

#WORKINGfuture

A campaign led by JLUSA



The [#WORKINGfuture campaign](#) is led by people with records organizing to challenge and remove the devastating policies that exclude us from employment, food access, housing, voting, and other basic human and civil rights.

We believe that everyone deserves access to affordable basic services, safety in their communities, and dignity in their lives — **no matter where they live or what their record states.**

CLEAN SLATE MICHIGAN

Twenty seven percent of people with records are unemployed nationwide. In Michigan, there are **787 state laws** that bar people with records from crucial everyday needs — from employment, to education, to housing — ensuring a permanent second class status and a lifetime of stigmatization.

Getting a conviction “expunged” means that it is removed from your public criminal record. An expungement allows someone to legally state on any application for school, employment, public benefits, or housing that you have never been convicted of a crime.

Right now in Michigan, the expungement process is complicated and costly, and too few people are eligible. We must work to make expungement an automatic process, one that is simple and open to more people. By expanding expungement, we can remove barriers to meaningful employment, housing, and education that are faced by millions of Michiganders with records.

We believe that legislation that expands and automates expungement must be driven by the communities that have been most impacted by mass incarceration.

2,196,880

adult Michiganders with criminal records

300,000

average new convictions in Michigan every year

28%

of adults in Michigan have a criminal record

50,000

people in Michigan are convicted of felonies each year

NO ONE SHOULD BE BANNED FROM WORK BECAUSE OF A PRIOR CONVICTION

- As a result of prosecutorial up-charging and over-charging, many Michiganders, disproportionately Black and brown people, cannot access expungement.
- In Michigan, you are only eligible for expungement if you have **not more than 1 felony OR 2 misdemeanor** convictions.
- There are significant exclusions based on traffic offenses, felonies that can carry a life sentence, criminal sexual offenses, and a number of other offenses.
- When people in Michigan receive expungements, their wages go up by **20 percent**.
- In 2018, the Michigan Legislature passed laws that weaken the authority of cities and counties to implement comprehensive fair hiring policies, including Ban the Box which would eliminate the questions about a criminal record on job applications.

MICHIGAN NEEDS A WORKING FUTURE

In Michigan, the #WORKINGfuture campaign partners with local organizations led by directly impacted people to demand an end to the criminalization of people in this state.

We organize to:

- Expand and automate expungement to reflect the needs of the communities most harmed by mass criminalization.
- Support the enactment of fair housing ordinances that will allow people with records to access safe, clean, and affordable housing.
- Support [House Bill 4326](#) to “ban the box” on public and private employers in Michigan.

Michiganders with records have a right to meaningful employment, affordable basic services, and dignity.

**Join us as we create a #WORKINGfuture for all of Michigan. For more information or to get involved contact Megan French-Marcelin at megan@justleadership.org.
justleadershipusa.org/workingfuture**