



# Reentry Resource Guide for Columbus County



**2023**



## 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](http://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 252-220-9516 or email [contact@ourjourney2gether.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

## 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

### 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.

### **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.

## Medical / Dental Resources

### 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)



### 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

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

## Medical / Dental Resources



### 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)

**Our Journey 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



### 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.**

### A Helping Hand of Wilmington

5013 Wrightsville Ave.  
Wilmington, NC 28403

910-796-6868

<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.



## Mental Health & Substance Abuse Resources



### Coastal Horizons Mobile Clinic

1308 Dock St.  
Wilmington, NC 28401

910-742-6745

<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.

### 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

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

### Vocational Rehabilitation

615 S. Madison St.  
Whiteville, NC 28472

910-788-5200

[https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/  
vocational-rehabilitation-services](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/vocational-rehabilitation-services)

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

Provides a variety of services, Free  
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.



### 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 Free  
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.**

## Job Training / Job Placement Resources

### 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

## Financial Resources



### Stretch Financial

877-275-4115

<https://www.stretch.money/>

Monday through Friday: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Offers a free financial account for people returning from prison with features and functionality similar to traditional banks. A Stretch account comes with a MasterCard Debit Card, free direct deposit and customer service to answer any questions you might have. You can even open an account without having any money, so that as soon as you find a job you'll have a financial account already in place. Best of all, you can use your prison ID to open the account. All you'll need is your Social Security number, a physical address so they can mail your debit card and an active email address. They will also ask for your legal name, date of birth and phone number (if you have one). To apply, visit their website, scroll down and click on the "Learn More" button under **Justice-Involved**. Please note: This account does not come with a credit card but with a debit card. A debit card allows you to pay for services and withdraw money using funds already in your account.

There are no fees to open or maintain an account

## 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.

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

Prices vary by item.

### **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](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)

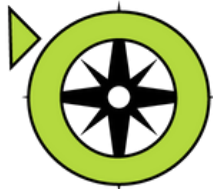
Veterans Resources in Haywood County (for all military veterans): 910-640-6638 or online at <https://columbusco.org/veteran-services>

[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, 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 704-220-9516 or visit [www.ourjourney2gether.com/essential-services](http://www.ourjourney2gether.com/essential-services).





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