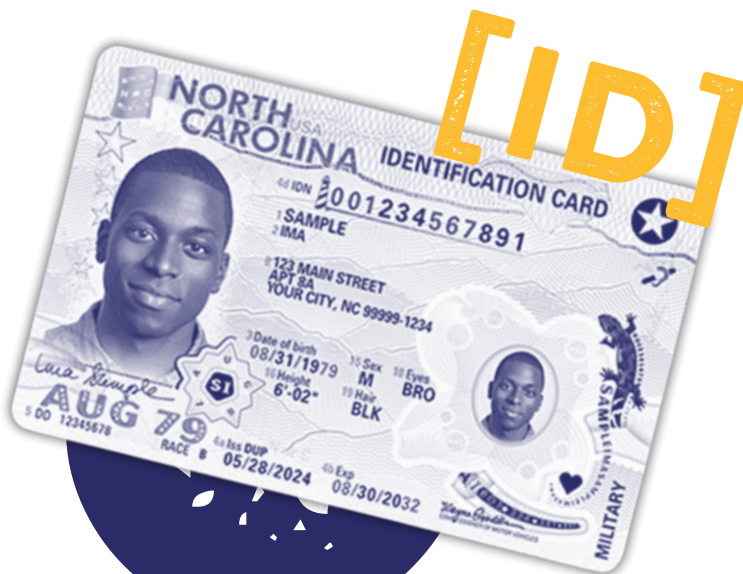
Learn more at [www.dac.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2023/08/14/dac-dmv-partner-provide-ids-offenders-leaving-prison](http://www.dac.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2023/08/14/dac-dmv-partner-provide-ids-offenders-leaving-prison).

#### The eligibility requirements are as follows:

- The individual must be 17 years old or older.
- The individual must be within 120 days of release.
- The individual was incarcerated for less than eight years.
- The individual must have been a legal resident of North Carolina for at least 12 months before incarceration.
- The individual must have a verified residence in North Carolina.
- The individual must have had a DMV record before incarceration.
- The individual must not be an offender in state prison custody at the request of a county jail for medical or behavioral reasons.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA DMV IDENTIFICATION

The North Carolina DMV offers identification cards for customers who require a photo ID but do not require a driver's license. Please note that under North Carolina law, holders of these non-operator IDs are not permitted to operate a motor vehicle without a license.



## DMV LOCATIONS

Before visiting an office, please check to see about hours, appointments, etc., at [www.ncdot.gov/dmv/offices-services/locate-dmv-office/Pages/dmv-offices.aspx](http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/offices-services/locate-dmv-office/Pages/dmv-offices.aspx).

WHEN APPLYING FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST VISIT AN NCDMV DRIVER'S LICENSE OFFICE WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

### One Document Verifying Age or Identity (No photocopies or alternates accepted)

- Birth Certificate
- U.S. Passport or Unexpired Foreign Passport
- Motor Vehicle Driving Record
- Real Identification
- School Documents
- Court Documents

### One Document Proving You Have a Social Security Card

- Social Security Card
- W-2 form with full Social Security Number and Name
- 1099 tax form with full Social Security Number and Name
- Payroll with full Social Security Number and Name
- Medicaid or Medicare card reflecting Social Security Number

### One Document Proving Residency

- Utility or Cable Bill
- Letter from a Homeless Shelter
- North Carolina Vehicle Registration
- Letter from a homeowner where you are staying
- School records
- Any document issued by North Carolina (or any county/city in NC) or the federal government



# FINDING HOUSING

## PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

It is not the policy of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ban people with a criminal record. However, HUD gives the Public Housing Authority broad authority to set limits on their housing applications.

HUD allows for a three-year discretionary ban on all felonies and misdemeanors. This means that when you are first released, public housing agencies and Section 8 properties can choose whether to consider your criminal background as part of your housing application for three years (but not after that period).

## TEMPORARY AND TRANSITIONAL

[Local nonprofits run temporary housing](#) in Durham County. Rules for payment and admittance vary by age, gender, and criminal charge(s).

### STRAIGHT TALK SUPPORT GROUP

Straight Talk is a Reentry House for men. Cost varies and the stay ranges from 90 days to six months. The minimum age accepted at the transition house is 21 years old. Note: Straight Talk does not accept those who have prior convictions for arson or sexual offenses, and only accepts referrals from correction institutions or reentry programs.

**Contact:** Bessie Elmore  
**Address:** 1101 N Mangum Street  
Durham, NC 27701  
**Phone:** 984-219 -1001  
**Website:** [straighttalksupportgroup.org](http://straighttalksupportgroup.org)  
**Email:** [admin@straighttalksupportgroup.org](mailto:admin@straighttalksupportgroup.org)

### JUBILEE HOME

Jubilee Home works with folks in the Durham community to create a place that bridges the gap between incarceration and full independence.

**Address:** 404 E. Umstead St., Durham, NC 27705  
**Phone:** 919-381-4431  
**Website:** [jubilee-home.org](http://jubilee-home.org)  
**Email:** [info@jubilee-home.org](mailto:info@jubilee-home.org)



## FRIENDS AND FAMILY

During your first 48 hours, relying on people you know and trust to provide shelter and assistance is ideal. Affordable housing, shelters, and reentry housing usually comes with long waits and complicated processes.

If you have a loved ones who can provide shelter, no matter how temporary, reach out to them. This will help service providers build a more stable housing plan and find resources to fit you as well as your loved ones.

## SHELTERS

If you are seeking shelter, go to Aging and Adult Services at Durham Department of Social Services (DSS) or the Exchange Building and ask about Entry Point (coordinated entry) intake.

## DURHAM DSS (AGING AND ADULT SERVICES)

**Address:** 414 E. Main Street, Durham, NC, 27701

**Hours:** Monday – Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Instructions:** Aging and Adult Services in DSS is on the 2nd floor in Lobby 27.

## THE EXCHANGE BUILDING

**Address:** 801 Gilbert Street, Durham, NC, 27703

**Hours:** Monday – Friday, 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm; Saturday – Sunday 4:30 pm – 8:00 pm

**Instructions:** Look for sidewalk sign and ring the bell on the sign.



## RECOVERY HOUSING

If you had a history of alcohol and substance misuse before you were incarcerated or within your first 48 hours, helpful programs like the **Oxford House**, **Love and Respect**, **Freedom House** and **TROSA**, can provide a clean environment for sobriety and housing at a low cost. With proper planning, you will be able to contact the Durham Local Reentry Council, a local church, or Durham DSS Entry Point to receive grants until you can pay for housing on your own.

### OXFORD HOUSE \*

Oxford House is usually \$99 per week, but with proper planning and assistance, residents can receive grants until resident can independently pay.

**Contact:** Paula Harrington

**Email:** Paula.harrington@oxfordhouse.org

**Website:** oxfordhousecw.com

*\*check for vacancies online*

### LOVE AND RESPECT

Love and Respect is usually \$100 per week with a \$50 deposit, which can be waived considering your circumstances.

**Phone:** 919-672-0934

**Email:** Director.luvrespect@yahoo.com

**Address:** 1604 Angier Ave., Durham, NC, 27703

**Website:** loveandrespectrecove.wix-site.com/love-and-respect

### FREEDOM HOUSE

Contact Freedom House for availability. Stays are usually about \$85/week, but cost may vary depending on each individual's needs and circumstances. A needs-based assessment is conducted during initial interview and intake. Freedom House takes Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance.

[Application](#) | [Program Rules and Guidelines](#)

### FREEDOM HOUSE (DURHAM WOMEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE)

**Contact:** Nikki Shafer

**Phone:** 919-957-7386

**Address:** 407 Salem Street, Durham, NC, 27703

**Website:** freedomhouserecovery.org/services



## FREEDOM HOUSE (DURHAM MEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE)

**Contact:** Nikki Shafer

**Phone:** 919-425-5472

**Address:** 529 Holloway Street,  
Durham, NC, 27701

**Website:** [freedomhouserecovery.org/  
services](http://freedomhouserecovery.org/services)

## FREEDOM HOUSE (CHAPEL HILL WOMEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE)

**Address** 114 New Stateside Drive,  
Chapel Hill, NC, 27516

**Contact:** Sunne Ross

**Phone:** 919-942-2803 (General  
Number)

**Email:** [tori.c@fhrecovery.org](mailto:tori.c@fhrecovery.org)

**Website:**  
[freedomhouserecovery.  
org/services](http://freedomhouserecovery.org/services)

## FREEDOM HOUSE (CHAPEL HILL MEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE)

**Address** 106 New  
Stateside Drive, Chapel  
Hill, NC, 27516

**Contact:** Sunne Ross

**Phone:** 919-942-2803  
(General Number)

**Email:** [tori.c@fhrecovery.org](mailto:tori.c@fhrecovery.org)

**Website:**  
[freedomhouserecovery.  
org/services](http://freedomhouserecovery.org/services)

## TROSA TRANSITIONAL HOUSE

TROSA is a two-year residential program. The purpose of the program is to give people more than sobriety - it is to give them the tools they need to rebuild their lives and maintain their sobriety when they leave TROSA. Key elements of their program include vocational training, education, peer counseling/ mentoring, leadership training, and aftercare.

**Address:** 1820 James Street, Durham,  
NC, 27707

**Phone:** 984-419-1059

**Website:** [trosainc.org](http://trosainc.org)

TROSA TRANSITIONAL HOUSE





# PRE-EMPLOYMENT

As soon as you are released, you should begin obtaining skills and making personal connections that improve your chances of obtaining employment during reentry.

## CLOTHING

When going into an interview, being dressed for the position can set you apart as a serious candidate. The following resources can help you obtain proper clothing for employment interviews:

### DRESS FOR SUCCESS (WOMEN)

**Address:** 1812 Tillery Place, Raleigh, NC, 27604

**Phone:** 919-286-2128

**Email:** [trianglenc@dressforsuccess.org](mailto:trianglenc@dressforsuccess.org)

**Website:** [dfstrianglenc.org](http://dfstrianglenc.org)

### JUSTICE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Address:** 326 East Main St. Durham, NC, 27701

**Phone:** 919-560-0500

**Email:** [CJRC@dconc.gov](mailto:CJRC@dconc.gov)

**Website:** [dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services](http://dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services)





## JOB TRAINING

When going into an interview, being dressed for the position can set you apart as a serious candidate. The following resources can help you obtain proper clothing for employment interviews:

### DURHAM NC WORKS CAREER CENTER

**Contact:** Yolanda Chisolm, Center Manager

**Email:** Yolanda.Chisolm@NCWorks.gov

**Phone:** 919-560-6880

**Address:** 1105 S. Briggs Ave. Durham, NC, 27703

**Website:** [durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center](http://durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center)

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY (WORK FIRST)

**Contact:** Latoya Chambers, FNS and Work First Program Manager

**Email:** [Ichambers@dconc.gov](mailto:Ichambers@dconc.gov)

**Phone:** 919-560-8000

**Contact:** Tonia Gray, Childcare and Work First Employment Services

**Email:** [tgay@dconc.gov](mailto:tgay@dconc.gov)  
919-560-8472

**Address:** 200 E Main Street  
Durham, NC, 27701

**Website:** [dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/social-services/family-economic-independence/work-first-employment-services-wfes](http://dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/social-services/family-economic-independence/work-first-employment-services-wfes)

### INMATES TO ENTREPRENEURS

**Phone:** 866-753-3726

**Email:** [info@inmatestoentrepreneurs.org](mailto:info@inmatestoentrepreneurs.org)

**Address:** 219 Raleigh St., Holly Springs, NC, 27540

**Website:** [inmatestoentrepreneurs.org](http://inmatestoentrepreneurs.org)

NC WORKS CAREER CENTER





# EMPLOYMENT

Establishing the right contacts and getting connected with employment service providers within your first 48 hours can ensure you don't miss out on any employment opportunities.

## NOTABLE INITIATIVES

### BAN THE BOX

#### STATEWIDE

Effective November 1, 2020, the North Carolina statewide ban-the-box initiative bans state employers from asking about your criminal record on the initial interview process. However, the employer may ask about your criminal history after completing the job interview and make a determination based on your criminal history if your criminal history relates to the job for which you are applying.

#### COUNTIES

The following North Carolina Counties have banned the box:

- Alamance
- Buncombe
- Catawba
- Cleveland
- Cumberland
- Durham
- Forsyth
- Halifax
- Henderson
- Mecklenburg
- McDowell
- New Hanover
- Orange
- Rowan
- Rutherford
- Wake
- Wilkes

#### CITIES

The following North Carolina cities have banned the box:

- Durham
- Asheville
- Carrboro
- Charlotte
- New Bern
- Spring Lake
- Wilmington
- Winston-Salem



### FEDERAL BONDING

Provides insurance policies to protect employers against any losses due to actions of employees with previous contact with the justice system who commit theft, fraud, larceny or embezzlement while employed.

### FORMER OFFENDER INITIATIVE (KIMBERLY GAMMONS)

Provides classes that teach critical skills and tactics on how to navigate job markets and apply for jobs with a criminal record. Offered at NC Works.



## EMPLOYMENT ORGANIZATIONS

### N.C. WORKS

N.C. Works provides computers for resume building, career readiness programs, job postings and job fairs that give participants a chance to meet employers.

**Contact:** Yolanda Chisolm, Center Manager

**Email:** Yolanda.Chisolm@NCWorks.gov

**Phone:** 919-560-6880

**Address:** 1105 S. Briggs Ave. Durham, NC 27703

**Website:** <https://durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center>

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday: 8:30 am-5 pm; Second and Third Wednesday: 8:30 am-7 pm\*; Friday: 8:30 am-1 pm

*\*Must pre-register for evening events*

### DURHAM LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL (LCR)

LCR connects those impacted by incarceration with services including: employment assistance/job readiness training, substance use disorder treatment, transportation assistance, mental health referrals, transitional/short-term housing assistance, and child-care assistance.

**Address:** 326 E. Main St. Durham, NC 27701

**Phone:** 919-560-7589

**Email:** durhamlrc@dconc.gov

**Website:** [www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services/durham-local-reentry-council](http://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services/durham-local-reentry-council)

### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND (CEF)

CEF offers savings opportunities, financial education and support to individuals who are seeking employment and housing.

Currently scheduling intakes for new members on Mondays at 11 am and Thursdays at 6 pm. You should call their office to schedule an appointment for a new member intake meeting.

**Note:** For 2024 CEF is not a referral agency for Wheels 4 Hope

**Website:** [www.communityempowermentfund.org](http://www.communityempowermentfund.org)

### CHAPEL HILL

**Phone:** 919-200-0233

**Address:** 208 N. Columbia St, Suite 100 Chapel Hill, NC 27514

### DURHAM

**Phone:** 919-797-9233

**Address:** 2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Suite 6, Durham, NC 27707



# HEALTH & BENEFITS

## HEALTH (FORMERLY INCARCERATED TRANSITION) F.I.T. PROGRAM

Upon release from the state prison system, you may frequently be without work, without health insurance, and without a medical home. The Formerly Incarcerated Transition (FIT) Program aims to connect all formerly incarcerated individuals who have chronic disease(s) with a primary care provider and a comprehensive reentry plan.

**Contact:** Quanesha Archer, HS Coordinator III (FIT Program Community Health Worker)

**Office:** 919-560-7098

**Cell:** 919-971-1818

**Email:** [qmarcher@dconc.gov](mailto:qmarcher@dconc.gov)

**Website:** [dcopublichealth.org/services/nutrition/fit-program](http://dcopublichealth.org/services/nutrition/fit-program)



### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Provides monthly support for purchasing nutritious food. If you qualify, you will receive a debit card to use for groceries.

### SNAP AND TANF

U.S.C.A 862(a) bars anyone convicted of a controlled substance felony from participation in the **SNAP** and **TANF** programs but provides that states may opt out of the bar or limit the period of probation.

Pursuant to North Carolina §108A-25.2, individuals convicted of Class H or I controlled substance

felony offenses may participate in the Work First Program and the food and nutrition services program if:

1. You do not receive an additional controlled substance felony within 6 months of being released from custody; and
2. You successfully completed or are continuously participating in a required substance abuse treatment program determined by the area mental health authority.

However, Durham DSS will require individuals who have been convicted of Class H or I controlled substance felony offenses to participate in substance abuse treatment in order to receive Work First Program or electronic food and nutrition benefits.

### TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Considered a welfare to work program, TANF is designed to help families in need by providing financial assistance.

## MEDICAID & DISABILITY

### MEDICAID

Eligible individuals may continue to be enrolled in the program before, during, and after the time in which they are held involuntarily in the secure custody of a public institution.

### SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

Disability benefits or funds provided from public or private sources to a person who is ill or who has a disability that prevents them from working full time.

### SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

Your disability benefits will automatically be suspended if you spend more than 30 days in jail or prison. You are not eligible for disability if you became disabled or condition worsened while in jail or prison.

## GETTING YOUR BENEFITS BACK

### SSI/SSDI OUTREACH, ACCESS, AND RECOVERY (S.O.A.R)

S.O.A.R is a national program that assists eligible adults who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to apply for Social Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.

**Contact:** Adriana Diaz

**Email:** [soar@ncceh.org](mailto:soar@ncceh.org)

**Phone:** 919-755-4393

**Website:** [ncceh.org/soar](http://ncceh.org/soar)





# EDUCATION

## GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Typically, the decision to accept an individual with a criminal record into trade schools, community colleges or four-year universities is made by the dean of admissions.

However, you should check to see whether the particular program has licensing requirements, and if your specific charge prevents you from obtaining a license.

For example, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction may

deny your North Carolina educators' license application based on conviction of a sex crime.

The **Collateral Consequences Assessment Tool (C-CAT)** will help you determine which collateral consequences are related to charges on your record and how these charges may affect your search for education, benefits, and employment under North Carolina law.

### COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

Legal, economic, social, and other harms caused by contact with the criminal legal system, such as: loss of housing or housing assistance; loss of right to vote; loss of employment; legal costs and court fees; family separation.

**Assessment Tool:** [ccat.sog.unc.edu/](http://ccat.sog.unc.edu/)

**How to Use:** [ccat.sog.unc.edu/how-to-use-ccat](http://ccat.sog.unc.edu/how-to-use-ccat)

## PAYING FOR SCHOOL

### FINANCIAL AID

Generally, financial aid restrictions are removed after you are released from incarceration. However, your financial aid eligibility may remain suspended in certain circumstances.

If you were convicted for possession or sale of illegal drugs while you were a student receiving federal student aid, your financial eligibility may remain suspended after release.

You are ineligible to receive a federal Pell Grant if you were convicted of a forcible or non-forcible sexual offense and you are subject to an "involuntary civil commitment" after being released from incarceration for that offense.

An involuntary commitment or civil commitment is a legal process through which an individual who is deemed by a qualified agent to have symptoms of severe mental health challenges is ordered by a court into treatment in a psychiatric hospital or in the community.

### COMMUNITY FUNDING

You may be able to seek funding from various non-profit and government agencies.

Kristi Riley, the Case Manager for the Durham Local Reentry Council, can help you obtain funding for continuing education classes at Durham Technical Community College.

**Contact:** Kristi Riley, Case Manager

**Phone:** 919-560-0016

**Email:** [durhamlrc@dconnc.gov](mailto:durhamlrc@dconnc.gov)





# RECOMMENDATIONS



There are many hurdles to a successful reentry, including barriers that are imposed by state and local governments. The following is a list of demands that will help support Durham residents returning from incarceration.

## IDENTIFICATION

### ISSUE

After being released, proper state identification is needed to access many of the resources that support a successful reentry, including stable housing, public benefits, employment, and educational enrollment. However, many individuals struggle to gather the necessary documentation and funds to secure state identification after being released.

### RECOMMENDATION

The North Carolina Department of Corrections can mitigate this issue by working with NC DMV to utilize Mobile DMV services to provide driver's licenses and state identification cards to individuals who are within six months of release.

## HOUSING

### ISSUE

In Durham, there is one traditional house that is not linked to drug rehabilitation. Individuals are often released without a housing plan due to limited community options and lack of government housing assistance. As a result, many return to a housing situation that is worse than before they were incarcerated.

## RECOMMENDATION

Durham County can address this issue by increasing "Housing First" funding, which is an unhoused assistance approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness. Other states have implemented similar measures.

## EXAMPLES

### PORTLAND, OR

SE Works and the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP) offers up to 18 months of rental assistance to formerly incarcerated individuals. Participants can use their rental assistance for transitional or permanent housing.

### KING COUNTY, WA

The King County Housing Authority (KCHA) provides **Section 8 housing vouchers** for 46-unit transitional housing developments. Participants stay between 18 and 24 months before transitioning to conventional public housing. During this transition, participants do not undergo any additional screening. Additionally, eligible parents who are reuniting with children receive parenting and life skills classes as well as job search assistance from the YMCA.

### "SECTION 8" HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Allows private landlords to rent apartments and homes at fair market rates to qualified low-income tenants through government subsidies.



## **BAN THE BOX POLICIES**

Encourages employers not to (1) ask about arrest or conviction history, (2) to remove the question about criminal history from initial job application forms, and (3) to ask the question about criminal history only in instances where it relates to the job in question.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **ISSUE**

Although **Ban the Box policies** help promote employment opportunities for people with a criminal record, it only applies to the interview process and only extends to public sector jobs, not private employment.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Counties should increase incentives to hire individuals with a criminal record, like providing businesses with a six-month period of subsidized pay for a percentage of an employee's salary. Additionally, the County should encourage small business owners to utilize programs like the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and Federal Bonding.

## **BENEFITS**

### **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)**

### **ISSUE**

North Carolina law does not allow anyone convicted of an H or I controlled substance felony (possession with intent to distribute) to participate in SNAP until six months after release. [N.C.G.S. 108A-25.2].

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The North Carolina Legislature should remove this arbitrary ban on SNAP and all those in need to access the resources immediately upon release.





# CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

## PRE-RELEASE

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES SOCIAL MINISTRIES

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**Contact:** Barbara Mazza, Program Director  
**Email:** Barbara.mazza@raldioc.org  
**Phone:** 919-286-1964  
**Address:** 2020 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite 30  
Durham, NC 27707  
**Weekly Food Pantry:** Wednesday  
10:00am-1:00PM and 5:00PM-7:00PM;  
Thursday 10:00AM-1:00PM

### GREY STONE BAPTIST CHURCH, SECOND MILE MINISTRIES

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**Website:** [rentassistance.org/program/grey\\_stone\\_church\\_second\\_mile\\_ministry\\_durham\\_nc.html](http://rentassistance.org/program/grey_stone_church_second_mile_ministry_durham_nc.html)  
**Phone:** 919-286-3596  
**Address:** 2601 Hillsborough Road,  
Durham, NC 27705  
**Services Available:** Rent Assistance;  
Utility Assistance (Electricity, Water),  
Food Pantry

## FINDING HOUSING

### TEMPORARY AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

#### STRAIGHT TALK

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**Contact:** Bessie Elmore  
**Email:** admin@straighttalksupportgroup.org  
**Phone:** 984-219-1001  
**Website:** [www.straighttalksupportgroup.org](http://www.straighttalksupportgroup.org)  
**Address:** 1101 N Mangum Street,  
Durham, NC, 27701

#### JUBILEE HOME

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**Email:** [info@jubilee-home.org](mailto:info@jubilee-home.org)  
**Phone:** 919-381-4431  
**Website:** [www.jubilee-home.org](http://www.jubilee-home.org)  
**Address:** 404 E. Umstead St., Durham,  
NC, 27705

## SHELTERS

### DURHAM DSS (AGING AND ADULT SERVICES)

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**Phone:** 919-560-0300  
**Address:** 414 E. Main Street, Durham,  
NC, 27701  
**Hours:** Monday-Friday 8:00AM-3:00PM  
**Instructions:** Aging and Adult Services in  
DSS is on the 2nd floor in Lobby 27

### THE EXCHANGE BUILDING

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**Entry Point Durham**  
**Phone:** (919) 817-5620  
**Address:** 801 Gilbert Street, Durham,  
NC, 27703  
**Hours:** Monday-Friday 4:30PM to  
9:00PM; Weekend Hours: 4:30PM to  
8:00PM  
**Instructions:** Look for sidewalk sign and  
ring the bell on the sign.

## RECOVERY HOUSING

### OXFORD HOUSE\*

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**Website:** oxfordhousecw.com

**Vacancies List:** oxfordvacancies.com

\*See vacancies list for contact information\*

### FREEDOM HOUSE (DURHAM WOMEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE)

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**Contact:** Nikki Shafer

**Website:** freedomhouserecovery.org/services

**Phone:** 919-957-7386

**Address:** 407 Salem Street, Durham, NC 27703



### LOVE AND RESPECT

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**Phone:** 919-672-0934

**Address:** 1604 Angier Ave. Durham, NC 27703

### FREEDOM HOUSE (DURHAM MEN'S HALFWAY HOUSE)

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**Contact:** Nikki Shafer

**Website:** freedomhouserecovery.org/services

**Phone:** 919-425-5472

**Address:** 529 Holloway Street, Durham, NC 27701

### TROSA

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**Website:** trosainc.org

**Phone:** 984-419-1059

**Address:** 1820 James Street, Durham, NC 27707

## PRE-EMPLOYMENT

### DRESS FOR SUCCESS (WOMEN)

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**Website:** dfstrianglenc.org

**Phone:** 919-286-2128

**Address:** 1812 Tillery Place, Raleigh, NC, 27604

### JUSTICE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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**Email:** CJRC@dconc.gov

**Website:** dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services

**Phone:** 919-560-0500

**Address:** 326 East Main St., Durham, NC

### FROM LOCKED UP TO LIVING LIFE, LLC

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**Contact:** Chukwuemeka Manning

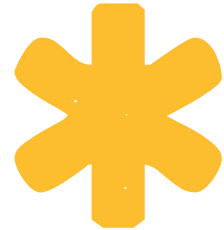
**Email:** lockeduptolivinglife@gmail.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/lockeduptolivinglife





## JOB TRAINING



### DURHAM NC WORKS CAREER CENTER

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**Contact:** Yolanda Chisolm, Center Manager  
**Website:** [durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center](http://durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center)  
**Phone:** 919-560-6880  
**Address:** 1105 S. Briggs Ave. Durham, NC 27703

### INMATES TO ENTREPRENEURS

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**Email:** [info@inmatestoentrepreneurs.org](mailto:info@inmatestoentrepreneurs.org)  
**Website:** [inmatestoentrepreneurs.org](http://inmatestoentrepreneurs.org)  
**Phone:** 866-753-3726  
**Address:** 219 Raleigh St., Holly Springs, NC, 27540

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY (WORK FIRST)

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**Contact:** Latoya Chambers, FNS and Work First Program Manager  
**Email:** [Ichambers@dconc.gov](mailto:Ichambers@dconc.gov)  
**Phone:** 919-560-8000  
**Contact:** Tonia Gray, Childcare and Work First Employment Services  
**Email:** [tgay@dconc.gov](mailto:tgay@dconc.gov)  
**Phone:** 919-560-8472  
**Website:** [durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center](http://durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center)  
**Address:** 200 E Main Street Durham, NC, 27701

## EMPLOYMENT

### FORMER OFFENDER INITIATIVE (OFFERED AT NC WORKS)

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**Contact:** Kimberly Gammons  
**Website:** [durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center](http://durhamnc.gov/572/NCWorks-Career-Center)  
**Phone:** 919-560-6880  
**Address:** 1105 S Briggs Avenue Durham, NC, 27703

### COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND

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**Website:** [communityempowermentfund.org](http://communityempowermentfund.org)  
**Phone:** 919-797-9233  
**Address:** 2634 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd, Suite 6 Durham, NC, 27707

### LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL

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**Email:** [DurhamLrc@dconc.gov](mailto:DurhamLrc@dconc.gov)  
**Website:** [dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services/durham-local-reentry-council/about-us](http://dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-f-z/justice-services/durham-local-reentry-council/about-us)  
**Phone:** 919-560-7589  
**Address:** 326 E. Main St. Durham, NC, 27701

## HEALTH AND BENEFITS

### HEALTH (FORMERLY INCARCERATED TRANSITION) F. I. T PROGRAM

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**Contact:** Quanesha Archer, HS  
Coordinator III (FIT Program  
Community Health Worker)

**Email:** [qmarcher@dconc.gov](mailto:qmarcher@dconc.gov)

**Website:** [dcopublichealth.org/  
services/nutrition/fit-program](http://dcopublichealth.org/services/nutrition/fit-program)

**Office:** 919-560-7098

**Cell:** 919-971-1818

### SSI/SSDI OUTREACH, ACCESS, AND RECOVERY (S.O.A.R)

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**Contact:** Adriana Diaz

**Email:** [soar@ncceh.org](mailto:soar@ncceh.org)

**Website:** [ncceh.org/soar](http://ncceh.org/soar)

**Phone:** 919-755-4393





# DEFINITIONS

## BAN THE BOX POLICIES

Encourages employers not to (1) ask about arrest or conviction history, (2) to remove the question about criminal history from initial job application forms, and (3) to ask the question about criminal history only in instances where it relates to the job in question.

## COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

Legal, economic, social, and other harms caused by contact with the criminal legal system, such as: loss of housing or housing assistance; loss of right to vote; loss of employment; legal costs and court fees; family separation.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER

Provides supervision, rehabilitation, and resources for justice-involved individuals.

## LOCAL REENTRY COUNCIL

A network of individuals and agencies that help provide supervision and coordinate reentry support.

## RECIDIVISM

When individuals who previously had contact with the criminal legal system are arrested, convicted, or incarcerated following their release from custody or supervision.

## REENTRY SERVICE PROVIDER

Provides services to individuals who have been released from incarceration to support their transition back into the community.

## “SECTION 8” HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Allows private landlords to rent apartments and homes at fair market rates to qualified low-income tenants through government subsidies.

## SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

Disability benefits or funds provided from public or private sources to a person who is ill or who has a disability that prevents them from working full time.

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

Provides monthly support for purchasing nutritious food. If you qualify, you will receive a debit card to use for groceries.

## TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)

Considered a welfare to work program, TANF is designed to help families in need by providing financial assistance.



1. **Supportive Relationships:** Strong, positive relationships with family, friends, and community are crucial for mental health. These relationships provide emotional support, reduce stress, and help individuals cope with challenges.

2. **Stress Management:** Effective stress management techniques, such as mindfulness, deep breathing, and regular exercise, can significantly improve mental health. Stress is a common factor in mental health issues, and managing it is essential for overall well-being.

3. **Healthy Lifestyle:** Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including a balanced diet, regular physical activity, and adequate sleep, is vital for mental health. Physical health and mental health are closely linked, and a healthy body supports a healthy mind.

4. **Professional Help:** Seeking professional help, such as therapy or medication, is important when mental health issues become severe or persistent. Mental health professionals can provide personalized treatment plans and support.

5. **Self-Care:** Engaging in self-care activities, such as hobbies, relaxation, and spending time in nature, can help reduce stress and improve mental health. Self-care is essential for maintaining emotional balance and overall well-being.



**SOUTHERN  
COALITION**  
for SOCIAL JUSTICE

## **ABOUT SCSJ**

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice** partners with communities of color and economically disadvantaged communities in the South to defend and advance their political, social, and economic rights through the combination of legal advocacy, research, and communications.

Design by Liz Chen