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](http://cleanslateclearinghouse.org)

The Council of State Governments Justice Center
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
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
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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