



# 2021 IMPACT REPORT

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# Our Story So Far

## OUR VALUES

Healing  
Solidarity  
Create  
Ascension  
Dedication  
Legacy  
Fellowship

## OUR VISION

Everyday we work towards the liberation of justice-impacted communities and we see a future where we can heal from injustice and build generational wealth.

## OUR MISSION

National Expungement Works (N.E.W.), is a shift to emancipate justice-impacted communities which have been exploited by systemic inequities and injustices. We believe that whatever is allowed to be expunged, sealed, reclassified, set aside in your state, you should be able to show up and address that. We build and restore pathways for generational healing and wealth through our holistic year-round programming which offers legal relief, wraparound services, and advocacy for the expanded access to expungement.





## 2021 At-A-Glance

While we come to the close of the fourth official year of National Expungement Works (N.E.W.), a shift to emancipate justice-impacted communities exploited by systemic inequities, we are also approaching the third year of the global COVID-19 pandemic. As we were able to adapt to changes while navigating challenges, 2021 has emerged as a meaningful year in the history of the organization. The convergence of the virus, its variants, and multiple pandemics, including racial inequity in healthcare, food insecurities, education, economics, and public safety, may have altered our plans, but they did not deter us from our pursuit of understanding, challenging, and reforming the justice system. The unrelenting trauma generated by the resulting economic hardships have only added more harm to the Black and Brown communities that have already been disproportionately impacted by ongoing systemic inequities and injustices. We'd also be remiss if we didn't highlight the anniversaries that took place this year: the 55th year of The Black Panther Party, and the detrimental 50th year of Nixon's War on Drugs. These two drastically different, but equally important, historical events remind us all that we need to come together with the understanding that there is only one action that will allow us to restore and repair our communities, and that is amnesty.



# 21

Events

# 10

Digital Events

# 75

Volunteers

# 231

Online Attendance

# 1510

In-Person Attendance

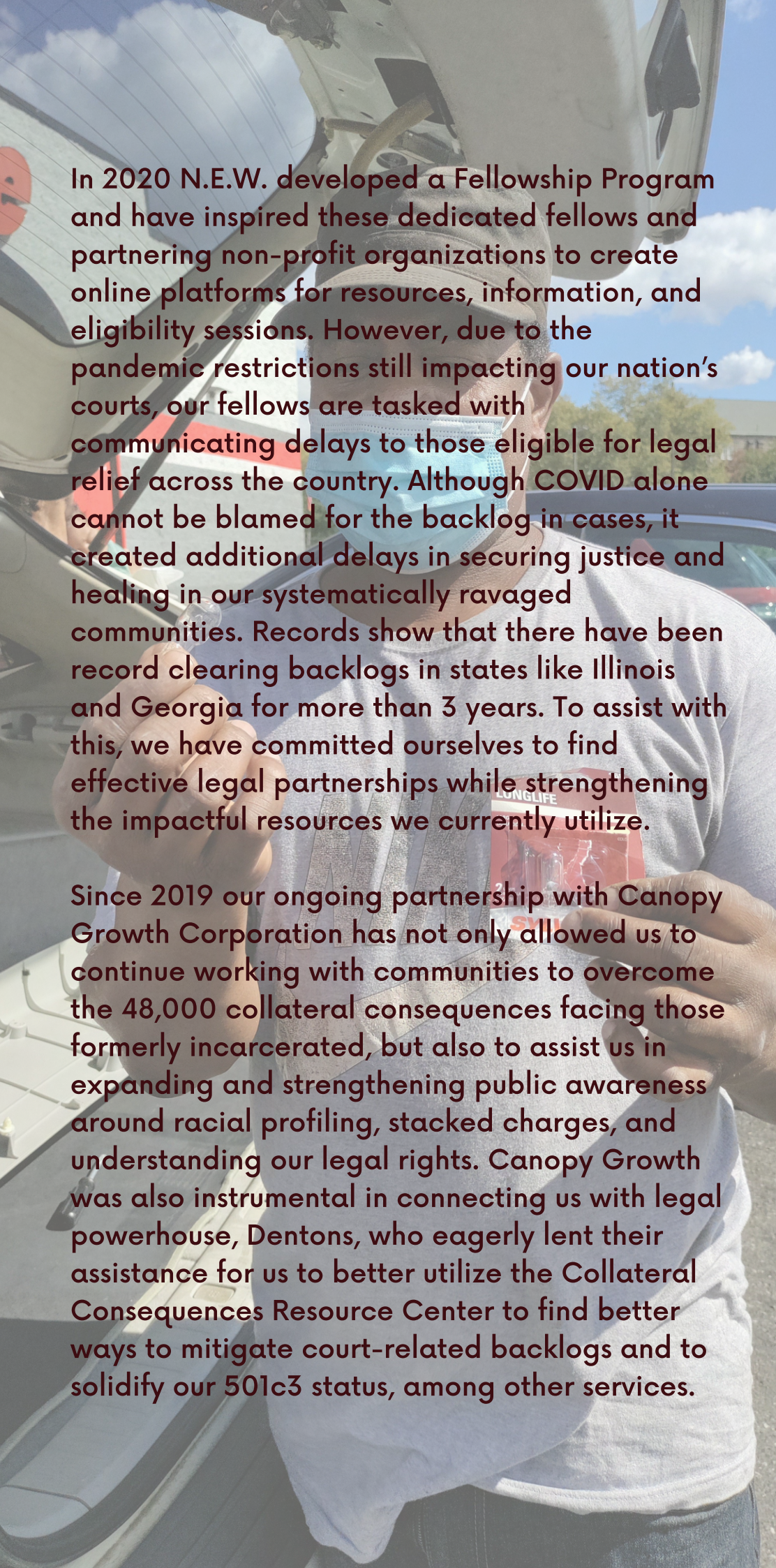
Our Week of Action & Awareness ("WOAA"), still acknowledged as National Expungement Week, took place from September 27- October 3, 2021.

Though we were still in the midst of the pandemic, N.E.W. forged ahead with the progressive and preventative measures of 2020 which illustrated it's resilience and the innovation to meet the demands of the moment through the leadership of our dedicated fellows and organizations. Some organizers planned online events, while others found ways to host safe, socially distanced events in their communities.

The N.E.W. 2021 WOAA featured 21 events across 11 cities, 10 of which were held online. Our overall attendance of 1,541 allowed us to focus on our year-round amnesty processes like record clearing, pardoning, job/career assistance, and assisting our fellows time with their events. We are also proud that another 66,846 people began the process of clearing or sealing their records this year, and an additional 1,310 people received services of some kind.

N.E.W. fellows and partnering organizations also worked to feed communities while utilizing and expanding grassroots community fridge projects in various cities and states through the guidance and leadership from our partners at Unincarcerated Minds Inc. We were also a catalyst in gaining national support for the Pennsylvania Sunset Parole Reform and Driving Equity Act in the city of Philadelphia in conjunction with the CannabisNoire and Autozone. Our National Webinars centered powerful information on voting, domestic violence, knowing your rights and financial literacy in association with organizations such as Americans for Safe Access, The Debt Collective, Time Done, and DVWMT (Domestic Violence Wears Many Tags).





In 2020 N.E.W. developed a Fellowship Program and have inspired these dedicated fellows and partnering non-profit organizations to create online platforms for resources, information, and eligibility sessions. However, due to the pandemic restrictions still impacting our nation's courts, our fellows are tasked with communicating delays to those eligible for legal relief across the country. Although COVID alone cannot be blamed for the backlog in cases, it created additional delays in securing justice and healing in our systematically ravaged communities. Records show that there have been record clearing backlogs in states like Illinois and Georgia for more than 3 years. To assist with this, we have committed ourselves to find effective legal partnerships while strengthening the impactful resources we currently utilize.

Since 2019 our ongoing partnership with Canopy Growth Corporation has not only allowed us to continue working with communities to overcome the 48,000 collateral consequences facing those formerly incarcerated, but also to assist us in expanding and strengthening public awareness around racial profiling, stacked charges, and understanding our legal rights. Canopy Growth was also instrumental in connecting us with legal powerhouse, Dentons, who eagerly lent their assistance for us to better utilize the Collateral Consequences Resource Center to find better ways to mitigate court-related backlogs and to solidify our 501c3 status, among other services.

# 1741

Overall Attendance

# 19

Cities Across the U.S.

# 1310

People Received  
Services of Some Kind

# 66,846

People Started Process  
of Expunging or Sealing  
Their Record

# 99.8%

Increase from 2020 for  
Individuals Beginning Their  
Record Clearing Process.



# Services & Resources Offered

This chart shows the broad spectrum of services offered by the N.E.W. network. Each location provides services to best meet the needs of their communities.

LOCATION	# OF EVENTS	SERVICES AND RESOURCES OFFERED													
		Expungement or Sealing Services	Fine/Fees Relief & Reduction	Education: Post Conviction Relief Policies	Voter Registration	Housing Resources	Health/Mental Health	Employment Resources	Educational Resources	Financial Literacy	Immigration Advice	Social Services	Brake Light Clinic	Food Pantry	Other
Berkeley, CA	1	○				○	○					○			
Bronx, NY	1				○					○		○			
Brooklyn, NY	1						○						○		
Detroit, MI	1				○		○					○	○		
District of Columbia	1	○	○		○	○	○					○	○		○
East St. Louis, IL	1			○	○										
Harlem, NY	1												○		
Jacksonville, FL	1	○			○							○			
Los Angeles, CA	1	○			○	○		○		○		○			○
Maryland	1	○	○		○	○	○					○	○	○	○
Menlo Park, CA	1	○	○									○			
Miami, FL	1	○	○		○										
Milwaukee, WI	1				○							○			
National Webinar	3			○			○		○	○					
Oakland, CA	1	○			○	○						○			
Philadelphia, PA	1				○	○	○					○	○		
Queens, NY	1													○	
Seattle, WA	1	○	○	○											
Virginia	1				○							○			

## Take a closer look at our 2021 National Webinars:

Healing Starts at Home:  
A Conversation on  
Domestic Violence

Financial Literacy:  
A 2-Workshop Session

Restoring Voter  
Rights Panel Discussion

Sunsetting  
Convictions Panel

# California Expungement

# 66,000

Automatic Record Expungements  
in Los Angeles in 2021

Marking the third year of our growing partnership with Code For America (CFA), they hosted their 9th annual National Day of Civic Hacking in early September. We've continued to foster collaborations between CFA's network of volunteer brigades and our community-based organizers, as it deepens the bond between organizations and our complementary missions and services.



Now assisting 5 counties in California, N.E.W. and CFA stepped up to the challenge of assisting organizing partners, The Social Impact Center, to support Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón in identifying nearly **66,000 cannabis convictions that will be dismissed as part of his ongoing efforts to reverse the injustices of drug laws.**

The combined efforts of such powerful forces, along with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, helped to shine a light on the importance of automatic expungement, as those who qualify may not even know that they are eligible. The path was paved for the cannabis related expungements by the original prop 47 which lowers specific non-violent property and drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors, and will account for thousands of future automatic record expungements.

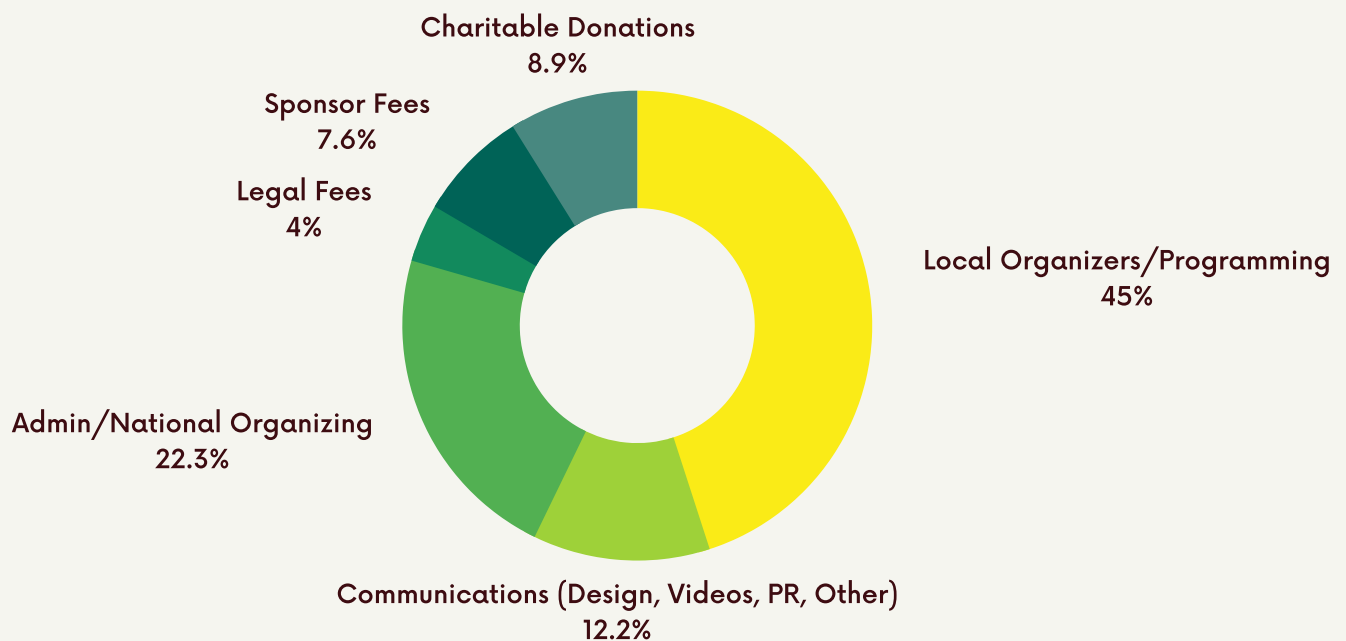


# 2021 Public Benefit Created

# \$754,345,622

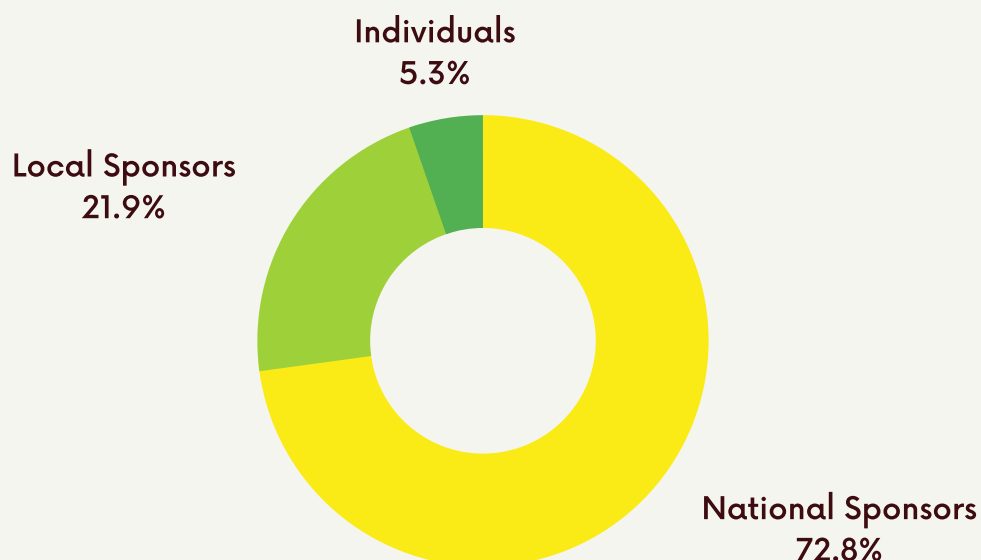
Includes increased wages, reduced public spending, and other benefits in the next two years; Chapin, Meyli, et al. "A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Criminal Record Expungement in Santa Clara County." Stanford PublicPolicy Practicum, 2014.

## 2021 EXPENSES \$400,612



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## 2021 REVENUE \$370,652



# JUNETEENTH:

## WHO'S INVITED TO THE COOKOUT?

Our fourth annual observance of Juneteenth was held on June 19th, 2021. 'The cookout' as defined by UrbanDictionary.com, is "a metaphorical gathering of the Black community," exclusive to its members except for those who receive an invitation. The question ultimately posed by N.E.W. is regarding who is welcomed into Black spaces and how that correlates to allyship, wellness, social responsibility, and economic and political justice. As with their groundbreaking work to center expungement in harm reduction, N.E.W.'s annual Juneteenth community celebrations helped ignite the movement that blossomed into a federal holiday. The day June 19 has additional significance for the organization as N.E.W.'s genesis can be traced to a barbeque to mark the holiday in 2018.

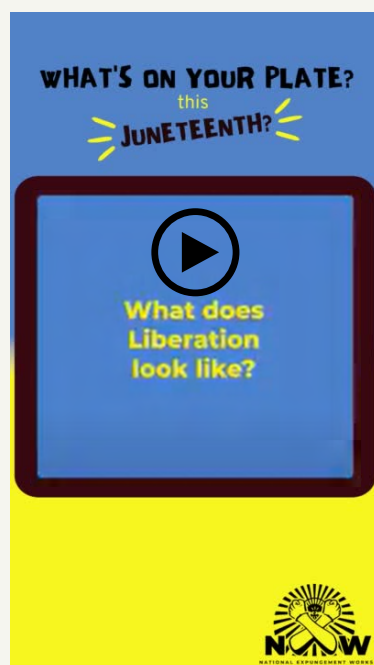
### The Full Video of N.E.W.'s 2021 Juneteenth Celebration



"Juneteenth is a reminder that we are still not free, not while people from marginalized communities are disproportionately imprisoned and exploited by the Justice System and the privatization of Prisons."

- LaTorie Marshall,  
N.E.W. Visionary & Founder -

This year we were blessed to have **Tony Lewis Jr.** join us to talk about what's on his plate. Tony is an activist and author fighting to help change his legacy by working to free his father, who has already served 32 years of a life sentence he received in 1989 for a non-violent drug crime. We want to be able to amplify this message by any means necessary for Tony and his family as they continue to fight for his Dad to come home.



"'Who's Invited to the Cookout' takes place around a virtual dinner table with a family-style conversation from the perspective of justice-impacted voices, legal perspectives on legislation and its compounded impact on the Black community, and healing practices for coping, surviving, and thriving within this system of injustice," said Jessica Jackson, 2021 Director of Ops for N.E.W. These conversations are necessary when honoring the legacy of Juneteenth and celebrating in fellowship with our community.

# Media Spotlight

Our community and social outreach strategies, both organic and paid, were adapted due to the quarantine, however digital campaigning, television appearances, and news coverage by mainstream outlets such as Forbes, Politico, LA Times Weekly, and USA Today, still helped to amplify public awareness. Our social media platforms created a 4% increase in engagement from 2020, with 138,263 social media impressions combined; and our total online + print audience reached 312,961,161 with 133 news clip mentions.

TheStreet

yahoo!  
finance



Leafly

POLITICO

Los Angeles Times

## BENZINGA

National Expungement Works Returns With Annual Weeklong Legal Relief Campaign

by Benzinga Cannabis  
September 15, 2021 2:16 pm

CANNABIS  
BUSINESS TIMES

HIGH TIMES

Ganjapreneur

Canadian  
Insider

LATIN  
BIZ  
TODAY

FOX 5



USA  
TODAY

Los Angeles County drops 60K marijuana convictions to clear 'barriers' in today's society, hopes to spur national trend

Brooklyn Paper

Forbes  
BUSINESS  
INSIDER

CULTURE  
MAGAZINE

## Filter

National Expungement Week: Learn How to Clear Your Record (For Free)



BY ALEXANDER LEHTMAN SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

# National Sponsors & Partners

Thank you to the National Sponsors, Partners, and Coordinating Organizations who make N.E.W. possible.

## PRESENTING SPONSOR

Canopy Growth Corporation



## NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PARTNER

Cage Free Repair



Cage-Free  
Repair

## COORDINATING ORGANIZATIONS

Unincarcerated Minds,  
Social Impact Center



## LOCAL FRIENDS & NON PROFIT PARTNERS

TimeDone, Code for America, Debt Collective, Cresco Labs, Fluresh, GTI Grows, Synoptek, Eaze, 3WIN Corp





# Non-Profit Organizations & Local Organizers

Thank you to the Non Profit Organizations, Local Organizers, and Volunteers who make N.E.W. possible.







# Takeaways

Since its launch in 2018, N.E.W. has helped 68,459 people begin the process of clearing their record, and 8,480 people have received vital services of some kind. N.E.W. events feature a combination of wraparound services that include, but are not limited to: legal relief (record clearance and/or sealing), education about changes in record clearance policy, employment workshops, fine and fee reduction, free food and produce giveaways, health screenings, voter registration, and other services needed by individuals and communities that have been harmed by the War on Drugs.



# 68,459

people have begun  
the process of  
clearing their record  
since 2018

# 8,480

people have received  
vital services of some kind  
since 2018

# \$772,019,263

cumulative public benefit since 2018

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 PublicPolicy Practicum, 2014.

## LOOKING AHEAD

In addition to our year-round community work, our incarcerated loved ones are still living in cruel, inhuman, and degrading conditions that put them at high risk of contracting COVID. Data from [prisonpolicy.org](https://prisonpolicy.org) shows that under 50% of people in prisons nationwide have received even one dose of a coronavirus vaccine, and there are 15 states that have only vaccinated 60% or less of incarcerated people. This has made it imperative that we advocate for our family members who should no longer be caged or confined to a cell. We adjusted our social media platforms and created an outlet to impart information to those preparing to return home as we are still experiencing increasing wait times to remove charges. We also created a forum where those who are incarcerated, or their loved ones, can share their story and let us know ways that N.E.W. and our communities can get involved. For example, Tony Lewis Jr. shared during our 4th annual Who's Invited to the Cookout: Juneteenth Celebration, that his father has been in prison for 32 years on a life sentence for a non-violent drug offense. That's 6 presidents, 3 full wars, including both Iraq wars and the war in Afghanistan, which is recognized as the longest war in American history, outside of Nixon's War on Drugs! Our solidarity partners, Cage-Free Repair, have guided our digital campaigns surrounding the incarceration system and post-conviction care, and continue to amplify our objectives on freeing and healing our loved ones on the inside, and out. This partnership will also allow us to conduct our first ever T.R.A.P. (The Real Amnesty Project) global call since experiencing the pandemic. This call to action will be a testimonial to the universal acknowledgement of what these systemic injustices are, who they impact, and what it looks like to heal, balance and build from these traumatic harms.

One of 2022 organizing partners, Clean Slate Wisconsin will be leading our fellowship program of the "Ban the Box," campaign.

N.E.W. was also able to start the process of putting resources into action in recognition of Black August, by starting the OPP (Our People's Process) Resource Database. We did that by instituting an online and word-of-mouth campaign asking the nation to tag us with all Black-owned businesses. There are plans to launch this initiative on our website by March 2022.

Because of the tragic reminders of Malcolm Williams and Philando Castile, we've launched our 2022 Brakelight Clinic Series in hopes that the momentum will encourage every city to create a Driving Equity Bill while protecting and educating our communities.

# THANK YOU!

## FROM THE ENTIRE N.E.W. TEAM



National Expungement Work offers individuals and organizations from justice-impacted communities a platform to organize around, which they have used to advocate for Housing, Continued Education, Immigration, Harm Reduction, Mental Health & Wellness, the expansion of automated expungement and eligibility for record clearance, and further criminal justice reforms.

We hope to host amnesty events in all 50 states, Washington, DC, and beyond! We expect to serve more people, advocate for broader and deeper amnesty and legal relief, and to continue to lift up more communities that have been impacted and harmed by systemic injustices like the War on Drugs, and inequities like Housing Redline and School to Prison Pipeline.

Thank you so much for making 2021 a successful year, in spite of all the challenges we faced! We look forward to working with you in 2022, which we dedicate to the commemorative anniversaries of Emancipation, Holocaust, and the Bicentennial of Brazil's Independence.

**National Expungement Works**  
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