

# #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.**

## MASS CRIMINALIZATION IN RHODE ISLAND

In Rhode Island, there are **387 state laws** that bar people with from crucial everyday needs— from employment, to education, to housing— ensuring a permanent second class status and a lifetime of stigmatization. Even as the state reduces its incarcerated population, **it is one of the nation's leaders in** erecting barriers for people with records that are near impossible to traverse.

**24,300**

people on probation in Rhode Island

**170**

new crimes and enhanced penalties created in the last two decades

**33.3%**

of adults have a criminal record nationwide

**27.3%**

of people with records are unemployed nationwide

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

- In Rhode Island, there are **90 occupations that require certification and a license** which can deny applicants based solely on their record -- even if they were not convicted.
- Ambiguous **“good moral character” clauses** – can enforce blanket bans on anyone with a conviction from jobs or services.
- While people can receive training for jobs while incarcerated – certified nursing assistant, pipefitter, hairdresser, or cosmetologist – **they cannot obtain the licenses** required by the state to perform those jobs.
- 70 percent of occupations in Rhode Island considered lower-income require an occupational license -- **putting jobs out of reach for anyone with a record.**

## RHODE ISLAND NEEDS A WORKING FUTURE

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

We organize to:

- End blanket exclusions of people with records from obtaining occupational licenses.
- Support Rhode Island's [House Bill 5863](#) and [Senate Bill 610](#).
- Promote economic and racial justice in communities most harmed by mass criminalization.

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

**Join us as we create a #WORKINGfuture for all of Rhode Island.:**  
[justleadershipusa.org/workingfuture](http://justleadershipusa.org/workingfuture)