

North Carolina Task Force *for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice*

Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice March Clips

TREC's monthly newsletter highlights progress on some of our [recommendations](#) across North Carolina.

Clips

Assess a defendant's ability to pay prior to levying any fines and fees (Rec. 101)

NC Judicial Branch: [Supreme Court Adopts Ability-to-Pay Rule](#)

Rule 28 establishes a motion procedure for a defendant to request an equitable imposition of monetary obligations in a criminal case or an infraction case based on the defendant's ability to pay.

Establish a juvenile review board within the Governor's Clemency Office (Rec. 70)

NC Governor: [Governor Cooper Grants Clemency to 3 People who were Juveniles when Crimes Committed](#)

Governor Cooper has commuted the sentences of three people who were convicted for crimes committed when they were teenagers.

Develop violence prevention programs (Rec. 4)

News & Observer: [Raleigh has a new gun violence problem. Will it spend \\$2 million to fight it?](#)

Gerald Givens Jr. has a lot to back up his asking Raleigh for a big investment in fighting gun violence.

Treat addiction as public health crisis (Rec. 17)

Asheville Citizen-Times: [Buncombe County hired its 1st behavioral health manager. What is she going to do?](#)

Victoria Reichard is Buncombe County's first Behavioral Health Manager, and two days into her job, she was meeting with people she was hired to serve.

Expand voting rights (Rec. 119)

The Crime Report: [Reminders Raise Voting Turnout for Ex-Incarcerates](#)

Millions of people in the United States with felony convictions are eligible to vote —despite their criminal record.

Develop a process to eliminate criminal justice debt (Rec. 104)

Charlotte Observer: [Judge approves settlement that could restore suspended licenses](#)

Tens of thousands of low-income North Carolinians with suspended licenses could get their driving

privileges back under the settlement of a longstanding class-action lawsuit accusing the state of violating their constitutional rights.

Expand Criminal Justice Fellows Program statewide (Rec. 52)

Stokes News: [Program offers criminal justice scholarships](#)

If you're a high school student or graduate who is interested in a career in criminal justice, you might consider applying to the North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program.

Mandate body worn cameras for all law enforcement agencies (Rec. 47)

ABC 11: [Durham County Sheriff's Office adds body cameras as many large agencies still lag behind](#)

The nationwide push for trust and transparency from law enforcement has led to more agencies across the nation adopting body cameras, but cost remains a big obstacle.

Respond more appropriately to calls for emergency service (Rec. 1)

NC Health News: [NC on track to roll out 9-8-8 mental health crisis hotline](#)

The hotline offers people experiencing mental distress a different option that is not routed through law enforcement.

Establish and fund restorative justice programs (Rec. 61)

NC Health News: [Restorative justice solutions for youth are growing abroad, can they become part of the mix in the U.S.](#)

Improve pretrial release and accountability practices (Recs. 79-83)

CBS 17: [Wake County leaders working on changes to pre-trial sentencing program](#)

[A committee of a dozen Wake County officials is making changes to an already existing pre-trial sentencing program.](#)

Grant Opportunities

Bureau of Justice Assistance

The purpose of the Swift, Certain, and Fair (SCF) Supervision Program is to provide state, local, and tribal community supervision agencies with information, resources, and training and technical assistance (TTA) to engage in collaborative problem solving with stakeholders using data and research-informed strategies to assess and improve responses to client behavior in accordance with the principles of swiftness, certainty, and fairness; improve supervision outcomes; prevent recidivism; reduce crime and incarceration in their jurisdictions; promote the fair administration of justice; and advance public safety.

Link to additional information: <https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2022-171046>

National Institute of Justice

The objectives of this solicitation are to support applied research that examines: the impact of diversion programs that promote alternatives to arrest and incarceration among persons who experience mental health issues on the administration of justice and public safety; and the impact of restorative justice strategies on the administration of justice and public safety.

Link to additional information: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=338934>

NCDOJ Cannabis Policy Webinar

The webinar series covers a diverse set of policy issues related to cannabis. On Friday, April 8 at 1 p.m., webinar speakers will look at racial equity issues related to cannabis policy.

Recordings of the webinars and more information are available here: <https://ncdoj.gov/cannabispolicy/>

TREC Meetings

The Task Force held its quarterly meeting on Friday, April 1, to discuss its progress and goals for 2022. A recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

For access to TREC meetings click [here](#) and for TREC events click [here](#). Upcoming meetings:

- April 6 at 10 a.m.: TREC Law Enforcement Advisory Group
- April 7 at 11 a.m.: TREC Prosecutor Advisory Group
- April 21 at 8 a.m.: Judicial Committee
- April 26 at 2 p.m.: Executive Committee
- April 27 at 8 a.m.: Local Policy Committee
- April 29 at 9 a.m.: Data Committee

For more information, please visit ncdoj.gov/trec or email TREC at criminaljustice@ncdoj.gov.