

Drivers License Restoration Program Expansion

Driver Restoration Initiative and Vocational Expansion (DRIVE)



February 2020

Forsyth County Driver's License Restoration Effort

- Initiative Began in October 2015 by District Attorney Jim O'Neill
- To date approximately 2000 people have received assistance
- Designed for minor traffic matters (non violent; no pending felonies)
- Need for assistance remains in Forsyth County



- Council Member James Taylor charged staff to explore ways to remove barriers to expand the program
- Clerk of Court Renita Linville supportive of the program expansion

City Partnership for Program Expansion – Initial Cost Information

Staff Expenses

Clerk of Court - Admin	\$47,300.00
District Atty - ADA	\$62,200.00
District Atty - Legal Asst.	<u>\$49,500.00</u>
	\$159,000.00

Website Development / Marketing - Cost TBD



Due to the need for staff to access proprietary information, positions would be housed and report directly to the District Attorney and the Clerk of Court.

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18-Month Program Support

Salary and Fringes \$266,000

- Clerk of Court – Administrative Clerk
- DA - Assistant District Attorney
- DA - Legal Assistant

Operational Expenses \$9,000

Total Cost \$275,000

Annual Program Cost - \$184,000



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Program Research

- License restoration is connected to increased employment opportunities
- A 2018 study found that “clean slate clinic participants experience significant increase in average employment rates and average real earnings”
- Nearly 1,900 job categories require a driver’s license;
- While “not all jobs require a driver’s license, having one is a very common requirement for the sorts of job that can actually lift people out of poverty,” including construction, manufacturing, security, and utilities.
- 45% of people with driver’s license suspensions, in one study in New Jersey, reported losing their job and not being able to find a new one. For individuals who did find work, 88% reported decreases in income.



Program Objectives

Allow individuals to restore driving privileges and improve their ability to earn a living and contribute to the economy.

Protect Forsyth County by increasing the number of lawfully licensed drivers with insurance

Provide additional resources to focus on violent crime

Program Framework

Forsyth County Program Framework:

- Program addresses only Forsyth County tickets;
- Participants only participate in this program one time;
- Addresses tickets that are typically older (within the DA's discretion);
- Would not address past charges that involved:
 - Violence,
 - DWI,
 - School bus traffic violations,
 - Hit and run violations,
 - Sex offenders and/or persons currently imprisoned.

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