



# Reentry Resource Guide for Polk County



**2025**




now with partner info!

## PLEASE READ THIS FIRST!

Nothing is more frustrating these days than trying to get an actual human being to answer the phone when you call organizations for assistance. This can especially be true for government agencies. If this happens to you when contacting any of the service providers listed in this Reentry Resource Guide, remember the following:

- Try to find all the information you need on the service provider's website, which OurJourney gives for every service provider that has one. That way you won't even need to call. If the website gives an email address, you might try emailing the service provider with your non-emergency questions.
- Sometimes by pressing the zero button on your phone you can skip past the recorded message and be sent straight to a human operator.
- Know ahead of time exactly what you want to ask; have any materials you need on hand before you call (such as ID, application, etc.).
- Be patient. If you simply can't wait on hold any longer, choose the option that lets you leave a voicemail (if available).
- If you leave a voicemail, remember to state your name and phone number clearly, along with the reason for your call.
- Make sure you're available for call-back during normal business hours. If you can't be, when you leave your voicemail provide a time range for call-back.

Also remember, many people in your community need help too. So you may be placed on a waiting list for some services. OurJourney always recommends that you begin your search for assistance by contacting the One-Stop Resource Centers listed at the front of this guide. Why? Because these service providers usually have the resources and connections in the community to provide more immediate and specific help.

Agencies, organizations, ministries or businesses with a  beside their listing are close partners of OurJourney. We have verified not just their basic information but that they are dedicated to helping you rebuild your life. Make sure you mention that OurJourney sent you!

Finally, remember that your success ultimately depends on **YOU!** OurJourney encourages you not to give up if you can't find help when and how you need it. We know firsthand how frustrating it can be when things don't go the way you hope, but we also know that **the worst day in freedom is better than the best day in prison**, and that patience and perseverance are just as important to your success as the assistance you need.

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Picture on the front cover courtesy of [www.moffittproperties.com](http://www.moffittproperties.com)



## Resource Guide - Polk County

The service providers listed below are for Polk County and surrounding areas. Agencies, organizations or businesses may be listed multiple times if they offer services in multiple categories. Agencies, organizations or businesses listed under the category “One-Stop Resource Centers” offer assistance in all or nearly all other categories. OurJourney does not endorse any of the agencies, organizations or businesses listed below, unless otherwise noted by a green check mark beside the listing.

OurJourney has verified the accuracy of the information in this Resource Guide as of the date printed on the bottom of each page. There may be other service providers in Polk County not listed. Please call (888) 50-REENTRY or email [contact@ourjourney2gether.com](mailto:contact@ourjourney2gether.com) to report any discrepancies or to suggest other service providers in Polk County.

**NOTE: Because Polk County is limited in reentry support resources, some of the resource providers listed in this guide are from neighboring counties. Your parole officer will most likely allow you to travel outside of Polk County for reentry assistance. However, you should always contact your parole officer before leaving Polk County for any reason, even to visit the reentry resource providers listed in this guide. Failure to obtain permission from your parole officer to travel outside of Polk County may result in a violation of the conditions of your post-release.**

### One-Stop Resource Centers

#### Salvation Army of Henderson County

239 3rd Ave. East  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

828-693-4181

<https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/henderson-polk-transylvania/home>

Monday - Saturday:  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Provides emergency financial assistance, daily walk-in Food Pantry, temporary shelter, rent and utility assistance, clothing vouchers and more. Serving Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain counties.  
Call for information. **Always ask your Parole Officer before leaving Polk County.**

Free

## One-Stop Resource Centers

### Out Reach

134 White Drive  
Columbus, NC 28722

828-894-2988

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

Monday & Thursday:

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Tuesday & Wednesday:

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

The vision of Outreach is to be the heart of a unified, community-wide effort through which no individual or family in Polk County goes hungry, cold or without shelter. Our mission is to provide compassionate assistance to Polk County residents who do not have the resources to provide for their basic life needs. Outreach has a food pantry as well as a Life Works program. Life Works is an intensive program designed for adults who want to make positive changes and improve their lives. Specifically, Life Works is designed to help participants obtain and retain better paying jobs, get the education &/or vocational training they need to achieve career aspirations, pay rent or buy safe and affordable housing build self esteem and a strong work ethic. They also get offer financial aid in some cases for those that qualify.

Assistance is free; some services provided by partner organizations may charge fees



### United Way of Henderson County

722 5th Avenue West  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

828) 692-1636

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

Monday through Friday:

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Provides support to dozens of member agency programs in Polk County. In addition to calling the number provided for the Hendersonville office, you can get assistance by calling the United Way hotline by dialing 211. **Always ask Parole Officer before leaving Polk County.**

Assistance is free; some services provided by partner organizations may charge fees

## One-Stop Resource Centers



### Recidivism Reduction Call Center

<https://rreps.net/recidivism-reduction-hotline>

888-852-0004

The Recidivism Reduction Call Center allows people recently released from prison in North Carolina to connect with a RREPS operator to request information about, and set up warm referrals to, employment, housing, healthcare, and public benefits services.

Assistance is free; some services provided by partner organizations may charge fees



### Go Further Connect

<https://gofurtherconnect.com/>

Introducing a new way to get connected

Do you need a **resource**?  
Do you need a **job**?  
Do you need **inspiration**?  
Do you need to **connect**?



Visit [www.GoFurtherConnect.com](http://www.GoFurtherConnect.com)  
to start connecting now

Go Further Connect is an online resource for connecting returning citizens with programming, services, and community support that meet the individual's needs. You can search for help by zip code and also access some of the other great resources they have available for free, such as a tool for finding a job.

Free

### North Carolina ePASS

<https://epass.nc.gov/>

North Carolina ePASS is a new online way to apply for Benefits and services as a resident of the state. It is made available by the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

You can apply for Food & Nutrition Services, apply for Energy Assistance, register to vote (if eligible) and apply for other state services.

You will need to set up an account first and you must have an active email account. You will also need a photo ID and your birth certificate to set up an account.

Setting up an account is free. To qualify for benefits, you must meet certain guidelines.

## One-Stop Resource Centers



### Fenced In: Fighting for Freedom Advocacy

336-840-7570

<https://aprilbarberscales.com/#our-services>

Monday - Friday:  
9:00 am to 5:00 pm

April spent over 33 years in prison and now helps others returning after long prison sentences of 20 years or more. If that's you, April will prepare a tailored plan according to your vision of release and will provide a prepaid cell phone and gift card as funding permits. She is also a certified peer support specialist who offers support for those who struggle with mental health, psychological trauma, or substance use. April is an OurJourney board member.

Free if you served 20 years or more.

## Food Resources

### Saluda Pantry

150 E. Main Street,  
Saluda NC 28773

<https://saludapantry.com/>

Tuesday & Thursday:  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The Saluda Pantry is proud to serve our friends and neighbors. Our shelves are filled with both food staples and a rotating selection of various food options. The Pantry partners with MANNA food bank and local farmers and businesses to fill the shelves, refrigerators and freezers each week. We operate on the "shoppers choice" model which allows patrons to choose the food they enjoy and will use for themselves and their families. Because of Hurricane Helene's effect on Saluda and Western North Carolina, the Saluda Pantry has temporarily moved from 54 Carolina Street to 150 E. Main Street. The wonderful people of Green River Adventures have offered their space (across the street from the Post Office) to us.

Free

## Food Resources

### Share Thy Bread

2820 Lynn Rd.  
Tryon NC 28782

828-440-1147

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

Monday - Wednesday

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday

10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Friday

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Share Thy Bread is a 501(c)(3) food pantry in Tryon, NC, dedicated to providing free food and essential services to low income and disadvantaged families since May 2014.

Types of Assistance

We offer food support through our TEFAP, HOP, and MANNA services, ensuring that individuals and families facing hunger have access to nutritious meals when they need it most. For more information on these services please the Share Thy Bread website or call for information

Free to those that qualify.

## Medical / Dental Resources

### Polk County Health Department

2881 NC-108,  
Columbus, NC 28722

828-894-8271

[https://www.polknc.gov/health\\_department](https://www.polknc.gov/health_department)

Monday through Friday: 8:0 AM to 5:00 PM

Polk County Health Department provides family planning, health education, maternity care coordination, nurse screening, medication management, breast / cervical cancer screening, immunizations, WIC food program, laboratory services, communicable disease case management and drug therapy.

Accepts most major insurance is accepted. If uninsured then fees are based on sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away due to inability to pay.



### Parks Insurance

153 S. Oakland Ave.  
Rock Hill SC 29730

866-932-7200

<https://parksinsured.com/>

Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Parks Insurance is licensed in all 50 states to offer healthcare insurance to individuals returning from prison. Through a special program called G.I.F.T. (Giving Insurance Freely for Transition), you are eligible to receive healthcare insurance with ZERO monthly payments and little, if any, deductibles. This plan covers doctor visits, medication, behavioral health, surgery, hospital stays and more. Everyone qualifies, even those with preexisting conditions.

Free

**OurJourney can help you enroll in Parks Insurance's G.I.F.T. program! Call us (888) 50-REENTRY to learn more or call Parks Insurance and speak to a representative.**

## Medical / Dental Resources



### NC MedAssist

866-331-1348

[medassist.org](http://medassist.org)

NC MedAssist is a statewide program for those who do not have the means to buy life-saving medications to treat chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and asthma. To qualify you must live in NC, not have any insurance (not even Medicaid) and have income that is at or below 300% of the national poverty average. (For example, if you live with one other person, the yearly income for both of you can't be more than \$54,930, or \$4,577 per month.) Visit their website to enroll or call for more information. They also have a Mobile Free Pharmacy that travels the state handing out free Over The Counter medications to anyone, no ID required.

Free for those who qualify and aren't insured

**OurJourney can help you enroll in NC MedAssist's free pharmacy program! Call us (888) 50-REENTRY to learn more.**

### Blue Ridge Health - Polk

161 Walker Street  
Columbus, NC 28722

828-894-2222

<https://www.brchs.com/locations/blue-ridge-health-collins-dental-center/>

Monday - Friday:  
8:00 A.m. - 5:00 P.m.

Bule Ridge Health provides services in Family Medicine, Nutrition Services, Behavioral Health / Counseling, Screening & Vaccinations, Women's Health.

FQHCs are not free clinics, but they do provide services to all people, regardless of their ability to pay. Sliding-fee scales are available for all service types, including medical, dental, and more. Patients will be qualified for discount services based on family size and documented income.



## Mental Health & Substance Abuse Resources

### Statewide Peer Warmline

855-733-7762

Available 24/7

The statewide Peer Warmline is a Free phone line staffed by Peer Support Specialists who offer non-clinical support and resources to those in crisis. Peer Support Specialists (or “peers”) are people living in recovery with mental illness and/or substance use disorder who provide support to others who can benefit from their lived experience. Their unique expertise helps reduce stigma while strengthening overall engagement in care. Like 988, North Carolina's Peer Warmline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Hope4NC

855-587-3463

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-abuse/hope4nc>

Available 24/7

Hope4NC is here to connect you Free with the help you need, whenever you need it, whether that’s mental health assistance, substance abuse assistance or if you’re having suicidal thoughts.

### Heels Care Network

<https://care.unc.edu/resource/mental-health-gps/>

This is an online network of North Carolina and national mental health resources and support groups.

Access is free; some providers listed may charge fees for their services



### Mental Health America

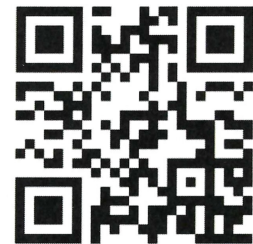
800-969-6642

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

<https://screening.mhanational.org/screening-tools/>

Provides free mental health screening, which is the quickest and easiest way to determine whether you are experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition.

To take the free and confidential mental health screening, visit their website or scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone.



[mhascreening.org](https://mhascreening.org)

## Mental Health & Substance Abuse Resources

### **Celebrate Recovery**

133 Gardenbrook Dr.  
Forest City, NC 28043

828-288-9707

Find them on Facebook at Celebrate Recovery Restoration Church Forest City

Meets every Thursday night beginning at 6:00 PM for dinner, followed by a group meeting at 7:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery is a Christian based recovery program for anyone dealing with hurts, habits, or hang-ups. Meets inside the Restoration Church of Forest City which sponsors the program. Always ask Parole Officer before leaving Polk County. Free

### **Pavillon**

241 Pavillon Place  
Mill Spring, NC 28756

828-694-2300

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

Monday - Friday:  
8:00 A.m. - 5:00 P.m.

Since 1996, Pavillon has been guiding adults in their transformation from crippling addiction to the freedom and confidence of recovery. We are a private, not-for-profit, CARF-accredited facility that offers a six-to-one average patient-to-counselor ratio. Pavillon is located on 160 acres in the foothills of the mountains of Western North Carolina. Our campus includes open space, hiking trails, walking areas and the natural beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. At Pavillon, we have a team of staff across various disciplines (nursing, counseling, case management, medical, psychiatric and psychology). There are no added charges for the services of our team during treatment.

The cost of coming to our program is based on a daily room charge. Staff works with insurance companies to help maximize reimbursement for the cost of care. They have a scholarship program and financial aid for those who qualify and are supported by various donors to help people get the treatment they need. We provide access to possible loans to help provide assistance.

### **Darkness Rising - Rebuild Program**

919-589-7808

<https://findmeatherapist.org/>

Monday to Friday:  
9:00 Am to 8:00 Pm

The Rebuild program provides therapist connection for the formerly incarcerated while also paying for the first 10 sessions. Rebuild serves the BIPOC community. Black, indigenous, people of color. Call for more information.

Free

## Job Training / Job Placement Resources

### **NCWorks Career Center - Rutherford County**

223 Charlotte Rd.  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
828-286-3042

<https://www.ncworks.gov/>

Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM to  
4:30 PM

Career and Employment  
Counseling, Employment and  
training for Adults, Dislocated  
Workers, as well as youth, Job  
Seeking Skills workshops; resume  
assistance veterans assistance.  
Free internet access to search for  
and apply for job opportunities.  
**Always ask Parole Officer for  
permission before leaving Polk  
County.**

Free

### **MAU Workforce Solutions**

2560 Asheville Hwy  
Hendersonville, NC 28791  
828-558-2800

<http://mau.com/>

Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM to  
5:00 PM

Temporary agency offering job  
placement in local businesses for  
clients who can pass a drug test  
and have reliable transportation.  
They do conduct a background  
check, and some business they  
work with will not hire ex-felons,  
but others will. Suite 20  
**Always ask Parole Officer before  
leaving Polk County.**

Free

### **Labor Finders**

1800 Asheville Hwy  
Hendersonville, NC 28791  
828-513-5084

<https://www.laborfinders.com/>

Monday through Friday:  
6:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Temporary agency offering job  
placement in local businesses for  
clients who can pass a drug test  
and have reliable transportation.  
They do conduct a background  
check, and some business they  
work with will not hire ex-felons,  
but others will.  
**Always ask Parole Officer before  
leaving Polk County.**

Free

## Financial Resources



### Operation HOPE

704-680-3163

<https://operationhope.org>

Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Helps individuals of all ages and backgrounds, including the formerly incarcerated, by offering financial education, one-on-one coaching, courses on credit score improvement, as well as pathways toward homeownership and starting a business. They have eight locations across the state of North Carolina, but since they can also provide their services over the phone, they can help you even if you don't live near one of their locations. This is a great (and totally free) program for those who want to understand how to rebuild their credit and financial life after incarceration. Call Alisha Kenny at the number provided to set up an initial appointment.

Free

## Transportation Resources

### Polk County Public Transportation System

2881 NC-108 Hwy E  
Columbus, NC 28722

828-894-8203

<https://www.polknc.gov/transportation.php#.W2NKti2ZMgp>

Monday-Friday:  
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Polk County Public Transportation System offers safe, reliable, door-to-door service inside the county and around the region to Rutherfordton, Spindale, Hendersonville, Asheville, Spartanburg and Greenville. You must call ahead the day before by 10:00 AM to schedule rides in Polk County and 3 business days for travel out side of Polk County.

Call for information on ride cost. Funding is available to transport the elderly and disabled, and for those who need financial assistance for travel to medical appointments or to work. Work related trips such as interviews and classes may also be funded. Financial assistance is available as long as funds last. Call us at 828-894-8203 for more information regarding registration.

## Clothing Resources

### Steps to Hope Thrift Store

232 East Mills Street  
Columbus, NC 28722

828-894-2373

<https://www.stepstohope.org/about/our-thrift-stores>

Monday through Saturday:  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Offers previously-owned clothing, furniture and other items at extremely low prices. You can often find name-brand clothes in good to great condition.

Prices vary depending on item.

### Back On Track Thrift Store

1900 Spartanburg Hwy.  
Hendersonville, NC 28792

828-595-9091

<https://www.backontrackaddictionministries.com/>

Monday through Saturday  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Offers previously-owned clothing, furniture and other items at extremely low prices. You can often find name-brand clothes in good to great condition.

**Always ask Parole Officer before leaving Polk County.**

Prices vary depending on item

### Directory for Polk County Agencies:

Polk County Probation Department	218 E. Mills St Columbus, NC 28722	828-894-5645
Polk County DMV	596 Withrow Rd, Forest City, NC 28043 <b>Always ask your parole officer before leaving Polk County.</b>	828-286-2973
Polk County Dpt. of Social Services	231 Wolverine Trail, Mill Spring, NC 28756	828-894-2100

### Directory for State and Federal Government Programs that Offer Temporary Assistance:

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program): [www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program](http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program)

LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance): [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/energy-assistance/low-income-energy-assistance-lieap](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/energy-assistance/low-income-energy-assistance-lieap)

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families): [www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/work-first-family-assistance](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/work-first-family-assistance)

### Other Organizations that Offer Assistance:

The National Reentry Network for Returning Citizens is a national network comprised of individuals returning from incarceration who support each other's successful reintegration. To learn more, visit their website at <https://thenationalreentrynetwork.org/>.

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: Dial 988 or online at [www.988lifeline.org](http://www.988lifeline.org).

Felony Record Hub (an online resource with jobs, housing and reentry advice for people with criminal records): [www.felonyrecordhub.com](http://www.felonyrecordhub.com)

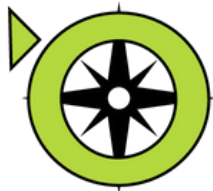
Honest Jobs (the nation's leading job marketplace for people affected by the criminal justice system. Honest Jobs has over 300,000 job openings from 1,000+ fair-chance employers): [www.honestjobs.com](http://www.honestjobs.com)

Veterans Resources in Polk County (for all military veterans): 828-3894-0003 or online at [https://www.polknc.gov/veterans\\_services.php](https://www.polknc.gov/veterans_services.php)

[NC211.org](http://NC211.org) (an online information and referral service provided by United Way of North Carolina. It offers a searchable database with information about resources for all 100 counties in North Carolina)

**Other Assistance Available through OurJourney:** Anyone returning to any county in North Carolina from any state prison is automatically eligible to participate in the OurJourney **Essential Services** program. The Essential Service programs provides one-on-one, professional assistance, including help with writing a resume, preparing for a job interview, handling stress and rejection, smartphone training, and six other essential services for those rebuilding their lives after incarceration. This program is free of charge. To learn more or to enroll, call (888) 50 REENTRY or visit [www.ourjourney2gether.com/essential-services](http://www.ourjourney2gether.com/essential-services).





**OurJourney**  
**PO Box 2862**  
**Rocky Mount, NC 27802**  
**(888) 50-REENTRY**