

NATIONAL EXPUNGEMENT WEEK 2019

IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 2020



ALBUQUERQUE, NM
ATLANTA, GA
AUSTIN, TX
BOSTON, MA
CHICAGO, IL
DENVER, CO
DETROIT, MI
HOLYOKE, MA
HONOLULU, HI
LANSING, MI
LONG BEACH, CA
LOS ANGELES, CA
MACON, GA
MADISON COUNTY, IL
MILWAUKEE, WI
NEW BEDFORD, MA
NEW YORK CITY, NY
NEWARK, NJ
PHILADELPHIA, PA
PHOENIX, AZ
PONTIAC, MI
PRENTISS, MS
QUINCY, MA
ROYAL OAK, MI
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
SAN MARCOS, CA
SAVANNAH, GA
TACOMA, WA
WASHINGTON, DC
WORCESTER, MA

NEW 2019 SUMMARY

In 2018, we held the first-ever National Expungement Week, which included 18 events in 15 cities across the U.S. In 2019, we aimed to double our reach and impact, and we succeeded.

N.E.W. 2019 featured more than 40 events in 30 cities. 652 people began the process of clearing or sealing their records. As always, we aim to provide wraparound services that go beyond record clearance as well. N.E.W. 2019 events provided a combination of legal relief (record clearance and/or sealing), fine and fee reduction, education about changes in record clearance policy, voter registration, employment workshops, health screenings, and other services needed by individuals and communities that have been harmed by the War on Drugs. In 2019, 3,069 people received services of some kind.

Our impact expanded in other ways as well. Proclamations recognizing National Expungement Week were issued by the Governor of Colorado, a County Commissioner in Georgia, the Washington, DC City Council, and the Mayor of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Attorney General of Virginia and the Cook County State's Attorney in Illinois spoke in support of N.E.W. as well.

2019 also marked the first year of partnership with Code For America, which hosted the 7th annual National Day of Civic Hacking (NDOCH) on September 21st, the first day of N.E.W. This year's NDOCH events focused on the criminal justice system and the record clearance process.

Code for America Brigades hosted 46 events across the country, and over 1000 people attended with the common goal of making their local governments work better. Some of the NDOCH events were joint events with N.E.W. organizers. This created a dialogue



\$7,143,964

PUBLIC BENEFIT CREATED

INCLUDES INCREASED WAGES, REDUCED PUBLIC SPENDING, AND OTHER BENEFITS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS; CHAPIN, MEYLI, ET AL. "A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL RECORD EXPUNGEMENT IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY." STANFORD PUBLIC POLICY PRACTICUM, 2014.

between directly-impacted individuals and teams of technologists, and those dialogues are continuing.

N.E.W. organizers face an array of challenges, starting with the fact that every state's post-conviction relief policy is different, and most are complicated. Community response to record clearance opportunities also tends to be low: Only 4-6% of people who are eligible for relief apply for it. Lack of accessibility (need for attorneys, multiple document requests, etc.) and distrust in the criminal justice system are two of the main reasons for this low turnout. N.E.W. organizers aim to increase accessibility by hosting events directly in the communities disproportionately impacted by the justice system, offering discounted and/or free transportation to their clinics, and creating welcoming spaces that are staffed by community members.

Outreach strategies varied community by community, and they often included canvassing, phone banking, press releases and other traditional media coordination, radio and television appearances, social media (paid and organic), and flyering at police stations, community centers, job source centers, and other relevant locations. N.E.W. 2019 media outreach created over 341 million media impressions, more than 70 earned media stories, and 100,000 shares on social media. We achieved new coverage by mainstream outlets such as The Guardian, CBS News, Vice, Politico, and Rolling Stone.

National Expungement Week offers individuals and organizations from justice-impacted communities a platform to organize around, and they have used it to advocate for expansion of automated expungement, expansion of eligibility for record clearance, and further criminal justice reforms. Organizers were unanimous in wanting to participate in N.E.W. again next year, so we expect to see continued growth in N.E.W.'s reach and impact in 2020.

3,313

OVERALL ATTENDANCE

3,069

PEOPLE RECEIVED SERVICES OF SOME KIND

750

CLEARED OR REDUCED THEIR COURT FINES/ FEES

652

PEOPLE STARTED THE PROCESS OF EXPUNGING OR SEALING THEIR RECORD

427

VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED

MEDIA IMPACT

341M+

IMPRESSIONS OF
N.E.W. MEDIA

73+

PIECES OF
N.E.W. 2019
COVERAGE

100K+

SOCIAL
SHARES

18.8K

YOUTUBE
VIEWS

TAKEAWAYS

The complex patchwork of policies across the U.S. presents multiple challenges. Filing fees, outstanding fines, the need for childcare and transportation, and the costs of events themselves create economic obstacles to legal relief; the complexity of the record clearance process, which may require records to be collected from multiple courthouses and other sources, creates logistical obstacles; a lack of awareness of the possibility of legal relief, in the places where that is possible, creates an obstacle of knowledge.



LOOKING AHEAD

We will continue to offer opportunities for justice-impacted communities to clear and seal their records, while continuing to call for expanded use of automated record clearance and expanded access to eligibility.

We believe in the necessity of both automation and clinics; technology offers a chance to provide cost-effective legal relief at scale, and events provide opportunities to connect in-person and deliver wraparound services in a coordinated fashion. With 77 million people in the US in possession of a criminal record, we need multi-faceted solutions to address the challenges of these complex problems.

In 2020, we'll aim to expand again. We hope to host N.E.W. events in all 50 states, Washington, DC, and beyond! We expect to serve more people, to advocate for broader and deeper legal relief, and to lift up more communities that have been harmed by decades of a failed, racist War on Drugs. We hope you will join us in that work.

Thanks to all the volunteers, organizers, coordinators, sponsors, partners, supporters, and communities nationwide.

The N.E.W. Team

Presenting Sponsors: *Canopy Growth Corporation & Houseplant*

Contributing Sponsor: *Caliva*

Non-Profit Partners: *Code For America, Rock The Vote, Equity First Alliance*

Coordinating Organization: *Cage-Free Repair*



PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

CLEAN SLATE, MICIA, 1st Choice Homes, Alliance for Black Lives, Clean Slate, 2nd Step, the Y, AMERICA WORKS of Wisconsin, Inc., CODE for MILWAUKEE, BACK VOTERS MATTER, LAND OF LINCOLN - LEGAL AID, Southwestern Illinois workNet, BLACK CANNABIS CULTURE, THE COUGHEE COMPANY, REFORM GEORGIA, PERPETUAL HARVEST, REMAX, California State University SAN MARCOS, Project Rebound, NUEVA ESPERANZA, CHICAGO NORML, TRANSFORMING OPPORTUNITY GIVES, Rights Restoration Project, MICHIGAN LIBERATION, PVCS, Greater Saint Matthews Baptist Church, NJ REENTRY CORPORATION, WAS LIBERATION, DC DREAM CENTER, SAN DIEGO CLEAN SLATE CLINIC, THE OUNCE, takoma wellness center, CODE for DC, AMERICAN FAMILY, Delta Sigma Theta, KERTCHEN LAW, Mayor's Office of Black Male Engagement, ICIPA, LOUD.social, Layfield, CANNABIS LEGAL GROUP, Influential X, Castle Bridge School, CODE for AMERICA, NATIONAL EXPUNGEMENT WEEK 2019, SEMANA NACIONAL DE CANCELACIÓN DE ANTECEDENTES 2019, THE SUPPORT SYSTEM, COOP BY NIMRA, 421 FOR ALL, BLUE DREAM, Cage-Free Repair, LEGAL ACTION CENTER, cb counsel, GWC GREEN WORKER COOPERATIVES, Santiagos, Colectivo Babilla, Silberman School of Social Work HUNTER, The Bronx Defenders, THE ORGANIZING PROJECT, THE LOWER EASTSIDE GIRLS CLUB OF NEW YORK, THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY, beyondcare, Community Service Society, CIVIL SURVIVAL, the NEWGEORGIA PROJECT, NJ YD, NCS, SAINT AND CENTER, Sticky, Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, TRIBE ADVANTAGE CO., NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK, ACLU, MOD, ACLU SMART JUSTICE, ACLU, EQUITY FIRST, MRCC, YOUTH JUSTICE COALITION, Pierce County, ICONIC ACHIEVEMENTS, ssdp, NTC MADE IN JERSEY, HAWAII FRIENDS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, Drug Policy Forum, LAST PRISONER PROJECT, CAP, CODE for HAWAII, CANNABIS COMMUNITY CARE AND RESEARCH NETWORK, Levitate, LI, HIP HAWAII INNOCENCE PROJECT, ROCK THE VOTE, start SMART NEW YORK, Public Defender, RISING STAR, GROWING IN HEALTH, OLD SOUL GARDENS, Tacoma, JACOMA

LOCATION	# OF EVENTS	SERVICES OFFERED								
		EXPIREMENT OR SEALING SERVICES	VOTER REGISTRATION	OTHER LEGAL RESOURCES	EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES	HEALTH RESOURCES	HOUSING RESOURCES	EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES	SOCIAL SERVICES	OTHER
Albuquerque, NM	1			•						
Atlanta, GA	1	•	•							
Austin, TX	1	•	•							
Boston, MA	1	•	•		•	•	•	•		•
Chicago, IL	2	•	•		•					
Denver, CO	1	•	•		•					
Detroit, MI	2	•	•		•			•		•
Holyoke, MA	1	•	•		•	•	•			
Honolulu, HI	1	•				•	•		•	
Lansing, MI	1	•	•		•			•		•
Long Beach, CA	4	•					•		•	
Los Angeles, CA	1	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	
Macon, GA	5	•	•			•	•		•	
Madison County, IL	1	•			•			•		
Milwaukee, WI	2	•			•				•	•
New Bedford, NY	1	•	•							
New York City, NY	5	•	•				•			
Newark, NJ	1	•	•							
Philadelphia, PA	2	•	•	•			•		•	
Phoenix, AZ	1	•	•	•	•			•		•
Pontiac, MI	1	•	•		•			•		•
Prentiss, MS	1	•								
Royal Oak, MI	1	•	•		•			•		•
San Francisco, CA	1	•			•				•	
San Marcos, CA	1			•	•					
Savannah, GA	1	•	•	•		•	•			
Tacoma, WA	1			•						
Washington, DC	1	•	•	•	•				•	
Worcester, MA	1	•				•			•	



REVENUE & EXPENSES BREAKDOWN:

REVENUE \$265,381

INDIVIDUALS

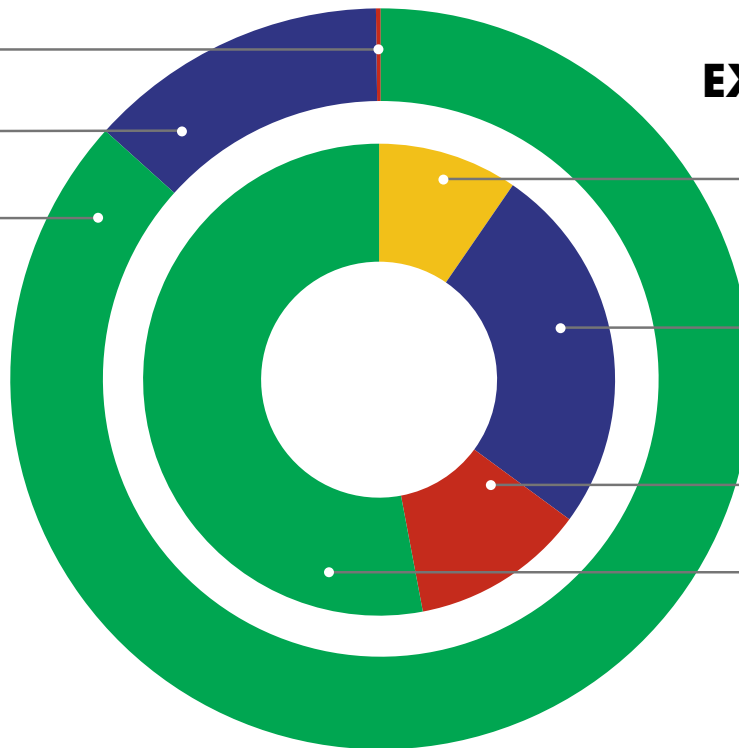
\$551 0.2%

LOCAL SPONSORS

\$34,830 13.1%

NATIONAL SPONSORS

\$230,000 86.7%



EXPENSES \$191,921

FISCAL SPONSORS

\$18,400 9.6%

ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL ORGANIZING

\$48,922 25.5%

COMMUNICATIONS (DESIGN, VIDEOS, PR, OTHER)

\$22,940 12.0%

LOCAL ORGANIZERS

\$101,659 53.0%

We will use unspent funds from NEW 2019 to build capacity for an expanded NEW 2020.

N.E.W. 2020 WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 19-26, 2020



Find us @expungementweek
WWW.OFFTHERECORD.US

