

Clean Slate

CLEARINGHOUSE

A project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor
and the U.S. Department of Justice



Justice Center

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

*Effectively Engaging the Community
in Juvenile Record Clearance*

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Speakers

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Clearinghouse

- Online clearinghouse of each state's adult and juvenile record clearance policies, resources, guides, and legal service providers

Audience

- Legal service providers, reentry and workforce service providers, people with criminal records, policymakers

Goals

- Provide accessible, up-to-date information on record clearance policies across the country
- Increase capacity of legal service providers and create a community of practice for record clearance

cleanslateclearinghouse.org

THE CHALLENGES

JUVENILE RECORD MYTHS

- My juvenile record disappears when I turn 18.
- I will never have to answer questions about my juvenile record on applications.
- My juvenile record will not show up on a background check.

CHALLENGES

- We offer record clearance services, but very few people take advantage of them.
 - People don't understand the importance of juvenile record clearance.
 - Few attend our clinics or other events.
- The record clearance process and eligibility requirements are too confusing.

KEYS TO EFFECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

BUILD RAPPORT

- Meet people where they are.
- Listen to and learn from the community.
- Build relationships and make connections.
- Be present and available in the community, not just on event days.



POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

- Why?
- Partner with organizations that already serve your target population.
- Find an organization that the community trusts and one that has a similar mission to your organization.
- Youth voice: Youth are some of the best people to ensure the community understands the benefits of juvenile record clearance and legal services available.

IDEAS FOR PARTNERSHIPS

- Organizations serving youth: YMCA, YWCA, youth & young adult shelters, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, GLSEN, etc.
- Workforce development or job skills/training organizations
- Community colleges
- Churches
- Local law schools
- Local legal aid and defender offices



LANGUAGE

- Use simple and positive language.
 - For both marketing and educational materials
- Communicate the importance of record clearance.
 - Does expungement remove my record from public access?
 - Does expungement give me the opportunity to act as if the offense never occurred?

LOGISTICS

- Location should be easily accessible for your target audience
- Location should be a place where the community feels safe
- Time of event may need to be in “off hours”
– evenings or weekends




OFFER COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

- Provide full representation.
- Complete as much paperwork as possible while sitting with the client.
- File petitions on behalf of clients.
- Assist with gathering required accompanying documentation.
- Raise funds to help with paying any filing fees.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- “Do you have a juvenile record? Do you know it doesn’t just disappear when you turn 18? Plan for your future!”
- Use simple and positive language.
- Avoid including eligibility requirements.
- Tag partner organizations.
- Provide date(s), time(s), and contact information.


SOCIAL MEDIA



**BECAUSE
RECORDS
DON'T
DISAPPEAR
WHEN YOU
TURN 18**

A FRESH START IS KEY TO SCHOOL, HOUSING,
AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES WHICH IS WHY WE
FOCUS ON EXPUNGING YOUR RECORD.

GAULT 50 DEFENDING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS



SOCIAL MEDIA



QUESTIONS?

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Learn More About Record Clearance

Email: cleanslate@csgjusticecenter.org

Sign up to receive newsletters and other announcements at
cleanslateclearinghouse.org

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