Effectively Engaging the Community in Juvenile Record Clearance
Speakers

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<th>Clearinghouse</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Goals</th>
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<td>Online clearinghouse of each state’s adult and juvenile record clearance policies, resources, guides, and legal service providers</td>
<td>Legal service providers, reentry and workforce service providers, people with criminal records, policymakers</td>
<td>Provide accessible, up-to-date information on record clearance policies across the country</td>
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|  |  | Increase capacity of legal service providers and create a community of practice for record clearance |
| cleanslateclearinghouse.org | The Council of State Governments Justice Center |
THE CHALLENGES
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.
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
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.
“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.
SOCIAL MEDIA

EXPUNGEMENT
MEANS PLANNING YOUR NEXT STEP

Don’t let a juvenile record hold you back.

Find out if you’re eligible for record expungement at:
www.expungephiladelphia.com
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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