



Benevolence Farm

WHERE SECOND CHANCES GROW NATURALLY

RESIDENT APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in Benevolence Farm! We are excited to begin our relationship with you as part of your reentry support network. Before you begin, please look over the FAQs below.

If you have any questions that aren't answered here, please reach out to Cassie Hanson (hello@benevolencefarm.org or 336-639-8833) for more information.

1. How long does the application process take?

Once you submit your application, staff logs it in our database. When you are 90 days or less from release, staff will contact you and/or your case manager to set up a phone interview. After the interview, we will send you a physical letter and email your case manager notifying you whether you have been accepted. We highly suggest submitting your application at least five months before your release date.

2. What is expected of me to apply and be a resident?

Please complete the written application fully and honestly, and be sure to include a reliable contact method/person (it can be a case manager, friend, family member, etc). Our residents must be willing to participate in all programmatic activities, and be able to work 24 hours a week on our farm. Depending on the season, employment may mean working outside in the garden or creating body care products and candles infused with herbs and flowers. Residents must also be passionate about creating a safe and inclusive environment for people of all backgrounds and identities (including people of color, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, transwomen, and women of all other backgrounds).

3. Is Benevolence Farm a recovery/rehabilitation program?

We are not a licensed recovery or rehabilitation program, nor are we able to provide direct clinical mental or physical health support. We are solely a reentry program and cannot support residents who need clinical recovery or rehabilitation support.

Should you need to enter detox, rehab, or more structured clinical care outside of incarceration, we can discuss options for after the completion of that program.

4. What is the difference between your two housing locations?

Our farmhouse is located in Graham (Alamance County) and offers both housing and employment on 13-acres in the rural part of our community. This option has more structure and is often the best choice for women who are just leaving prison. Our 307 house in downtown Burlington (Alamance County) offers housing, but not employment. Residents coming to the 307 house must arrange their own transportation, which means either obtaining a car, riding the bus, or arranging rides with a service. Residents at the 307 House have 30 days from the beginning of their residency to find employment in the community. The 307 House is a good fit for people who feel slightly more secure in their reentry at the time of their application, and are looking for a structured reentry environment that provides more independence than the Farm house. Applicants with a history of substance use are not eligible for initial residency at the 307 House, but may be considered for the Farm House if just leaving prison or jail.

6. Do you accept people of all conviction types?

Yes, both locations are open to people of all conviction types and lengths of incarceration.

7. What happens if I am not accepted into the program/waitlisted?

If you are denied acceptance into our program or waitlisted for any reason, we encourage you to maintain contact with the organization so we can assist you with resource matching or referrals. If you want to check the status of your waitlist position at any point, you can contact us at hello@benevolencefarm.org or call/text us at 336-639-8833.

RESIDENT APPLICATION

Mail your application to PO Box 1313, Graham, NC 27253 or scan and email it to hello@benevolencefarm.org via family, friends, or your case manager.

BASIC INFORMATION

TODAY'S DATE: ___/___/___

FIRST NAME: _____ MI _____ LAST NAME: _____

PREFERRED NAME: _____ PRONOUNS: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: ___/___/___ OPUS (if in NC state prison): _____

Describe yourself in one to two sentences: _____

Which house(s) are you applying to (circle)? Farm House (Graham, NC) 307 House (Burlington, NC)

Depending on capacity, would you be interested in discussing residency at our other location? (circle) **YES NO**

COUNTY OF LAST RESIDENCE (IF APPLICABLE): _____

DATE OF INCARCERATION: ___/___/___ DATE OF RELEASE: ___/___/___

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT BENEVOLENCE FARM? _____

DEMOGRAPHICS

Note: These answers do not have any impact on our decision-making. They are for data tracking purposes only. Benevolence Farm accepts people of all conviction types and backgrounds.

Will you be on the sex offender registry when you are released from incarceration? (circle) **YES NO**

What is your ethnicity/race? _____ What is your gender identity? _____

Do you identify as transgender? (circle) **YES NO** What is your sexual orientation? _____

Are you disabled or neurodivergent? (circle) **YES NO** Are you a parent? (circle) **YES NO**

RELATIONSHIPS

Are there family members, partner(s), friends who are supportive of your interest in Benevolence Farm? If so, who are they?

Are there persons that are resistant to your participation with Benevolence Farm, do not wish to see you succeed, and/or will be of danger to you? **YES NO** If yes, please explain:

EDUCATION

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT LEVEL OF EDUCATION? _____

DO YOU HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED? (circle one) **Yes** **No**

WHAT ARE YOUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS? _____

WORK AND HOBBIES

What jobs, if any, did you have before prison?

If applying for farmhouse consideration, Have you ever worked on a farm or in the agricultural field? **YES** **NO**

If so, please explain?

What classes and/or activities have you participated in while incarcerated, if available to you?

What are some professional or personal skills you feel you are good at?

Name some of your proudest accomplishments in the last three years.

What are some of your favorite hobbies or pastimes?

Please list your career goals:

HEALTH

How is your overall health now? (circle one) EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR

Do you have any chronic health problems? (circle one) **Yes** **No**

If yes, please specify: _____

Are you currently having any physical problems or challenges? (circle one) **Yes** **No**

If yes, please specify:

Do you have mental health diagnoses? (circle one) **Yes** **No**

If yes, please explain: _____

Do you need support accessing medication and healthcare upon release? **Yes** **No**

If yes, what support are you looking for: _____

Are you currently taking any medications? (circle one) **Yes** **No**

If yes, are the medications you are taking self regulated or do you need support from a medical provider?

Are you allergic to any foods or medications? (circle one) **Yes** **No**

If yes, please specify what: _____

SUBSTANCE USE

Do you have a history of drug and/or alcohol use? Please elaborate. If no, skip to the next section.

What is the status of your recovery?

What was the status of your recovery when you were last in the community, outside of prison or jail?

Have you ever been in residential treatment for drug or alcohol use? What was this experience like?

What are your goals regarding your history of drug and/or alcohol use?

Benevolence Farm is a sober program where alcohol and drugs are not allowed on the property. We hope to incorporate harm reduction and will hold space for individuals who are navigating their recovery journey, while protecting the physical and emotional safety of other residents. This may look like temporarily connecting a resident who has relapsed with a detox facility, and then creating a Safety Plan with them upon their return to the farm, as opposed to immediate dismissal. We intend to partner with and support all of our residents as they work towards their individual goals, which will include substance use treatment, therapy, and other healing offerings.

Does this match your goals while residing with Benevolence Farm? Please elaborate.

Do you have any questions about this policy?

HISTORY OF COURT/LEGAL INVOLVEMENT

Tell us more about why you are or were incarcerated. Feel free to share as little or as much information as you'd like.

Have you incurred any infractions or disciplinary actions while incarcerated? (Circle) **Yes** **No**

If yes, please explain:

Do you have any outstanding legal issues (i.e. warrants, etc.) that you think it would be helpful for us to know about? Please elaborate.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

What would you consider to be your strengths, talents, gifts, etc.?

What is something people often get wrong about you?

What would you consider to be areas of growth?

Why are you interested in Benevolence Farm as a next step for you?

What are the hopes for the next two years of your life?

What are your long-term goals?

QUESTIONS FOR GRAHAM LOCATION *(if you are only applying for the 307 House in Burlington, skip this section and go to the last section)*

How do you feel about caring for animals, making candles, weeding, gardening, and packaging/shipping products as part of your daily duties?

What interests you about farming?

What are your thoughts and how do you feel about living in a rural area far from a major town?

How do you feel about doing very hard physical work outside? Tasks may include weeding, lifting heavy containers, turning compost, and working in the sun, for up to eight hours.

PLEASE USE THE SPACE BELOW FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US/QUESTIONS YOU HAVE FOR US.

Applicant Signature:

For ease of follow up, please include your case manager's information, if you have access to it:

Case Manager Name

Case manager contact number

email

Name, address and contact information of prison where applicant is currently based:
