Equal Access to Justice COMMISSION

A COMMISSION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT

NORTH CAROLINA FAITH AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE

September 22, 2020 Resource and Survey Updates



EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

- Sign up at <u>ncfaithandjustice.org</u>
- Around 80 names so far, to receive resources and communications
- Currently accepting <u>survey responses re: legal needs</u>
- Will share upcoming meeting information and materials soon



COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS & NONPROFIT INITIATIVE



- Organizations with fewer than 25 employees that could use a pro bono legal consultation on issues related to COVID-19 may be eligible for the NC Pro Bono Resource Center's COVID-19 Small Business/Nonprofit Initiative.
- Sign up at <u>ncprobono.org/csbni</u>



REBUILD NC PRO BONO PROJECT



- North Carolinians whose homes were damaged by Hurricane Florence or Matthew may be eligible for help from the state through ReBuild NC. The Homeowner Recovery Program helps repair, reconstruct, replace, or elevate a damaged home or reimburse for completed repairs.
- Legal Aid and pro bono attorneys are available to help people prepare ReBuild NC applications call 1 (866) 219-5262 for assistance.



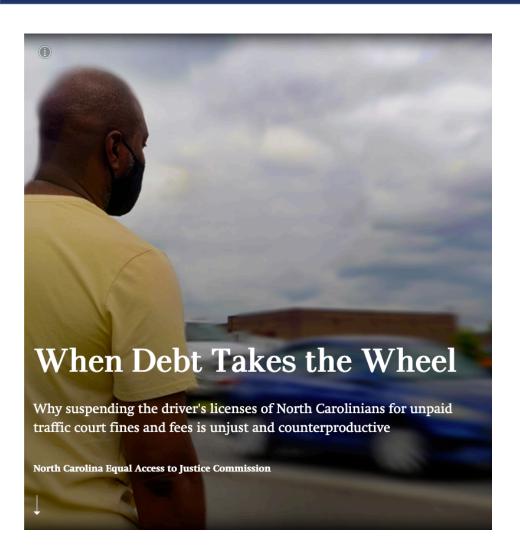
NORTH CAROLINA FAIR CHANCE



- Direct people to <u>ncfairchance.org</u> for eligibility and to request an advice letter
- Can request at <u>ncfairchance.org</u> a notification for when county eligibility comes online
 - Completed Counties: Mecklenburg, New Hanover, Pender, Pitt
 - In Progress Counties: Durham
 - Expected Counties: Buncombe, Caswell, Franklin, Granville, Guilford, Robeson, Rockingham, Person, Vance, Warren



NORTH CAROLINA FAIR CHANCE



 For a view of how driver's license suspensions affect low-income people in North Carolina, view "When Debt Takes the Wheel" at ncprobono.org/fairchancestory

UPCOMING PUBLIC CONVENING

- October 8, 1pm-2pm
- Short Presentations
 - Welcome from Chief Justice Beasley
 - Overview of Housing Resources, NC Fair Chance, and eCourts Guide and File
- Panel Q&A
- Preregister for Zoom Webinar Link by October 6th; also live streamed to YouTube

LEGAL NEEDS SURVEY

- Survey sent as a follow-up to our June meeting
- Requested information about:
 - Frequency of Legal Needs
 - Availability of Legal Resources
 - NC Faith and Justice Alliance Priorities



SURVEY RESULTS: NEEDS

- More Frequently Needed
 - Family (1.8)
 - Housing (2.2)
 - Health (2.4)
- Less Frequently Needed
 - Disaster Legal Services (3.4)
 - Veterans Legal Services (3.3)
 - Education (3.1)

- Additional Suggestions
 - Expunctions and License Restorations
 - Small Claims
 - Property Issues (land or vehicle)



SURVEY RESULTS: RESOURCES

- More Available
 - Seniors (2.8)
 - Benefits (2.8)
 - Employment (2.8)
- Less Available
 - Disability (3.3)
 - Education (3.4)
 - Disaster Legal Services (3.1)

- Additional Suggestion
 - Resources may be available, but not widely known, particularly among those with low income

SURVEY RESULTS: PRIORITIES

- Higher Priority (separate from pandemic)
 - Free Advice Clinics (1.9)
 - Advice/Counsel Attorney Referral (2.3)
 - Faith Leader Training (2.6)
- Higher Priority (during pandemic)
 - Free Advice Clinics (1.6)
 - Advice/Counsel Attorney Referral (1.8)
 - Faith Leader Training (2.5)



BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS

- Family Legal Services (such as divorce, child custody, domestic violence, human trafficking, alimony/child support, etc.)
- Housing Legal Services (like foreclosure, evictions, property taxes, discrimination, denied housing, or landlord issues)
- **Health Legal Services** (such as Medicaid issues, non-payment of covered expense by insurance, or denied coverage)