

# Clear My Record

Help millions of Americans break the cycle of poverty and incarceration to gain access to jobs, housing, and education that they deserve.

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AMERICA

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# Clear My Record

## Leveraging technology and design to advance automatic record clearance reforms to clear every eligible record across the U.S.

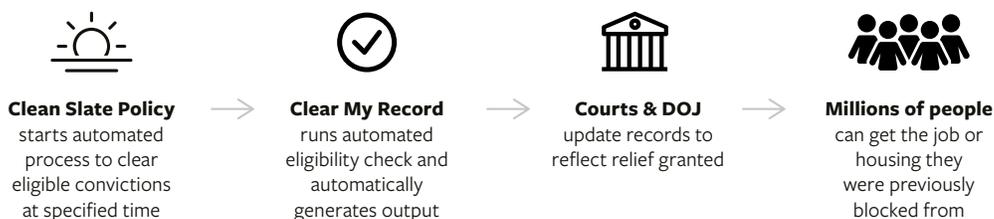
A criminal record should not be a life sentence. Clear My Record, an initiative of Code for America, aims to clear all eligible criminal records by leveraging technology and design to advance automatic record clearance reforms. Our work supports re-entry and decriminalization efforts across the U.S. by removing barriers to employment, housing, health, and education. In the U.S., 1 in 3 adults has a criminal record, pushing 70 to 100 million people out of the workforce and costing the economy up to \$87 billion each year in lost GDP.

The current record clearance process is not designed to serve all who are eligible. It is complex, costly, and confusing for all involved, and throwing “people and paper” at the problem

does not improve the process. The personnel hours and time required to evaluate and process millions of eligible records quickly add up—not to mention the cost of administering such an inefficient process—and years can pass before people receive the relief they are entitled to under the law. As a result, only a small fraction of eligible people are able to clear their record.

Instead, we should bring technology to the table early so that once a record clearance bill passes, governments have the infrastructure in place to automatically deliver relief to people—in a faster and more dignified way.

## Expand, Streamline, and Automate the Record Clearance Process



To address this implementation gap, Code for America launched a pilot in May 2018 to show that the government can automatically clear all eligible criminal records. Code for America set the audacious goal of clearing 250,000 convictions by 2019. We’re partnering with prosecutors in five California counties and utilizing technology to enable the government to provide proactive record clearance services. The Clear My Record technology can read a criminal record, evaluate eligibility for record clearance, and automatically generate motions to be filed with the court.

The pilot begins with remedies available under Proposition 64 (marijuana legalization), which provides Californians with a path to clear marijuana-related convictions. However, as of March 2018, less than 3% of people eligible for relief had filed petitions with the court to have their records reduced or dismissed.

Passing Prop 64 was a huge win for California, but navigating the record clearance process to clear related convictions is unclear, costly, and places an unnecessary burden on people. California has the opportunity to streamline and automate the record clearance process, reducing the workload for the courts and local and state agencies while providing a fresh start to millions.

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“ I’m hopeful that this partnership [with Code for America] will inspire many prosecutors who have cited resource constraints to join this common-sense effort and provide this relief.”

— **George Gascón**, San Francisco District Attorney

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People should not need to file record-clearing petitions one by one. Instead, we should expand, streamline, and automate criminal record clearance by adopting policies that require the automatic clearance of stale arrests and criminal history information at a specified time after the conclusion of a sentence, or after a period of remaining conviction-free.

## Big Wins for Clear My Record in 2018

1. Influenced the passage of AB 1793 in California to expedite the review of convictions eligible for record clearance under Proposition 64
2. Partnering with five counties to help them clear all eligible Prop 64-related convictions in their county
3. Building technology that can securely and accurately evaluate eligibility for approximately 5,000 convictions in under 2 minutes
4. Identified opportunities to expand work nationally, beginning with a partnership with the Philadelphia District Attorney's office to implement the newly passed Clean Slate Act in Pennsylvania

## Clear My Record Across the U.S.

Clear My Record is helping government rethink its approach to record clearance. Building upon its work in California and as part of a national bipartisan movement, Code for America is writing the blueprint on how to use technology and human-centered design to advance automatic record clearance across the nation and remove a significant barrier to jobs, housing, and education for millions.

## About Code for America

Code for America believes government can work for the people, and by the people, in the digital age, starting with the people who need it most. We build digital services that enhance government capabilities, and we help others do the same across all levels of government. We organize thousands of volunteers across nearly 80 chapters nationwide who improve government in their local communities. Our goal: a 21st century government that effectively and equitably serves all Americans. Learn more at [codeforamerica.org](https://codeforamerica.org).

## Join us! It's time to get the implementation right.

To learn more or to become a Code for America partner, please contact **Evonne Silva** at [evonne@codeforamerica.org](mailto:evonne@codeforamerica.org) for additional information.