415 Campaign: 1 Year of Impact

Expanding Access to Fines & Fees Relief in North Carolina

END CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEBT NORTH CAROLINA

April 15th ("4/15") highlights the AOC-CR-415 motion, a tool that allows people to ask the court to waive or reduce unaffordable fines and fees.

What is the 415 Campaign?

It raises awareness about the AOC-CR-415 motion, while promoting the importance of ability-to-pay determinations in court. It also connects community members with support to seek relief and provides assistance with completing and filing motions.

How the 415 Process Works?

1. Get your court records
2. Complete the 415 motion
3. File with the clerk and receive a court hearing date
4. Ask the court to waive or reduce unaffordable fees

> ***"It helped me become a productive member of society...The financial burden got relieved and I was able to get a house, a vehicle, a good job, and the mental wellbeing is what you call priceless"***
>
> **-Rick S., 415 Campaign Community Member**

Impact at a Glance

>200 engaged community members

$19,781 amount of debt waived

18 counties where motions were filed

72% of motions fully granted

19% of motions partially granted

71 motions filed

Why it Matters?

- Court fines and fees can create lasting barriers to stability – including driver's license suspensions, extended system involvement, and financial hardship
- The 415 motion creates a pathway to relief, but many people are not aware it exists
- Many people who qualify for relief are never assessed for their ability to pay
- Without access to information and support, court debt can continue to grow and follow people long after their case is closed

What We're Seeing?

- Many people qualify for relief but are not aware the 415 motion exists
- Ability-to-pay assessments are not consistently applied in court
- Outcomes vary by county and judge
- Access to information and support improves outcomes

Can this Model be Replicated?

This model can be replicated by combining:

- Public education about the 415 motion
- Community-based outreach
- Legal and non-legal support
- A clear and simple filing process

What's Next?

- Build of our progress as we work towards our goal of filing 415 motions
- Expanding awareness of the 415 motion and how to access relief across NC
- Grow outreach and partnerships to reach more impacted communities
- Determine ways to challenge criminal-civil financial judgments that stand in the way of successful reentry and driver's license restoration

415 Campaign Partners

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