

Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc.

Helpline

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Serving low-income clients throughout North Carolina

George R. Hausen, Jr.
Executive Director

www.legalaidnc.org

April 11, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to provide my recommendation to NC Reentry Innovators for Success, Inc. ("NCRIFS") for further consideration for any grants or other resources that may be available to assist them in furthering NCRIFS's mission to assist formerly justice involved individuals with building more stable lives.

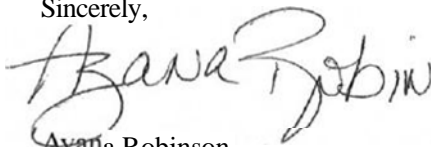
I am a staff attorney for Legal Aid of North Carolina's Second Chance Unit and our work is focused on an expanding statewide expunction project and drivers license restoration work. We had the privilege to partner with NCRIFS and its executive director, Portia Bright Pittman, to plan and execute a county-wide expunction clinic in Pitt County in Fall 2021.

This Pitt County Expunction event saw approximately 30 individuals receive legal services that resulted in expunction petitions being drafted for approximately 300 charges in 24 counties and many of those being granted or still being handled by our office as attorney of record. This event connected formerly justice involved citizens of Pitt County with licensed attorneys to discuss their criminal records and their eligibility for expunctions and certificates of relief that they could not ordinarily afford to obtain. It is truly a life changing event for many involved as these services will open employment and housing options that were previously not available to them.

Community events are not possible without a strong partner with even stronger ties within the communities. During this project NCRIFS advertised the event, handled sign ups, procured an event space and volunteers to handle check in and other administrative matters including scheduling, lunch and other resources outside of those provided by Legal Aid of North Carolina for the participants. Additionally, NCRIFS's relationships and trust of its community and political leaders also allowed us to secure the attendance and support of a representative of the Pitt County Clerk of Court's office, the District Attorney, and with District and Superior Court Judges.

We cannot wait to partner with NCRIFS again this Summer/Fall for another community expunction event. To that end, I strongly recommend that NCRIFS be strongly considered for any grants, other contract opportunities or resources that may be available. If I can answer any questions or provide any additional information about our work with NCRIFS, I would be glad to do so. I can be reached at Ayanar@legalaidnc.org.

Sincerely,



Ayanar Robinson
Legal Aid of North Carolina
Statewide Expunction Project
Supervising Attorney

LEGAL AID NC

