

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a white eraser, actively erasing a surface. The surface has a dark, textured appearance with visible horizontal lines, suggesting a chalkboard or a similar material. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sense of motion and focus on the erasing action.

The Clean Slate Initiative

Presentation to Central Missouri Recovery Coalition /
MCRSP CENTRAL CONFERENCE
August 11, 2022

Everyone in America should have a fair opportunity to work, have a safe home, take care of their families and contribute to their communities.

Clean Slate is a bipartisan organization that brings together impacted people, business, lawmakers, public safety officials and clergy to lift barriers so that a past arrest or conviction record does not become a life sentence to poverty.

We use technology to automate arrest and conviction record clearance for people who meet eligibility requirements and have remained crime-free for a period of time.

Clean Slate believes everyone deserves a shot at redemption. People who have made mistakes, paid their debt to society, and now want to make a better life for themselves and those who depend on them deserve a chance to do so.

Our principles

- **Impacted People:** CSI believes that those most impacted by incarceration and criminalization should be central in deciding and implementing remedies that improve their lives;
- **Racial Justice:** CSI recognizes that many people in the criminal justice system have been impacted by racial and gender discrimination as well as racial profiling in policing, incarceration and reentry, therefore criminal justice and economic policies must address equity;
- **Bipartisanship:** CSI works with stakeholders across the political spectrum who share our fundamental values that fair treatment, redemption and access to meaningful second chance opportunities must be available to all.
- **Local, State, Federal:** CSI believes that change happens from the ground up and that constituents in every community across the country are central to durable, lasting transformation in our country.

What is the impact of past records?

Between **70 million and 100 million Americans**—1 in 3—now have some type of arrest or conviction record.

Nearly half of all children now have at least one parent with a record.

Nearly **9 in 10 employers, 4 in 5 landlords, and 3 in 5 colleges** use background checks to screen applicants.

People with past records are half as likely as other jobseekers to get a callback from an employer.

What is “Clean Slate” legislation?

Many states allow individuals to petition the court to have certain records cleared but the kinds of records vary by state and some states have no process for clearing records.

Because of cost, complexity, and lack of legal representation, the vast majority of individuals eligible to clear, seal, expunge, or set aside their records never obtain relief—they are trapped in the “gap.”

Clean Slate policies aim to automate the record clearance process for those who are eligible so people can get fair access to relief and move on with their lives.

Why should states pass “Clean Slate” policies?

Everyone in America should have an **opportunity** to make a living, take care of their **families** and participate in their **communities**.

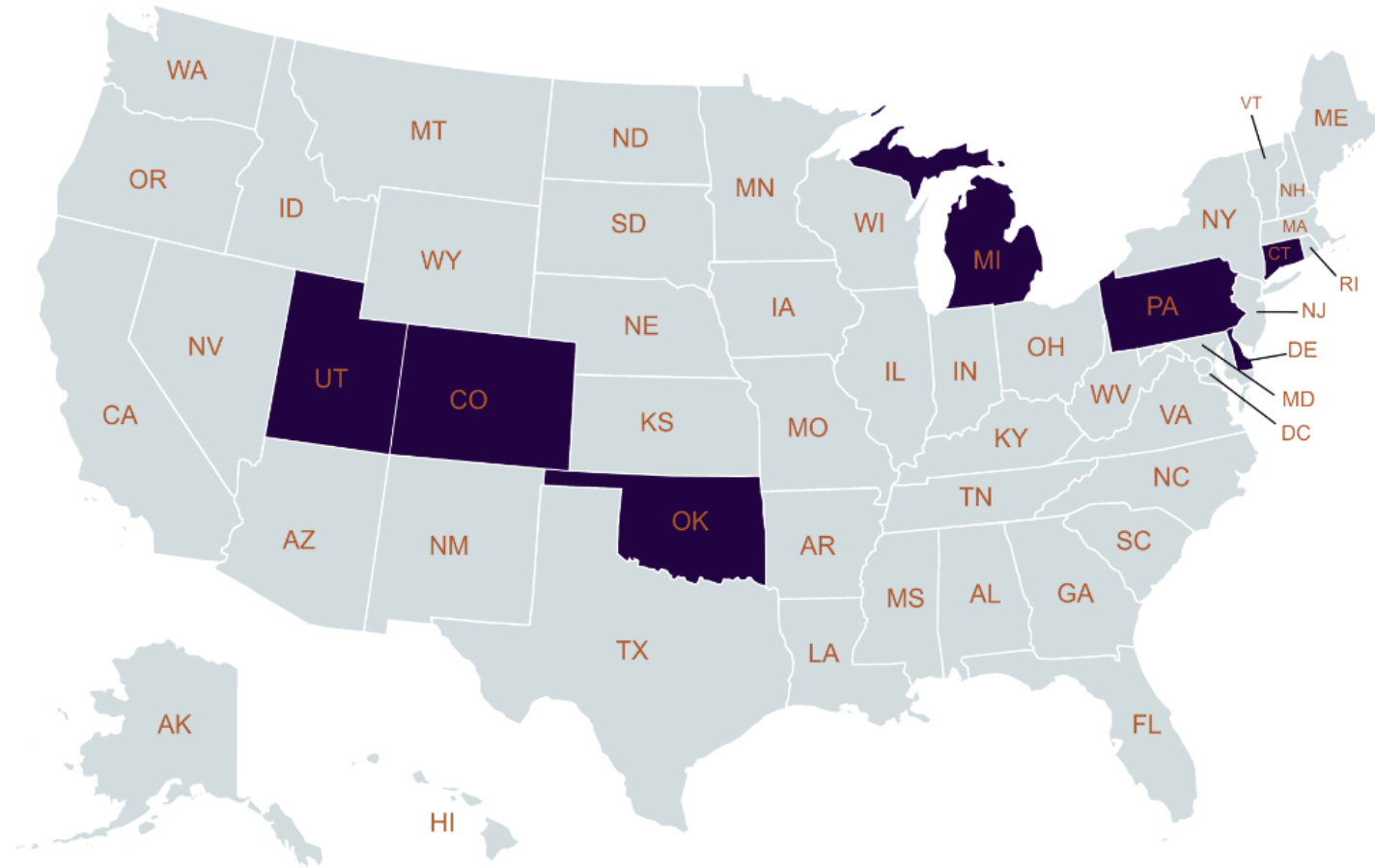
Clean Slate laws lift barriers to:

- Employment
- Furthering Education
- Getting a professional license
- Participation in family and civic activities.

Automatic expungement saves states money, streamlines bureaucracy, increases productivity and reduces recidivism.



States that have passed Clean Slate Legislation



States Working on Passing CS Laws

Illinois

Louisiana

Oregon

Missouri

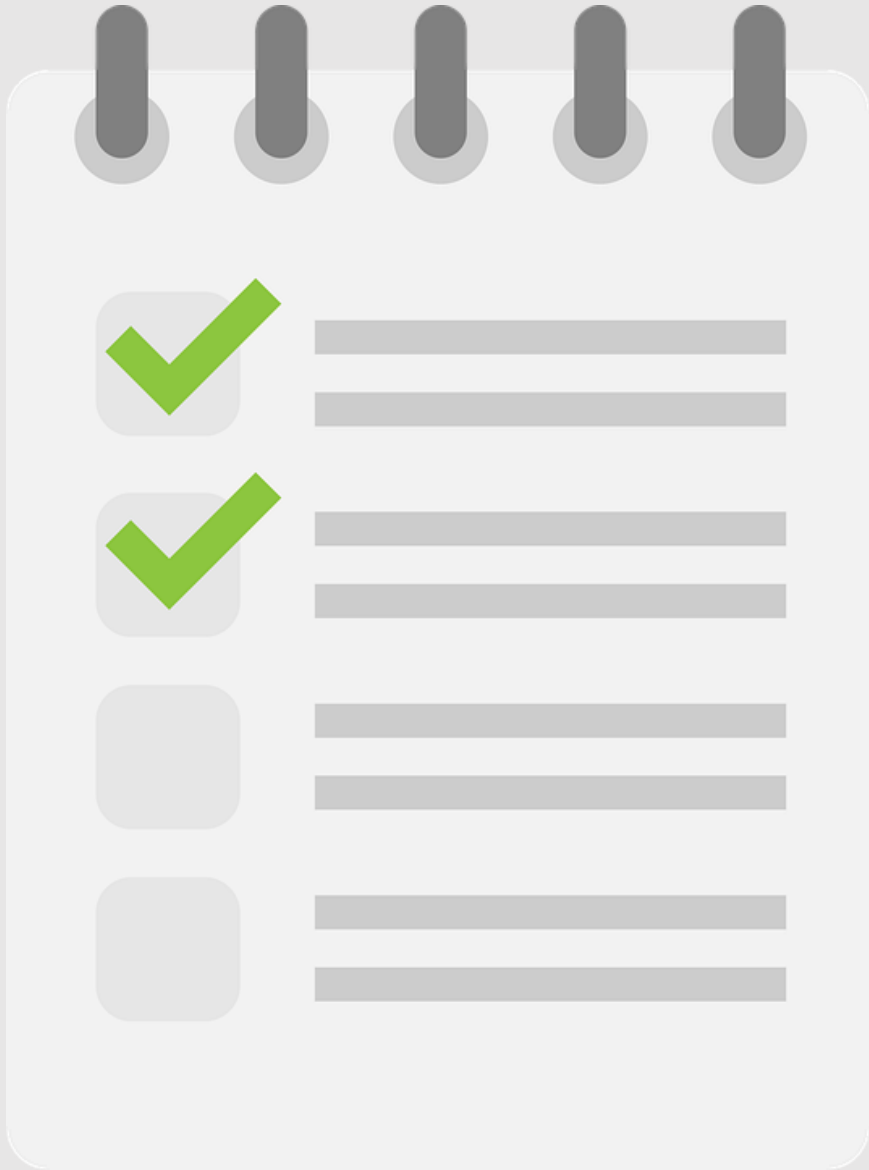
Texas

Kentucky

North Carolina

New York

New Jersey



Policy Objectives

Automate the record clearance process for records that are eligible for petition-based clearance;

Update eligibility for record clearance via the petition-based process with the goal of automating clearance of as many offenses as possible;

Decrease the period an individual must wait to benefit from record clearance based on public safety research.

What is the recommended Clean Slate automation process?

Due to state variation in record clearance laws, processes, data systems, and flow of information among agencies, there is no “one” recommended way to automate the record clearance process.



Why should we update eligibility?

As states review expungement statutes, it can become clear that some convictions could safely be added to the list of offenses eligible for record clearance.

For example, some non-violent, drug-related offenses could be categorized as felonies, but in actuality, those with this particular type of conviction could benefit from a second chance.

Each state must review and make these decisions based on the unique needs of its citizens.

What does research show about waiting periods?

A waiting period is the amount of time a person must remain crime free before becoming eligible for automatic record clearance.

Once individuals have been crime free for a few years, they have reached what researchers call the “**point of redemption**” meaning they are no more likely than anyone in the general population to commit a crime.



Who are our partners?

CSI partners with a wide variety of state and national groups who all share a common commitment to advancing policies that lift barriers for justice impacted people and provide a fair second chance to rebuild lives while making our communities safer and increasing economic opportunity.

JPMorgan

Center for American Progress (CAP)

Fines and Fees Justice Center

American Conservative Union

Right on Crime

Responsible Business Initiative for Justice (RBIJ)

R Street Institute

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Code for America

www.cleanslateinitiative.org

UMKC

Springfield Bar Association

Missouri Workers' Center

Empower MO

NAACP

All of Us Or None

Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU)

MO Faith Voices

Many others. . .

www.mocleanslate.org



THANK YOU



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