The Clean Slate Initiative works to ensure that everyone in America should have a fair opportunity to work, have a safe home, take care of their families, and contribute to their community.

To do so, we bring together businesses, labor and faith leaders, community members, and impacted people across the country to ensure that conviction and non-conviction records are no longer a life sentence to poverty, and past mistakes will no longer define people's futures. Together, we work to pass policies that expand eligibility and automate record clearance for millions of people, ensuring access to jobs, education, housing, and other meaningful opportunities that allow people to provide for themselves and their families.

The Need for Clean Slate

1 in 3 adults in the United States have an arrest or conviction record that limits their ability to work, obtain housing, and engage in civic life. Having a record, even an arrest record, is a significant barrier to economic mobility.

44,000+ state and federal regulatory restrictions that limit individuals with conviction and non-conviction records from accessing employment, occupational licensing, housing, public benefits, voting, education, and other opportunities.

$78 - 87 billion is the estimated loss in gross domestic product every year resulting from shutting people with records out of the workforce.

27% is the unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated people, which is higher than it has ever been for the general population.

The Benefits of Clean Slate

Recent research conducted in Michigan found that a year after record clearance, people are 11 percent more likely to be employed and earn 22 percent higher wages.

Expungement reduces recidivism rates – a study conducted in Michigan found that individuals who had their records sealed were less likely to commit an offense than the general population as a whole.

Outcomes Since the Clean Slate Initiative Launched

Since its inception, the Clean Slate Initiative has helped pass legislation that provides a path for:

2.3 million people to have at least one conviction or non-conviction cleared.

7.3 million conviction and non-conviction cases to be cleared.

2 million people to receive full record clearance.

cleanslateinitiative.org