



Mecklenburg Justice Project

Everyone deserves to live in a community free from crime and violence. Unfortunately, crime statistics are on the rise in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Our jails are overcrowded, and our social services have not kept pace with the increasing numbers of families facing problems such as substance abuse, mental health, and homelessness.

Grassroots Leadership, a Charlotte-based national non-profit that works on issues of public safety and justice, is building a coalition of organizations and individuals to help transform justice and public safety policies in the County. We will develop and work towards a menu of reforms and programs targeting our limited public monies to make our community safer.

Mecklenburg Justice Project Goals

- Build a safe and just community in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County

We believe that safety and security are essential to the public well-being. We also believe that the long term safety and security of the community depends on a fair, just, and effective criminal justice system.

- Use public monies wisely and strategically

Incarceration is the most expensive tool in the criminal justice toolbox. We believe that alternatives to incarceration may, in some cases, provide more cost effective means of protecting the public safety.

- Establish public policy and infrastructure to sustain reforms

We believe that systemic changes, rather than short-term programs, are key to ensuring a community that is both safe and just. Our coalition will address needed legislative, policy, and procedural reforms.

About Grassroots Leadership

Grassroots Leadership has worked with communities in the South since 1980. We are a multi-racial team of organizers who help Southern community, labor, faith, and campus organizations think critically, work strategically and take direct action. With a multi-year founding grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Grassroots Leadership is focusing its attention on the growing public safety and justice issues in Charlotte.

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