Today, in most states, individuals have to keep track of when they are eligible for record clearance — a status that typically comes after a period of remaining crime-free, for certain types of records. Then to actually get the record cleared, they are required to navigate a complex and costly petition-based process on their own. Few are successful.

**THE PROBLEM**

The problem is vast, but the solution is simple. Clean Slate legislation not only expands eligibility for record clearance but also streamlines the process by requiring that records be cleared automatically when individuals become eligible.

The Clean Slate Initiative works to build bipartisan support for this crucial solution. Over the next six years, we will create the state coalitions needed to pass and implement Clean Slate laws effectively across states and will dramatically increase record clearance, clearing records for up to 14 million people in America.

Record clearance has a meaningful impact on individuals and their families — research shows that earnings for individuals with cleared records increased by 22% within one year and that those receiving expungement are no more likely to commit crimes than the general population.
OUR PLAN & OUR STRATEGY

2023 — 2029
Pass Clean Slate laws in 15 states.

UNLOCK OPPORTUNITY FOR UP TO 14 MILLION PEOPLE IN AMERICA
10 - 14 MILLION PEOPLE will receive full or partial record clearance.

The team at Clean Slate Initiative is enacting a 50-state strategy to increase access to record clearance for more people in America. In the states where Clean Slate legislation has recently passed, we will focus on enabling implementation. We will also work in states with favorable environments, engaging in multi-year campaigns to pass legislation. And in the states where the environment isn’t as favorable, we will begin groundwork, changing hearts and minds and creating the conditions to pursue campaigns in the future.

In each state, the Clean State Initiative will work with bipartisan leaders and organizations, and offer our expertise on what works: smart policy design, an eye toward implementation from day one, and campaign strategy that centers lived experience. Along the way, we will work to redefine the narrative around people with records, cutting through the bias and stigma, to reorient the legal system to live up to the ideals of second chances.

WHY OUR STRATEGY WILL WORK

Six states have passed Clean Slate laws in the past three years with the Clean Slate Initiative’s help — Oklahoma, Colorado, Utah, Michigan, Connecticut, and Delaware. Together, these efforts will enable record clearance for more than 3 million people in America, with many more set to be cleared in coming years.

These policy wins have been possible because both sides of the aisle can galvanize around this issue, as can business leaders, labor leaders and criminal justice advocates. There is sweeping support for record clearance, and by advancing a nationwide strategy, the Clean Slate Initiative can push it toward the tipping point.

Learn more at cleanslateinitiative.org