



Reentry Resource Guide for Rutherford County



2024



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.visitncsmalltowns.com



Resource Guide - Rutherford County

The service providers listed below are for Rutherford 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 Wilson County not listed. Please call 252-220-9516 or email contact@ourjourney2gether.com to report any discrepancies or to suggest other service providers in Rutherford County.

One-Stop Resource Centers



United Way of Rutherford County

668 Withrow Rd.
Forest City, NC 28043

828-286-3929 (Office)
980-295-9094 (Gene Ettison)

<https://unitedwayofrutherford.org>

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

If you have an emergency after hours, please call.

Provides support to dozens of member agency programs in Rutherford County. In addition to calling the number provided for the Rutherford office, you can get assistance by calling the United Way hotline by dialing 211. United Way of Rutherford County’s reentry specialist is Aaron Watts. You may reach him by calling their office number. If you have problems connecting, you may also call Gene Ettison, who is their reentry specialist for multiple counties.

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

One-Stop Resource Centers

The Salvation Army of Cleveland and Rutherford Counties

256 West Main St.
Forest City, NC 28043

828-287-0119

<https://southernusa.salvationarmy.org/cleveland-rutherford/>

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM (closed for lunch from Noon to 1:00 PM)

Provides clothing, food and other emergency assistance to those in need.

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

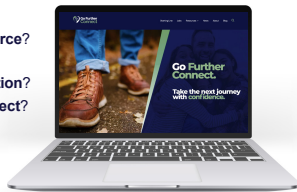


Go Further Connect

<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 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

One-Stop Resource Centers

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.

Food Resources

Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach Food Pantry

2556 Memorial Highway
Lake Lure NC 28746

828-625-4683

<https://hickorynutgorgeoutreach.org>

Monday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Provides a 5-7 day emergency food supply to residents of Rutherford County and three neighboring counties. You can go once a month and shop. You'll need an ID (they will accept your prison ID).

They also have a social worker who can help you apply for food stamps.

Free

Neighbor's Food Pantry

217 Gilkey School Rd.
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

828-652-5437

Find them on Facebook at
Neighbor's Food Pantry

Friday: 5:00 to 7:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Helps those with emergency food needs once a month.

Free

Food Resources

St. Gabriel's Jericho Road Soup Kitchen

330 N. Ridgecrest Ave.
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

828-980-1466

Find them on Facebook at St.
Gabriel's Episcopal Church

Monday through Friday: 10:00 AM to
1:00 PM

Provides a free hot meal every
Wednesday from 10:00 AM to
Noon.

Free

Washburn Community Outreach Center

2934 Piney Mountain Church Rd.
Bostic, NC 28018

828-245-5603

[https://
www.washburncommunityoutreachc
enter.com/](https://www.washburncommunityoutreachcenter.com/)

Thursday and Friday: 9:00 AM to
1:00 PM

Provides food relief by way of a
drive through pantry every week.
Before you arrive, please make
room in your trunk for volunteers
to load your box. When you pull in
line, please open or unlock your
trunk.

They will ask for your name,
address, number of people in
your household and whether you
already receive FNS assistance
(formerly known as food stamps).
If you receive FNS, you
automatically qualify. If not, they
will ask for your monthly income
and you will qualify based on
national standards of number in
your household and the income
reported. Identification is not
required to receive food
assistance, nor do they require
any proof or documentation of
address.

See **Clothing Resources** for
information about their Thrift
Store.

Free to those who
qualify

Medical / Dental Resources

Rutherford County Health Department

221 Callahan Koon Rd.
Spindale, NC 28160

828-287-6100

<https://www.foothillshd.org>

Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Offers assistance with a variety of basic health needs, including disease prevention and others. Also offers free HIV and other STD testing and free COVID testing and vaccinations. Appointment required, so call before you go.

Free

Rutherford Regional Medical Center

288 S Ridgecrest Ave.
Rutherfordton NC 28139

828-286-5000 (Main Hospital)
828-286-5544 (Medical Assistance Program)

<https://www.myutherfordregional.com/medical-assistance-program>

Open every day, all day. However, you must make an appointment if you'd like to talk to them about free or discounted healthcare

Provides free or discounted emergency and other medically necessary care to patients who do not have insurance and who qualify for assistance under its Financial Assistance Policy. To qualify you must be uninsured with a combined family income equal to or less than 200% of the Federal Poverty level and be a resident of Rutherford County. Call the Medical Assistance Program number for more information or find out how to enroll.

Free for those who qualify; also available for others on a sliding scale, meaning it's based on what you can afford

Blue Ridge Health - Collins Dental Center

48 Hope Valley Lane
Columbus, NC 28722

828-894-3120

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

Hours of Operation vary; call to schedule an appointment

Offers adult emergency dental care to those with limited access or no insurance.

PLEASE NOTE: This dental clinic is located in neighboring Polk County. If you are still on parole or post-release, please contact your Parole Officer before traveling outside of Rutherford County.

Fees are on a sliding scale, meaning you pay for what you can afford. No one is turned away because they can't pay. They also accept Medicaid and Medicare.

Medical / Dental Resources



NC MedAssist

866-331-1348

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

OurJourney can help you enroll in NC MedAssist's free pharmacy program! Call us 252-220-1956 to learn more.



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 252-220-1956 to learn more or call Parks Insurance and speak to a representative.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Resources

Hope 4 NC

1-855-587-3463

www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/mental-health-developmental-disabilities-and-substance-abuse/hope4nc

Offers free and confidential emotional support, counseling referrals and community resources for those in crisis. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A real person will always answer.

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

Rutherford Mobile Harm Reduction Team

828-273-2820 (Justin Wright)

Provides needle exchange, Narcan and other services to those who use drugs in Rutherford County. Outreach and additional substance use/mental health support available, including free medical onsite testing by request. Testing available includes rapid testing for HIV, HEP-C, Glucose, Blood Pressure, and basic wound care. Call or text to arrange delivery or peer exchange, and to check for fixed site locations.

Free

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.

Free

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Resources



Mental Health America

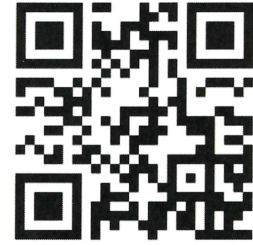
800-969-6642

<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

Vocational Rehabilitation

277 Commercial Dr., Suite A
Forest City, NC 28043

828-245-1223

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



NCWorks Career Center - Rutherford County

223 Charlotte Rd.
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

828-286-3042

www.ncworks.gov

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

First Staffing

317 W Main St.
Forest City, NC 28043

828-245-8787

<https://1firststaffing.com/>

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

Friday: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

(Closed for lunch from Noon to 1:00
PM)

Employment 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.

You'll need to bring two IDs with
you, and they will accept your
prison ID.

Call for an appointment.

Free

Financial Resources



Operation HOPE

704-680-3163 or
888-388-4673

<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

TriCity Express

Multiple Pickup and Drop Off Spots

828-287-6339 (Main Dispatch)

828-287-6141 (Appointments)

<https://www.rutherfordcountync.gov/departments/transit/>

Pickup and Drop Off Times Vary.
They don't operate on holidays.

Provides fixed-route public transportation for residents of Spindale, Forest City and Rutherfordton. Both buses have set stops at some locations but at different times. They do allow deviations for pickup and drop off of no more than 1/2 mile for a fee. The routes run Monday-Friday from 7:40 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Visit their website for fixed routes and times.

TriCity Express is part of the Rutherford County Transit Department.

Free, unless you want to be picked up or dropped off at an approved spot other than what is on their map; these deviations are \$1.00 each. You must call to schedule a deviation from normal routes.

Clothing Resources

Yokefellow Service Center

132 Blanton St.
Spindale, NC 28160

828-287-0776

Find them on Facebook at
Yokefellow Service Center, Inc.

Monday through Friday: 10:00 AM to
5:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 PM to 3:00 PM

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

Must be a resident of Rutherford County for at least 60 days and provide proof of residency (they'll accept a letter from your Parole Officer or even a shelter.)
Call for an appointment.

Prices vary by item

Great Finds Consignment

1201 US Hwy 221 S
Rutherfordton, NC 28139

704-633-6091

Find them on Facebook at Great
Finds Consignment

Tuesday through Saturday: Noon 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.

If you bring a letter from your Parole Officer stating your need, they'll provide you with a voucher for free clothing.

Prices vary by item

Clothing Resources

Pilgrim's Pathway Thrift Store

225 W. Main St.
Spindale, NC 28160

828-375-0083

Find them on Facebook at Pilgrim's
Pathway Thrift Store

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and
Friday: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM to 2:00 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. This thrift store is a ministry of Pilgrim's Way Baptist Church. They also have House of Refuge, a 90-day residency program, for those in need of housing who qualify. (Call Director Scott Wilson at 828-202-5543 for more information about the House of Refuge.)

Prices vary by item

Washburn Community Outreach Center

2934 Piney Mountain Church Rd.
Bostic, NC 28018

828-245-5603

[https://
www.washburncommunityoutreachc
enter.com/](https://www.washburncommunityoutreachcenter.com/)

Thursday and Friday: 9:00 AM to
1:00 PM

Provides affordable clothing and housewares for anyone, without prejudice or qualifications. Thrift store sales support the food pantry purchases and operational expenses of our organization. See **Food Resources** for information about their Food Pantry.

Prices vary by item

Directory for Rutherford County Agencies:

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Rutherford County Probation Department | 125 W Court St. Rutherfordton, NC 28139 | 828-287-4242 |
| Rutherford County DMV | 596 Withrow Rd. Forest City, NC 28043 | 828-286-2973 |
| Rutherford County Dpt. of Social Services | 389 Fairground Rd. Spindale, NC 28160 | 828-287-6165 |

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.

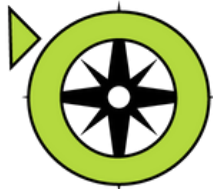
Felony Record Hub (an online resource with jobs, housing and reentry advice for people with criminal records): www.felonyrecordhub.com

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 Rutherford County (for all military veterans): 828-287-6090 or online at https://www.rutherfordcountync.gov/departments/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 252-220-9516 or visit www.ourjourney2gether.com/essential-services.



OurJourney
PO Box 2862
Rocky Mount, NC 27802