

FAITHACTION ID NETWORK



An ID is just a piece of plastic until a human being gives it a name, a face, and a story, and a community gives it value and integrity.

What is the purpose of the FaithAction ID card program?

To build greater understanding, trust and cooperation between local law enforcement and other local sectors, and our diverse community. Our goal is to create a safer, more inclusive and united communities for all people in North Carolina.

Who has a FaithAction ID card?

Over **10,000** North Carolina residents now have a FaithAction (or network partner) ID card. This number includes new immigrants and refugees in North Carolina, as well as homeless and elderly individuals, people recently returning from jail, and those who support a diverse and inclusive community (including religious and city leaders, and state representatives).

Why is the FaithAction ID program needed?

Many North Carolina residents, including many citizens, do not have the necessary requirements to receive a state issued ID card. They may urgently need and be required to prove their identity for numerous reasons each day. The FaithAction ID card provides residents with a verifiable form of identification that can be used as a tool by law enforcement, health centers, businesses and cultural arts organizations to better identify, serve, and protect them. The card also establishes membership to FaithAction and other network partners.

What are the limitations of the FaithAction ID card?

The FaithAction ID card is not a state issued form of identification (and clearly notes this fact on the back of the card), or a driver's license. It cannot be used to vote, and does not entitle card holders to any social welfare benefits.

What are the requirements to receive an ID card?

All participants must attend an ID drive, in which they are required to listen to a 30 min orientation on the benefits and limitations of the card, and then go through a vetting process in which they must provide proof of address and identity. The required list of approved documents have been agreed upon by local law enforcement partners, and all those at the document check station have been trained. An immigration attorney or paralegal is present at each table if there are questions, and police can also be called upon to verify certain document requirements.



What community partners currently support the program?

Numerous law enforcement departments have expressed support of the program and participated in ID drives, along with several major health centers, and over 25 businesses and cultural arts organizations. Recently the city of Cincinnati, Ohio became the first partner outside of North Carolina to join the Faith Action ID network, and we also recently trained partners in Houston, Texas. **Current supporters include:**

Sheriff Offices

Forsyth, Moore, and Orange
County Sheriff Offices

Police Departments

Greensboro, Winston-Salem,
Burlington, Graham, Elon, Mebane,
Gibsonville, Chapel Hill, Carrboro,
Durham, Robbins, Asheboro, and
Roanoke Rapids Police,
Hillsborough

Health Centers

Wake Forest Baptist Hospital/Faith
Health NC, Novant Health, and
Moses Cone Health network,
Samaritan Health Center

What is the FaithAction ID network?

A collection of nonprofit organizations, faith communities, and community groups that partner together to establish and host FaithAction ID card drives in several counties throughout North Carolina and Ohio. All partners have agreed to utilize the exact same FaithAction ID drive and dialogue model, and vetting system. Partners also participate in monthly calls to share updates and best practices. **Current partners include:**

◇ FaithAction International
House
◇ Hispanic League
◇ FaithHealth NC
◇ El Centro Hispano

◇ Blessed Sacrament Catholic
Church
◇ The Latin American Coalition
◇ The North Carolina Council of
Churches

◇ Asheboro and Robbins Unidos
◇ Latino Commission on Aids
◇ Catholic Charities of SW Ohio
◇ Metro Area Religious Coalition
of Cincinnati

How does the ID program build trust with local law enforcement, and other local sectors?

Several law enforcement officers are present for each ID drive, and engage in remarkably positive dialogue with ID participants. Officers listen to the needs and concerns of the community, while also educating the community on laws, and ways to report and help resolve crimes. It is not uncommon for crimes to be privately reported to trusted officers at ID drives.

What is the impact for our communities?

After just one year of the program, law enforcement in Greensboro publicly shared that several serious crimes had been reported and resolved by participants in the FaithAction ID program, and other law enforcement partners have experienced similar success in creating safer communities. Additionally, FaithAction recently interviewed 150 FaithAction ID card holders, and **over 95% said that they had found the ID very useful with community partners, and that they felt safer, and more likely to report and resolve crimes** after having had positive interaction with local law enforcement at ID drives. Health centers have additionally reported how helpful the ID has been to establish identity for crucial health services and records, and businesses/cultural arts organizations have also greatly appreciated attracting new diverse customers.



Support from law enforcement, domestic violence agencies, and health centers:

The Burlington Police Department has been involved with the Faith Action ID Card program for several years. Every month we are able to attend an ID drive and engage new residents. We discuss many aspects of public safety and build great relationships with folks who previously were suspicious or fearful of the police. These relationships lead to enhanced safety for immigrants and citizens alike.

- **Jeffrey Smythe**, Burlington Police Chief

The ID drives are especially important in building trust among law enforcement agencies and victims, including victims of intimate partner violence. Not having identification creates a barrier to reporting and seeking assistance. All victims have a right to be free of violence and should be able to rely on the institutions that address intimate partner violence for protection of themselves and their children. A FaithAction ID allows law enforcement, health centers, and businesses to better identify, serve, and protect all survivors.

- **Dana Mangum**, Executive Director of the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

The FAITH ID program has helped the Greensboro Police Department reach out, get to know, and develop trust in a section of our community that has been traditionally underserved and over victimized. The bridges built in trust through this partnership have led to a safer community overall, not just for the ID recipients.

- **Mike Richey**, Greensboro Police Department Deputy Chief

The FaithAction ID program has become an essential partner, helping Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center move into mutually healing relationship with our patients, families and neighbors, including those without documents. This hospital was founded by the NC Baptist Convention in 1922 to provide care to anyone in the state who God so loved; the ID program helps us fulfill that vision by making it safe for our patients to come to receive care by ensuring we know who they are through accurate identification. The integrity and intelligence of the program has also brought us into a new level of collaboration with police and other public servants.

- **Reverend Gary Gunderson**, Vice President of FaithHealth, a Division of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center

Link to brief video documentary: <https://vimeo.com/204267553>

Contact: For more information, visit faithaction.org, or contact FaithAction Executive Director, Rev. David Fraccaro at dfraccaro@faihouse.org or (336) 379-0037, ext 2.