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# ADA REENTRY PROGRAM

## JUSTICE: RELEASE, REENTRY, AND REINTEGRATION

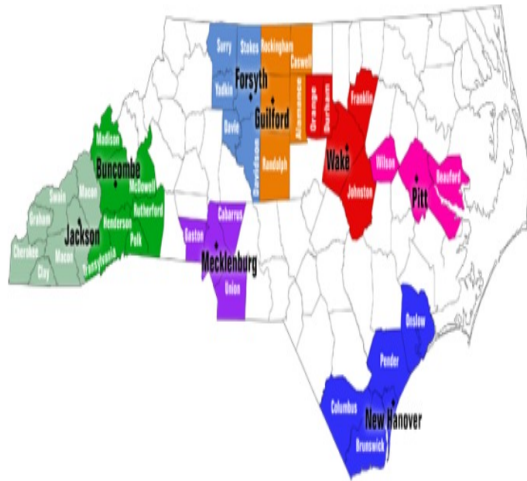




## THE ALLIANCE OF DISABILITY ADVOCATES REENTRY

# WHO IS ADA?

## NC CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



**ALLIANCE OF DISABILITY ADVOCATES IS A CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING ( CIL ) LOCATED IN RALEIGH, NC.**

**A CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED ORGANIZATION THAT SPECIALIZES IN GIVING FREE SERVICES AND RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE ANY DISABILITY, THE ELDERLY, AND VETERANS.**

**ALLIANCE OF DISABILITY ADVOCATES HAS A CATCHMENT AREA OF 8 COUNTIES: WAKE, DURHAM, JOHNSTON, ORANGE, FRANKLIN, WILSON, PITT AND BEAUFORT.**

# REQUIREMENTS OF A CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING ( CIL )

**IN ORDER TO BE A CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, THERE ARE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED:**

- **51% OF THE STAFF MUST HAVE A DISABILITY.**
- **51% OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MUST HAVE A DISABILITY.**
- **ALL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE CONSUMER (CLIENT) CONTROLLED.**
- **ALLIANCE OF DISABILITY ADVOCATES DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION OR PROOF OF HAVING A DISABILITY IN ORDER FOR CONSUMERS (CLIENTS) TO OBTAIN SERVICES OR RESOURCES.**
- **THE CONSUMER (CLIENT) MUST SELF-IDENTIFY WITH HAVING A DISABILITY BUT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DIVULGE THE NATURE OF THE DISABILITY IF THEY CHOOSE NOT TO.**



## FIVE CORE SERVICES CILS ARE MANDATED TO PROVIDE

- (1) Information and referral services is provided *in accessible formats* to all individuals who contact ADANC.**
- (2) Independent Living Skills Training**
- (3) Peer Support (including cross-disability peer support)**
- (4) Individual and Systems Advocacy**
- (5) Transition Services:  
Youth, and  
Transition from Institution and Diversion (keeping consumers out facility-based care)**

# FIVE CORE SERVICES CILS ARE MANDATED TO PROVIDE

## INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

- **ANYONE CAN CALL ADA AND ASK FOR INFORMATION OR A RESOURCE FOR ANY DISABILITY-RELATED ISSUE.**
- **ALLIANCE OF DISABILITY ADVOCATES HAS OBTAINED A VOLUMINOUS LIST OF RESOURCES FROM THE WORK WE DO AROUND THE STATE.**
- **IF ALLIANCE OF DISABILITY ADVOCATES CAN NOT PERFORM THE SERVICE OR RESOURCE REQUESTED, WE WILL PROVIDE A REFERRAL TO ANOTHER AGENCY THAT WE KNOW IS VIABLE AND RELIABLE TO ASSIST OUR CONSUMERS (CLIENTS).**

## FIVE CORE SERVICES CONT.



### PEER SUPPORT:

- **ALLIANCE OF DISABILITY ADVOCATES IS ABLE TO OFFER PEER SUPPORT, INCLUDING CROSS-DISABILITY PEER SUPPORT.**
- **ADA IS ABLE TO OFFER THIS SERVICE AS 51% OF THE STAFF HAVE A DISABILITY, SOME WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES.**

## FIVE CORE SERVICES CONT.

### **INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS TRAINING:**

- **THIS SERVICE IS PROVIDED TO EITHER ASSIST WITH MAINTAINING A CONSUMER'S (CLIENT'S) INDEPENDENCE OR ASSIST WITH INCREASING THEIR INDEPENDENCE.**
- **TRAININGS INCLUDE SHOPPING, BUDGETING, HOME MAINTENANCE, LAUNDRY, COOKING, TRAVEL TRAINING ( LEARNING HOW TO USE FIXED ROUTE SYSTEM ), EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ( RESUME WRITING, COVER LETTER WRITING, MOCK JOB INTERVIEWS, ETC. )**



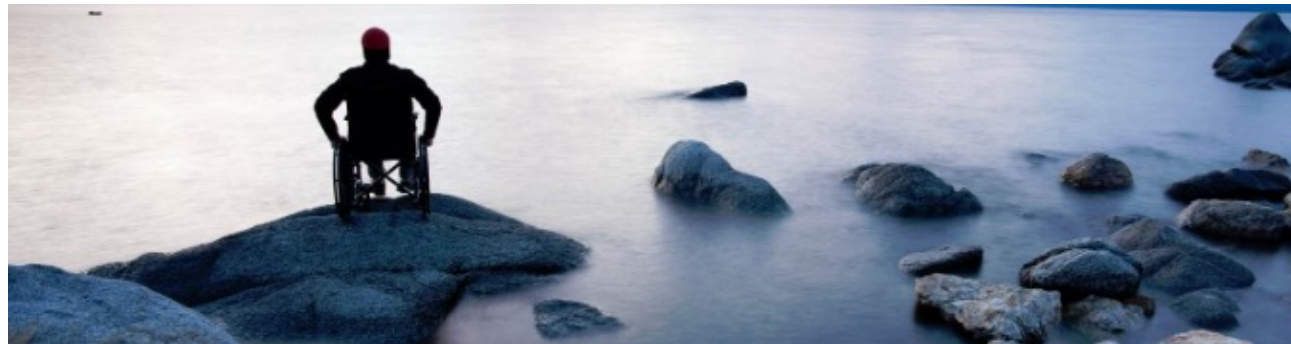
# FIVE CORE SERVICES CONT.

## Systems Advocacy

- **Systems advocacy seeks to engage local, state, and national leaders in an ongoing dialogue regarding public policy as it relates to citizens with disabilities. Issues such as accessibility, public accommodations, and transportation are significant in promoting full inclusion in every aspect of community life. ADANC promotes self-determination as a component of advocacy and supports employment and voting as important self-directed steps along a path to greater independence. ADANC offers education to assist individuals with disabilities in understanding their rights and responsibilities as members of their communities.**

## Individual Advocacy

- **Individual advocacy skills allow people with disabilities to become proficient in their efforts to increase their access to the services and programs they desire in the community they choose. ADANC helps each individual develop effective communication skills so they gain the necessary support services to accomplish their personal goals. This is accomplished by a Community Inclusion Specialist working directly with a consumer.**



## FIVE CORE SERVICES CONT.

### INSTITUTIONAL TRANSITION

**ADANC PROVIDES SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO ASSIST WITH TRANSITIONING FROM AN INSTITUTION SUCH AS A REHAB HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, ADULT CARE HOME, OR A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY TO A COMMUNITY SETTING. STAFF WORK WITH A TRANSITIONING INDIVIDUAL TO IDENTIFY THEIR GOALS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING AND HELP PROVIDE THE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS NECESSARY TO MOVE FROM AN INSTITUTIONALIZED SETTING INTO THE COMMUNITY.**

### INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSION

**ADANC PROVIDES SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO THOSE AT RISK OF ENTERING OR RETURNING TO AN INSTITUTION SO THEY CAN STAY IN THE COMMUNITY. THE GOAL IS TO HELP THE CONSUMER IDENTIFY AT-RISK FACTORS THAT MIGHT CAUSE THEM TO GO INTO OR RETURN TO AN INSTITUTION.**

# WHY WE DO REENTRY

While many people with disabilities already face barriers to employment, stable housing, and other necessary elements of economic security, adding a criminal record into the mix can pose additional obstacles that make living with a disability an even greater challenge.

Meanwhile, pre and post release reentry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals often lack necessary accommodations and connections to community services, making them incapable of meeting the needs of participants with disabilities.

# ADA REENTRY DURING COVID



- The current Covid-19 pandemic has forced many organizations and programs to adapt in order to remain successful and viable. ADA Reentry is no different.
- During Covid-19 ADA Reentry assisted individuals that were fortunate enough for conditional release from prison.
- The main issue was the majority of these individuals were being released with no home plan, essentially making them homeless.
- With CARES funding, ADA Reentry was able to support these individuals, addressing the immediate need of temporary housing and addressing the long term need of permanent housing.
- Spectrum News did a story about ADA Reentry:
- <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/charlotte/news/2020/12/30/disability-advocacy-group-revamps-prison-reentry-program>

# EXPERTISE IN REENTRY



- ADA has a history of providing Reentry Transitional Services since 2016. The IRP model was first tested at Butner FCI, which is located in Butner, NC. 212 individuals in Butner have benefitted from ADA Reentry IRP services, with many of the justice-involved individuals being released to the Triangle area and continuing with their Post-release Reentry Services.
- **Of all the individuals enrolled in the ADA Reentry Program at Butner, only 2 have reoffended and returned in the first 2 years of release. That is a 98% success rate.**
- It was this IRP model that attracted the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities to ADA.
- The North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities awarded ADA a 3-year grant to perform this model in 13 State Prisons in NC in 2020.
- Under the NCCDD grant, ADA Reentry served 242 individuals with I/DD and had an 89 percent success rate of keeping individuals out of prison for 3 years.
- ADA Reentry now works with DMH to continue serving the I/DD population and have included the TBI population as well.

# IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUALIZED REENTRY PLANS

ADA implements the Independent Living philosophy with all the services that we offer. This is vital with reentry as well. Transitioning back into community life from any incarceration is challenging. This challenge increases in difficulty exponentially as the time of incarceration increases and availability or knowledge of resources decreases.

It's not enough to simply offer blanket-style reentry resources to individuals pending release from incarceration.

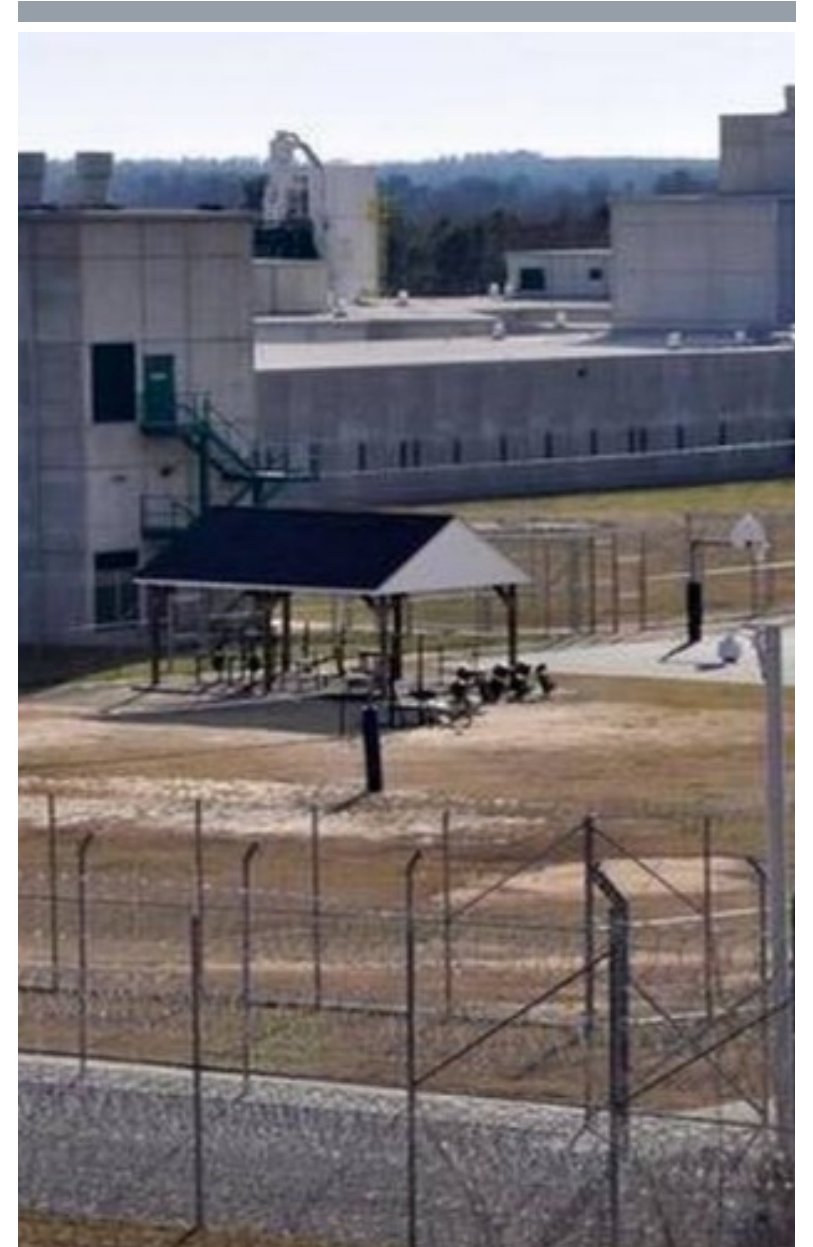
The ratio of Case Managers/ social workers in prisons to individuals being released requesting reentry services is an average of 45 to 1. Case Managers/ social workers in the prison systems are overworked with a large caseload which often leads to blanket/generic information given to these individuals, which at times is usually outdated and may not apply or address the needs of the individual.

Once an individual is released with no viable resources or positive supports, that individual will most likely reoffend and return to prison, which goes against the foundation of beliefs of ADA.



# WHY SUCCESSFUL REENTRY PLANS ARE VITAL

- Despite the occasional success story of a former inmate building a successful life, research continues to show that as many as 75% of justice-involved individuals find themselves back in the criminal justice system within the first year. Successful performance management of reentry programs and other resources are critical to change those outcomes. At the end of the day, successful reentry is important for both individuals and communities.



# IRP PROCESS

- The IRP (Individualized Reentry Plan) begins at the initial meeting with the justice involved-individual. Prior to Covid, ADA had the ability to meet face to face with our justice-involved consumers. ADA is still able to facilitate the IRP model during this pandemic with assistance from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). ADA recognizes that successful reentry doesn't start the day someone is released from prison or jail. The best outcomes occur when there are preparation and supports before, during, and after release.
- The most important facet of the IRP is listening to the individual when it comes to reentry as far as what they think they need to be successful and not return to prison. This approach allows anxieties about reentry to be expressed. ADA will sit with them, listen to their story, ask about their goals. Empowering individuals to make decisions in their reentry now gives them a voice, which is something they lost as soon as incarceration began. They are no longer a number or another face during court. Empowering individuals shows that ADA is invested in THEIR plan for success. There is no such thing as "one size fits all," which is why ADA reentry offers a commitment to individualized reentry plans.
- In practice, that might mean matching them with a therapeutic approach that appeals to their individual needs/wants. It can mean providing a range of educational and vocational opportunities, or it can mean integrating the client back with family to help create a more supportive and successful home environment.
- Programs and strategies that are built on this framework targets resources to those offenders who are at higher risk of reoffending and provides individualized services to address barriers that each consumer may be expecting or experiencing.
- Once the IRP is constructed, it is hand delivered and discussed at the prison to facilitate and support our consumers with a successful reentry plan.



# RESOURCES INVOLVED WITH IRP

- **We provide and connect individuals to:**
  - Housing Opportunities/ Information
  - Employment Assistance / Interview Prep Training
  - Suitcessful ( ADA provides free business and business casual clothing to our consumers in need)
  - Food Pantry Resources
  - Benefits Assistance and Counseling
  - Independent Living Skills Training
  - Free Individualized GED Training and Testing with Duke University
  - Behavioral / Mental Health Resource information
  - Peer Recovery Support Services and Mentoring
  - Vital Records ( Birth Certificate, Social Security Card )
  - Post-Release wrap-around services
  - SNAP information
  - Medicaid application
  - AA/NA therapy resources





## FIRST CONSUMER

- Meet Adrian
- Adrian was raised in Baltimore MD in a violent urbanized area
- Adrian was involved in illegal activity due to environmental influences
- He was convicted of a felony and sentenced to 20 years of incarceration
- Adrian enrolled in ADA Reentry Pre-Release and worked on his IRP for 16 months.
- Adrian was released and worked with ADA as a reentry specialist
- Adrian is now the Executive Director of another Center for Independent Living in North Carolina

# OUTCOMES/SUCCESS OF ADA REENTRY



**OUTCOMES**

- 212 individuals in Butner have benefitted from ADA Reentry IRP services, with many of the justice-involved individuals being released to the Triangle area and continuing with their Post-release Reentry Services.
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- ADA Reentry now works with DMH to continue serving the I/DD population and have included the TBI population as well.
- Many pre-release consumers are now actively receiving post-release wrap-around services and have obtained housing; have sustainable employment; have applied and received state benefits; and, most importantly, have not reoffended.

# COLLABORATIONS

- Successful Reentry is a multifaceted problem, and no single program can address all the needs at every stage of the process.
- The range of challenges that lead to individuals returning to incarceration can include barriers to employment, housing, lack of family support, lack of problem-solving skills, unresolved emotional and mental health conditions, substance abuse recovery, isolation and lack of community integration, and many others.
- Dunn Rotary Club Of NC
- ADA has a partnership with Duke University and their master's degree level students to offer free, individualized virtual or in-person ( location-based ) GED training and testing in addition to Duke Occupational Therapy students reviewing the data and effectiveness of the program.
- Women's Club of Charlotte has joined on to assist in supporting the Reentry Suit Closet by donating business casual woman clothing.
- Local Reentry Councils ( LRC's ):Wake, Durham,Wilson,Franklin and Orange County
- Federal and State Probation/Parole
- S.W.I.T ( Success while in Transition )
- NCCDD
- Monarch
- FTI360
- NC FIT

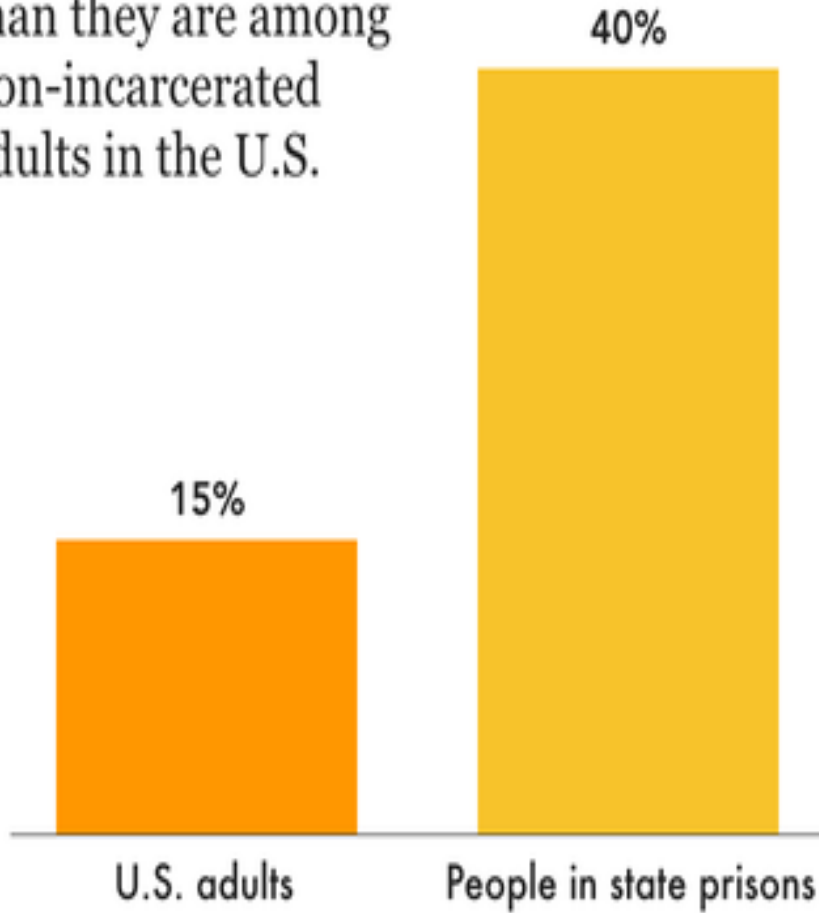
## STATS ON REENTRY AND I/DD



- According to NCDPS, only 55% of inmates with an intellectual disabilities diagnosis have aftercare plans developed prior to leaving the prison system. We assume there are many inmates with I/DD who are not identified/diagnosed based on this language.
- With a recidivism rate of 47% for all inmates within the first 13 months of release, the likelihood of successful transition to productive community life for an incarcerated individual with I/DD is extremely low without proper planning, training, and supports.

**Disabilities are much more common among people in state prisons**

than they are among non-incarcerated adults in the U.S.



**DISABLED  
INDIVIDUALS  
IN PRISON  
SYSTEM**

Sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics' *Disabilities Reported by Prisoners* Table 2 and the Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016

# DISABLED INDIVIDUALS IN PRISON

- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, people behind bars in state and federal prisons are nearly three times as likely to report having a disability as the nonincarcerated population. Cognitive disabilities—such as Down syndrome, autism, dementia, intellectual disabilities, and learning disorders—are among the most commonly reported: Prison inmates are four times more likely to report a cognitive disability than the general population. People with mental health conditions comprise a large proportion of those behind bars, as well. The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that 1 in 5 prison inmates have a serious mental illness.

# KEY STATISTICS ON DISABLED INDIVIDUALS AND LEGAL SYSTEM

- Percent of people in state prisons who have a disability: 40% +
- Of women in state prisons: 50% +
- Percent of people on probation or parole who have a disability: 23% +
- Fraction of people killed by law enforcement who have a disability: 1/3 to 1/2 +
- Percent by which children with disabilities are more likely to be arrested in elementary school: 400% +
- Percent of people in state prison with a history of taking special education classes: 25% +
- Percent of correctional facilities that do not offer any special education classes: 46% +
- Percent of court systems that list mental disability on their websites as a basis for special accommodations: 30%+



# DISABLED AND POLICE INTERACTION

- In a study by the Ruderman Family Foundation, it has been estimated that people with disabilities comprise a staggering one-third to one-half of all individuals killed by law enforcement. According to an investigation by *The Washington Post*, one-quarter of the individuals shot to death by police officers in 2015 were people with mental health conditions.

# MAKES CENTS



- According to a 2022 report from NC Health, housing one incarcerated individual costs the state of North Carolina \$50,000 a year.
- Programs like ADA Reentry that have a proven record of having a high success rate in assisting with successful reentry continues to save the state money, which lowers taxes for all individuals living in North Carolina.



## THE TEAM

- Sharif Brown Director of Reentry/Certified Travel Training Instructor
- Wayne Bell , Reentry Specialist/ Community Inclusion Specialist/Certified Peer Support Specialist
- James Smith Reentry Specialist/ Community Inclusion Specialist/Certified Peer Support Specialist/WRAP facilitator



# PREPARING FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

By: Courtney Wallen

SPECTRUM

# NCDMHSMISUS I/DD TBI AND ADA

- ADA Reentry was able to partner with NCDMHSMISUS to continue this initiative after the grant from the DD council expired. This is a two-year grant that will serve both TBI and I/DD justice involved individuals in the counties of Wake, Durham, Johnston, Franklin, Orange, Pitt, Beaufort and Wilson with pre-release and post release resources.
- ADA Reentry is in conversation to secure a 1.75 million dollar grant to expand the program and offer state of the art transitional funding for individuals that will include assistance with security deposits, rental assistance, clothes, cellphones, food, and monthly bus passes to assist individuals with their transition and supporting those individuals already in society with a more holistic support approach.

# CLOSING



- Whether focused on education, employment, transitional housing, substance abuse treatment or building cognitive and emotional resources, ADA knows individualized reentry plans support successful reentry and reduce recidivism. Luckily, the increased awareness of evidence-based best practices can provide a strong foundation, and ADA believes we can assist in creating safe communities by successfully integrating formerly incarcerated individuals.
- **ADA is also funded by donations, volunteer hours, and grants.**

# LINKS



- A Spectrum News Story:
  - <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/charlotte/news/2020/12/30/disability-advocacy-group-revamps-prison-reentry-program>
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Presentation:
  - <https://youtu.be/POWnTCKXHBI>
- IRLU Presentation:
  - [https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/N8uOuLS5wTUOOQ\\_kEXZAT2pjbj5cbzztRQBnOiqIUZkQb4jIUPYkjbTvQg2WLMmsxjf7v-QEr0t7vk0Q.6uGR9XrqwcPISles?continueMode=true](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/N8uOuLS5wTUOOQ_kEXZAT2pjbj5cbzztRQBnOiqIUZkQb4jIUPYkjbTvQg2WLMmsxjf7v-QEr0t7vk0Q.6uGR9XrqwcPISles?continueMode=true)
- Adrian Boone's Story ( first IRP reentry consumer ):
  - <https://youtu.be/OIDnco-ISzY>
- NAMI Presentation 2
  - <https://youtu.be/ndO9ljEXttk?si=MvCARtaeEOfxOp-l>



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THANK YOU

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QUESTIONS?

