

Summer 2022



First Aid Reentry Kit Strategy Guide & Budget Requirements





First Aid Reentry Kit Program Strategy Guide & Budget Requirements

Who is OurJourney?

OurJourney is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created in February of 2022 by a group of former North Carolina prisoners who met behind bars, reconnected in the free world and determined together to do more than just celebrate their individual freedom.

Too many of our brothers and sisters—over one out of every three in North Carolina—return to prison. OurJourney seeks to end this cycle of sorrow by helping the formerly incarcerated bridge the gap from prison to freedom, from their past life to their Best Life.

OurJourney will make no distinction between those we help: all who have ever experienced incarceration in North Carolina, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, crime, creed, sexual orientation or political affiliation, are individuals we believe oftentimes need just a little assistance to overcome the many obstacles they will face upon their reentry.

Reducing recidivism makes our communities stronger and safer, while saving millions in tax dollars, which means that helping our returning citizens benefits us all.

What is the OurJourney First Aid Reentry Kit Program?

The OurJourney First Aid Reentry Kit is a tool OurJourney has developed to help individuals in North Carolina transition from prison to freedom, with the ultimate goal to reduce recidivism.

Each kit contains up to five items:

- A 48-page booklet titled "What to Expect: Your First Days Free," full of advice, strategy tips and encouragement from men who have already successfully returned to society
- A Resource Guide specific to each person's home county, full of contact information for organizations, ministries, agencies and businesses that provide services for those who are returning from prison (See Addendum A for a more detailed look at the Resource Guide.)
- A NC DMV Driver Handbook for those who will need to renew their driver's license or get one for the first time
- An OurJourney T-Shirt in the appropriate size
- A gift card for a local restaurant enough for at least two meals (restaurant may vary)

In addition to these items, OurJourney will include brochures for statewide and national organizations that provide assistance to returning citizens regardless of location.

OurJourney desires to expand the First Aid Reentry Kit program to every prison in the state of North Carolina, with the goal to provide every man and woman returning to freedom in this state with a reentry kit. We officially launched the program at Nash Correctional Institution (NCI)

in July of 2022 and have identified the following strategy for expanding the program, beginning with other prisons in the same region as NCI. (All estimates are based on reentry information provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety for the period of June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.)

Expansion Strategy for First Aid Reentry Kit Program

Prisons Already Enrolled

Prison	Estimated Number of Reentries per Month/Year	Estimated Kit Costs per Year
Nash Correctional Institution 2869 US-64 Nashville, NC 27856 (252) 459-4455 Nash County Triangle Region Medium Custody (Men) Mr. Drew Stanley, Warden	12/124	\$6,200.00

Prisons Currently being Assessed for Enrollment

Prison	Estimated Number of Reentries per Month/Year	Estimated Kit Costs per Year
Franklin Correctional Center 5918 NC-39 Bunn, NC 27508 (919) 496-6119 Franklin County Triangle Region Medium Custody (Men) Mr. Jamel James, Warden	13/153	\$7,650.00

Prisons on Strategy List for Program Enrollment in 2022 or Early 2023

Prison	Estimated Number of Reentries per Month/Year	Estimated Kit Costs per Year
Johnston Correctional Institution 2465 US-70 Smithfield, NC 27577 (919) 934-8386 Johnston County Triangle Region Minimum Custody (Men) Mr. Timothy Jones, Warden	46/550	\$27,500.00

One-Year Budget for First Aid Reentry Kit Program (Nash, Franklin and Johnston counties)

Estimated total number of returning citizens: 827

First Aid Reentry Kits (at \$50.00 per kit) <i>Includes printing kit boxes, printing booklets, printing Resource Guides, printing t-shirts, purchasing gift cards</i>	\$41,350.00
Fulfillment (shipping/packaging)	\$4,975.00
Personnel <i>Includes salary for one full-time Executive Director and one part-time assistant</i>	\$60,000.00
Other (office equipment, supplies, data management system, etc.)	\$4,000.00
Total	\$110,325.00

What is OurJourney’s plan for determining the success of the First Aid Reentry Kit Program?

OurJourney includes inside each First Aid Reentry Kit a stamped postcard (see below) and asks returning citizens to fill it out and return it to us so that we can develop an ongoing relationship with them. Once we receive this postcard we will do the following:

- Direct the returning citizen immediately to an online survey asking a variety of questions to gauge the effectiveness of the reentry kit during the first two to three weeks after reentry
- Direct the returning citizen to an online survey on the 90th day of his reentry asking a variety of questions to gauge the long-term effectiveness of the reentry kit
- Call the returning citizen three times over the course of his first 90 days of reentry to determine if OurJourney can be of any further assistance

In addition to these measures, OurJourney has printed on the back page of its reentry booklet “What to Expect: Your First Days Free” a list of fifteen first names and phone numbers. These names and numbers are those of former prisoners who are part of the OurJourney network who have agreed to take calls from anyone who receives a reentry kit, for the purpose of offering advice and encouragement.

Each of these fifteen men have been carefully chosen by OurJourney because of their own successful reentry. They have all agreed to provide OurJourney with feedback from any calls they receive (without divulging non-criminal matters shared with them in confidence).

Please check all that apply.

I would like someone at OurJourney to call me.

I agree to provide feedback to OurJourney about the First Aid Reentry Kit I received.

I agree to allow OurJourney to use my story in promotional material on its website, social media sites and in print.

Would you consider joining us on OurJourney? You can do so by filling out the information to the right and mailing this card back to us, no postage required!

Name _____

Phone # _____

Addendum A

What makes the Resource Guide so unique?

The following is from an article on the OurJourney website that explains the uniqueness of the Resource Guide

There are five useful items in each First Aid Reentry Kit, OurJourney's newest tool to help returning citizens transition from prison to freedom. One item in this kit, however, may prove more useful than the others.

Here's how it works: as a prisoner in North Carolina nears his release date, his case manager will go to the OurJourney website and enter his information, such as release date and county of destination after release, on a password-protected webpage. OurJourney then prepares a First Aid Reentry Kit tailored just for him and delivers it to the prison, which gives him his kit before he is released.

One item in each kit is a Resource Guide for the returning citizen's county.

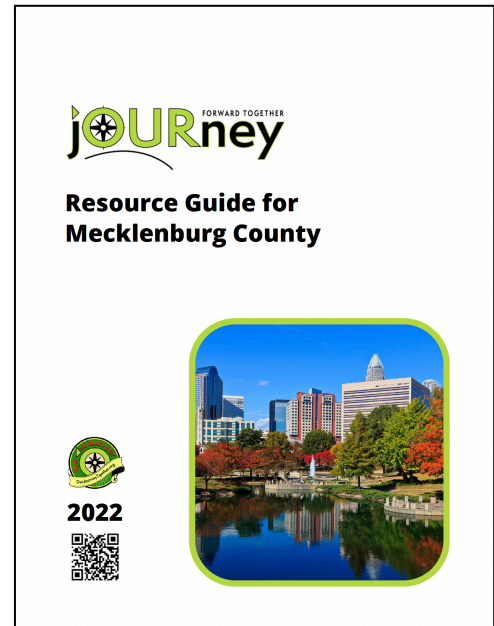
Each Resource Guide is filled with listings for county-specific organizations, ministries, agencies and businesses that provide assistance to returning citizens in several categories, including transportation, food, clothing, job training/placement, and medical/dental care.

Other nonprofit organizations have compiled similar lists for select counties in North Carolina, though certainly not for all. In addition, the NCDPS website has what it calls "County Reentry Resource Information" with links for all 100 counties in the state. So what makes OurJourney's Resource Guides different?

"There are two things that make our Resource Guides unique," explains OurJourney Executive Director Brian Scott, who was once a prisoner returning to freedom himself. "First, we know from personal experience that you have to strike a balance between too little information in too few categories, and too much information, which can be overwhelming. What we do when developing a Resource Guide is closely examine what's going on in each county, what organizations are doing the best work for the most people in the essential categories. Those are the ones who make our list. Our goal is to give our returning citizens at least three and no more than five organizations in each category that they can turn to for assistance, the best of the best."

But how can OurJourney possibly make these judgements?

"That's the second thing that makes our Resource Guides unique," says Scott. "We have a network all across this state, in dozens of counties, of men who've done time and gotten out. So, for example, if we need to know who's doing the best work in Buncombe County, the first thing we do is call Philip Cooper, a one-man reentry expert for that county who was once incarcerated."



Regardless of how OurJourney gets the initial information, Scott continues, "We reach out to every single organization, ministry, agency and business that we list in our Resource Guide to find out what they offer. Oftentimes we actually visit the location and ask questions. We don't just get feedback from our network or conduct online searches. And when we contact each potential resource, we don't just verify things like address, phone numbers or hours of operation, but what exactly they can do for a man returning from prison."

Every entry in every Resource Guide, according to Scott, is vetted thoroughly and then re-vetted every 6 months to ensure that all of the information is still accurate. "There is nothing more discouraging for a man getting out of prison," Scott says, "than to think he has information about a place that can help him, only to find out it doesn't exist anymore or doesn't offer assistance where he lives. I know from personal experience how devastating this can be."

Preparing Resource Guides for all 100 counties in North Carolina using this demanding standard takes a lot of time and a team of researchers. Scott says OurJourney is working hard to compile a Resource Guide for every county and encourages anyone with reentry knowledge in a specific North Carolina county to contact him at brian.scott@ourjourney2gether.com.

"And if you're part of an organization, ministry, agency or business in this state that is assisting the formerly incarcerated in specific ways, we definitely want to hear from you," he says. "Think about it: those who receive our kits walk out of the prison with this Resource Guide in their hands, meaning they will literally carry your information, if it makes it into our Resource Guide, home with them."

OurJourney Information

OurJourney
PO Box 2562
Rocky Mount, NC 27802
(252) 220-1956
www.ourjourney2gether.com
Tax ID: 88-0782634

Brian Scott, Executive Director
336-209-3346
brian.scott@ourjourney2gether.com

Heidi Coleman, Board President
828-238-1987
heidisc@email.unc.edu

Louise Winstead, Board Vice President
252-289-6512
lmweasle@yahoo.com

Josh Gibson, Board Treasurer
980-699-8845
jw6103831@gmail.com