

**SERVICE TYPE:** Expungement of criminal records for persons experiencing homelessness to reduce barriers to housing and employment

**PROGRAM:** Expungement Clinic

**POPULATION IMPACT**

ALL  FAMILIES    TAY    SINGLE ADULT    VETERAN    CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

**LEAD AGENCY**

County Public Defender

criminal records are eligible for expungements under certain statutory requirements.

**COLLABORATING DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES**

County Probation

The court has created a new expedited calendar for this Expungement Clinic.

District Attorney

The expungement process follows multiple steps.

Criminal Court of Sacramento, Superior Court

Department of Human Assistance

HEAP Flexible Housing Pool

**FUNDING**

\$220,000 in one-time State HEAP funding through Sacramento Continuum of Care through June 2021.

**DESCRIPTION**

The Expungement Clinic is a new program in the Public Defender's Office that will offer expungement services to persons experiencing homelessness referred through the Flexible Housing Pool program and other identified programs working with clients on employment and housing. The Expungement Clinic will also conduct outreach events at emergency shelters on a rotating basis.

The primary service of the Expungement Clinic is to expedite the clearance of criminal records that are creating barriers to services, employment, and housing. Under existing laws, persons with

1. Upon referral, the Public Defender gathers and reviews the client's rap sheet to determine what, if any, charges are eligible for expungement by law. They determine if the client is on probation, parole, or has any active criminal cases or warrants. They send an inquiry to the County Department of Revenue and Recovery who will determine any outstanding debts. Some debts, like victim restitution, will have to be paid in order to qualify expungement. They gather police and sheriff's reports directly and through their relationship with the probation department.
2. Working with the client's case managers, they gather personal information to determine the client's purpose for expungement to help the Public Defender explain to the court why the expungement is warranted and how it will help them eliminate barriers to homelessness.

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3. The Public Defender will file all necessary record clearing petitions. All petitions will be reviewed by Probation who provides a recommendation to the court. All petitions will be reviewed by the District Attorney to decide if they are agreeable or if they will dispute the petition.
4. Once the court date is set, the Public Defender will contact the case worker who will be responsible for transporting the client to the court for the hearing. If no court hearing is needed, the Public Defender will notify the case manager of the outcome.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Person experiencing homelessness with qualifying criminal records convicted in Sacramento, who are working with an eligible referring entity.

### **ACCESS**

Authorizing referral partners will e-mail a designated Public Defender inbox with a completed referral form. The form provides initial client information, identifies the case manager, and authorizes the Public Defender to act on the clients behalf.

### **PERFORMANCE METRICS**

The Expungement Clinic anticipates reviewing a total 1,600 clients over the course of the two-year pilot.

- Individuals served
- Expungement applications
- Successful expungements
- Clients housed
- Clients employed