



Reentry Resource Guide for Columbus County



2025




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 is courtesy of www.foodandtravelmagazine.com



Resource Guide - Columbus County

The service providers listed below are for Columbus 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.

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 Columbus County not listed. Please call (888) 50 REENTRY or email contact@ourjourney2gether.com to report any discrepancies or to suggest other service providers in Columbus County.

NOTE: Because Columbus 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 Columbus County for reentry assistance. However, you should always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus 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 Columbus County may result in a violation of the conditions of your post-release.

One-Stop Resource Centers



You Empower You

2291 Onslow Dr.
Jacksonville, NC 28540

252-764-5679

Find them on Facebook at You Empower You

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

Provides assistance to individuals returning after incarceration in several ways, including housing referrals and mentorship. Their founder, Mike Noreski, is formerly incarcerated.

Their office is in Jacksonville but they may be able to provide assistance to individuals in Columbus County.

Call for more information or to speak with Mike.

Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.

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

One-Stop Resource Centers

United Way - Cape Fear

5919 Oleander Dr.
Building II, Suite 115
Wilmington, NC 28403

910-798-3900

<https://uwcfa.org/>

Call for Hours of Operation

Provides support to dozens of member agency programs in Columbus County. In addition to calling the number provided for the Columbus office, you can get assistance by calling the United Way hotline by dialing 211.

Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.

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

The Help Hub

20 North 4th St., Suite 214
Wilmington, NC 28401

910-769-5357 or 910-343-8212

www.harrelsoncenter.org/help-hub

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday:
9:00 AM to Noon

Helps reentering men with permanent housing, medications, and essential bills. To receive help you must fill out intake form on their website or pick one up at their office. Call before going to confirm what you will need to bring with you.

Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.

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

Good Shepherd Center

811 Martin Street
Wilmington, NC 28401

910-444-0621 (for Entry Assessment)
910-763-4424 (Extension 100)

www.goodshepherdwilmington.org

Monday, Wednesday and Friday:
10:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Tuesday and Thursday: 4:00 PM to
7:00 PM
May also be open at other times

Offers assistance in multiple ways to those returning to Columbus County from prison. The number provided is to call to schedule an Entry Assessment, which they will use to determine what help they can provide. They do not help those returning from prison with violent or sex crimes. They also have a specific program at another location just for military veterans. If you're a military veteran, call 910-362-0292.

Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.

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

One-Stop Resource Centers



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
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



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

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

Lifesavers Outreach

3440 James B White Hwy S
Whiteville, NC 28472

910-640-3445

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

Wednesday: 10:00 AM to Noon

Provides food to those in need, along with other items, such as toiletries. This is drive through service and people start lining up as early as 8 AM. A photo ID is helpful but not required. Located inside Woodburn Presbyterian Church.

Free

Manna Ministries

509 Village Rd. NE
Leland, NC 28451

910-200-8093

<http://www.mannaleland.org/>

The fourth Saturday of every month from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, except for during November and December when it is the third Saturday.

Provides food to those in need. Serves the southern part of Columbus County. You need to bring proof of residency and a photo ID. Your prison ID is acceptable. This food bank operates like a grocery store, so you can go in and choose what you need, based on number in family. **Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.**

Free

Food Resources

Living Word Community Care & Share

98 Old Hwy 74
Chadbourn, NC

910-654-4164

<https://livingwordnc.com/connect/outreach>

First and second Thursday of every month from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Provides food and other items to those in need. You need a photo ID with proof of residency, or you can bring someone who resides in Columbus County. This is a drive through service.

Free

Medical / Dental Resources

Columbus County Health Department

304 Jefferson St.
Whiteville, NC 28472

910-640-6615

<https://columbusco.org/health-department/health-services>

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

This center provides treatment of acute and chronic illnesses, information on women's health issues, children's health care and immunizations, adolescent health care, school, employment and sports physical health screenings, drug testing, diagnostic laboratory, health education and counseling. The Medical Assistance Program (MAP) caters to low-income and unemployed residents of Columbus County.

Services provided on a sliding fee scale based on income for anyone regardless of ability to pay. Also accept Medicaid, Medicare and will file private insurance

Goshen Medical Center

5 Whiteville Town Center
Whiteville, NC 28472

910-212-6613

<https://goshenmedical.org/locations/whiteville/>

Monday through Thursday: 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM (closed for lunch from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM)

Provides access to healthcare to residents of Columbus County regardless of their ability to pay. Sliding fee scale based on income. If patient's total household size and income results in 100% discount, there is however a nominal fee. If the patient is verifiably homeless and truly living on the street, they are only required to pay \$1.00 for services. Call for an appointment. You will need a photo ID, proof of residency and income.

Fee based on a sliding scale (what you can afford). They accept private insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. No one is turned away due to inability to pay for services.

Medical / Dental Resources

Tabor Center Dental Clinic

270 U.S. 701
Tabor City, NC 28463

910-377-1700

<https://goshenmedical.org/locations/tabor-city-dental/>

Thursdays only: 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM
(closed for lunch from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM)

Provides access to dental care to residents of Columbus County regardless of their ability to pay. Sliding fee scale based on income. If patient's total household size and income results in 100% discount, there is however a nominal fee. If the patient is verifiably homeless and truly living on the street, they are only required to pay \$1.00 for services.

Call for an appointment. You will need a photo ID, proof of residency and income. This is a Goshen Medical Center.

Fee based on a sliding scale (what you can afford). They accept private insurance, Medicaid and Medicare. No one is turned away due to inability to pay for services.

Cape Fear HealthNet

1601 Doctors Circle
Wilmington, NC 28401

910-399-2751

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

Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM

Provides a broad range of effective, evidence-based substance use, mental health, crisis intervention, justice, and wellness services to persons in need, including prescription medication refill. Specializes in helping those who are uninsured. Cape Fear HealthNet does provide services to Columbus County residents.

Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.

Fee based on a sliding scale (what you can afford)



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 (or low-cost, depending on job situation)

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

<https://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. (To give you an example, if you live with one other person, the combined 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

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

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Resources



Coastal Horizons

615 Shipyard Boulevard
Wilmington, NC 28412

910-343-0145

<https://coastalhorizons.org/>

Wednesday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Provides a broad range of effective, evidence-based substance use, mental health, crisis intervention, justice, and wellness services to persons in need, including prescription medication refill. Call to set up an appointment to register to assistance.

Fee based on a sliding scale (what you can afford). No one is turned away due to inability to pay for services.

Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.

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 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.

Free

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Resources

A Helping Hand of Wilmington

5013 Wrightsville Ave.
Wilmington, NC 28403

910-796-6868

[https://
www.ahelpinghandofwilmington.com](https://www.ahelpinghandofwilmington.com)

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

Telehealth Services

Monday, Wednesday, Friday from
9:00 AM to Noon

Offers comprehensive mental health services, including mental health screening, mental health medication refills and counseling.

Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.

Fees are on a sliding scale (based on what you can afford). No one is turned away due to inability to pay for services.



Coastal Horizons Mobile Clinic

1308 Dock St.
Wilmington, NC 28401

910-742-6745

[https://coastalhorizons.org/wp-
content/uploads/2022/08/
Brunswick-Columbus-.pdf](https://coastalhorizons.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Brunswick-Columbus-.pdf)

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the days
the Mobile Clinic is in your area.
Walk-ins welcome.

Provides the following mobile services:

- Assessment for substance use and mental health
- Psychiatric medication management
- Individual therapy
- Peer support services
- Mediation Assisted Treatment (MAT)

They also service Bladen and Brunswick County, so call to find out when they'll be in Columbus County.

Fees are on a sliding scale (based on what you can afford). No one is turned away due to inability to pay for services.

Heels Care Network

[https://care.unc.edu/resource/mental-
health-gps/](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

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

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Resources

Christian Recovery Center

520 Mulberry St.
Shallotte, NC 28470

910-287-4357

<https://crcirecovery.org/>

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

Christian Recovery Centers, located in neighboring Brunswick County, is a nonprofit drug and alcohol recovery center serving those suffering from and voluntarily seeking assistance for a substance abuse issue. They are not a detox center and there are some medications they won't accommodate. They cannot provide assistance to men on the NC Sex Offender Registry. Their program includes one to two months living there and getting used to rules. After that the residents work on campus or in community service. Celebration Recovery is provided. Fill out an application online or call and they will take your information. **Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.**

Free to those who qualify



Mental Health America

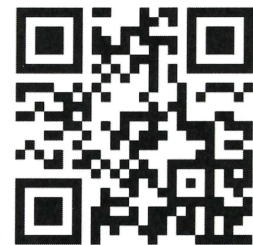
800-969-6642

<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

Job Training / Job Placement Resources



NCWorks Career Center

4564 Chadbourn Hwy
Whiteville, NC 28472

910-788-6261

<https://www.ncworks.gov>

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

Offers support for everything from creating a resume and finding the right job opportunities to preparing clients for job interviews. Website has links for Finding a Job. Free

Job Training / Job Placement Resources

Vocational Rehabilitation

615 S. Madison St.
Whiteville, NC 28472

910-788-5200

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services>

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

Provides a variety of services, depending on your specific needs. They are customized to help you find a job and offer career counseling, education and training, job placement assistance and on-going support, medical treatments and assistive technology. Works specifically with those who have physical, mental or emotional disabilities.

Free



StepUp Wilmington

20 North 4th Street, Suite 430
Wilmington, NC 28401

910-343-8469

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

Monday through Thursday: 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Friday: 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Offers personalized services to those returning from prison, including resume-writing assistance, advice on how to explain your criminal record, career coaching, access to computers, help with interviewing skills and job placement services. Those who complete the initial 6-day training program receive \$250. Those who work a job for 30 days receive a \$500 bonus. Will work with those who prefer not to go through their program. **Always contact your parole officer before leaving Columbus County.**

Free

Carolina Staffing Solutions

1727 S. Madison St., Whiteville, NC 28742

910-641-0031

<https://carostaff.com/>

Office Hours:

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

Walk-in Hours:

Monday through Friday: 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 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. Also offer day-labor jobs.

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

The Rural Public Transportation System

Main Office:
290 Legion Dr.
Whiteville, NC 28472

910-642-7201

<https://columbusco.org/columbus-county-transportation>

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

Provides van transportation to Columbus County residents. They pick you up and drop you off. You must make a reservation for pickup 2-3 day before you want to be picked up.

\$3 per person one-way for the towns of Whiteville and Brunswick.
\$10 per person one way anywhere else in Columbus County.
\$6 round trip for Veteran transportation to VA hospital in Fayetteville on Tuesday and Thursday. Call or visit their website for more information about fares.

Clothing Resources

Clothes Bin of Whiteville, NC

134 W. Main St.
Whiteville, NC 28472

910-207-6105

Find them on Facebook at Clothes
Bin of Whiteville, NC

Sunday through Saturday (except for
Wednesday, when they're closed):
10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Offers previously-owned clothing
and other items at extremely low
prices. You

Prices vary by item.

Circle H Resales

95 N Mitchell Ford R.
Clarkton, NC 28433

910-874-7377

Find them on Facebook at Circle H
Thrift Store / Resales LLC.

Wednesday and Thursday: 9:00 AM
to 4:00 PM

Friday: 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Offers previously-owned furniture,
toys, electrical appliances,
kitchenware and other items at
thrift-store prices.

Prices vary by item.

**Always contact your parole
officer before leaving Columbus
County.**

Directory for Columbus County Agencies:

Columbus County Probation Department	10 W Smith St. Whiteville, NC 28472	910-642-6531
Columbus County DMV	917 Washington St. Whiteville, NC 28472	910-642-2017
Columbus County Dpt. of Social Services	40 Government Complex Rd. Whiteville, NC 28472	910-642-2800

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

LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance): 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

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.

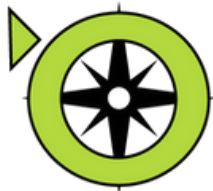
Felony Record Hub (an online resource with jobs, housing and reentry advice for people with criminal records): www.felonyrecordhub.com

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

Veterans Resources in Haywood County (for all military veterans): 910-640-6638 or online at <https://columbusco.org/veteran-services>

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, registering to vote, 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.



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