

July 2020 Durham CAN update

In the last year, CAN has focused on affordable housing, the criminal justice system, and jobs. Much of our work involves meeting with public officials and with people affected by the issues that we work on. The most stirring part of this work are the occasional Delegates Assemblies where as many as 600 people from black, white, and brown communities meet to learn, deliberate, sing, and commit to making Durham a better place for all its residents.

Most recently, our work on reducing the number of evictions from public housing includes regular attendance at eviction hearings and research into other NC cities' whose Housing Authority evictions are much lower than Durham's. We have also pressed for several changes at one of Durham Housing Authority properties, including the need for repairs. When COVID-19 cases began to rise, we met with DA Satana Deberry and secured the release of some older people who were in prison for non-violent crimes who were toward the end of their sentences. We also secured commitments from Sheriff Clarence Birkhead on measures to protect the health safety of people in the Durham County Jail.