LARRP August 2021 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!

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Message from Troy Vaughn * LARRP Meetings * August Spotlight * Policy Updates * LEADERS Academy * Member Newswire * Community Events * Recurring Clinics and Workshops * Information and Opportunities * News * Reports

*Make sure you click **"view entire message"** when you come to the bottom of the email so you can see some of the important new reports and news stories that have come out in the last month*

Message from LARRP Executive Director



Times of crisis amplify foundational failings. A virus a thousand times smaller than a dust mite has exposed our weaknesses. How did it come to this? The simple answer is, we were already suffering from other viruses. The viruses of racism, injustice, poverty, violence and inequality have long plagued our society. Today's social service and economic models have failed, because they have been one-sided, and the voices of the impacted have been excluded from the conversation. Flawed and unbalanced, they have concentrated power in the hands of a few; focused on the voices of those that have no direct experience at the expense of those that are closest to the solution and the smaller community-based organizations that are actually doing the work. They have sustained failed systems and interlinked forms of inequality that are the root cause of poverty, crime and injustice. Across our nation, people are denied access and the ability to shape their own future.

The hopeful part for us today is that inequality is not inevitability. Violence is not victorious, homelessness is not hopelessness, and poverty is not pervasive. The tide is turning! A better future for our returning brothers and sisters is within our grasp. We must not turn back now! It is for this reason that LARRP is doubling down on its efforts to organize the voices of the voiceless when policy decisions are being made. Our desire is to create the change that we desire. Our work of mobilizing CBOs and CFOs across the regional of Los Angeles County will continue, but we believe by expanding our work to focus on statewide matters, gun violence and leveraging funding across multiple sectors we will be steps closer to achieving our dream of society where time served means, time done, where a person should not be afraid to walk down

the street, and our children have choices without consequence of death, and funding is used strategically and collaboratively to solve our issues.

State-Wide Strategy

To expand our state efforts, we have partnered with several other organizations to create an entity that will focus on statewide matters that impact us all. The Re-Entry Providers Association of California (REPAC) is a broad-based, statewide 501(c)(4) non-profit organization representing members who are nonprofits, grassroots and service organizations seeking to create and restore healthy communities by assisting citizens' re-entry into the community following incarceration. Through grassroots mobilization, political and policy advocacy, education and coalition building our members' work focuses upon transportation, fair hiring, housing, healthcare, treatment programs, legal documentation, voting, parenting, relationships, family reintegration, and all facets of reentering society. We support rational, cost-effective and equitable programs and policies that provide meaningful opportunities for individuals to live, work and grow, lowering recidivism, and make our communities safer and more productive.

Reduction of Gun Violence

Gun violence is an urgent, complex, and multifaceted problem that must be solved, or it will derail all of the work we've done in criminal justice reform. It will require heart and compassion, faith and fearlessness coupled with evidence-based, multifaceted solutions. It will also require us all to take our heads out of the sand, and roll up our sleeves to save our youth and our future. It is clear to us that America has failed to protect its people, leaving them to fend for themselves in many ways in these streets. We must come together. LARRP is starting an Ad Hoc committee that will focus on Public Safety. The committee will be hosting a series of discussions so we can begin to mobilize around this critical issue. Please be on the lookout for more information.

The Need to Leverage Funding

Homelessness is a longstanding problem in California, as it is in much of the U.S. While homelessness has many root causes, including an overall lack of affordable housing and lack of coordination between social services systems of care, incarceration is a major risk factor. Nationally, people who are formerly incarcerated are almost 10 times more likely to experience homelessness than the general public.

Unless action is taken to address these challenges, people will continue to cycle between incarceration and homelessness with unmet behavioral health needs. We must prioritize housing for all people leaving institutions, this will enable them to best access other needed services.

People who have criminal histories face a wide variety of challenges that impede their ability to get their lives on track after justice involvement. Because of collateral consequences that attach by state and federal statutes to certain offenses lasting long after people have completed their sentences, many people who have criminal histories find themselves stripped of certain rights and locked out of opportunities for housing, education, education, employment, social services and other necessities, such as substance use or mental health treatment. Due in part to these types of obstacles, which prevent them from appropriately addressing proven risk factors for reoffending (mental illness, unemployment, substance use disorders, housing instability, etc.), formerly incarcerated individuals are rearrested at high rates.

Let us continue to support the safety of our communities by ensuring people exiting the system have the tools they need to be economically self-sufficient. Investments in housing, employment and education on the front end is a win for all us – supporting new doors of economic opportunity, public health and community safety is the only way.

Onward and Upward,
Pastor Troy

LARRP Committee Meetings and Events

AUGUST MEETINGS

Integrated Health Committee

August 2, 2021

1:00 pm

REGISTER Integrated Health

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Education Committee:

AUGUST MEETING CANCELLED!

September 2, 2021,

4:00PM - 5:30 PM

Going forward the committee will meet on the first

August General Meeting

August 19, 2021,

10:00 AM - 11:30

REGISTER - General Meeting

Thursday of the month from 4-5PM.

Register Education

Housing Committee:

Thursday, September 16, 2021

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Register Housing

Employment Committee

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

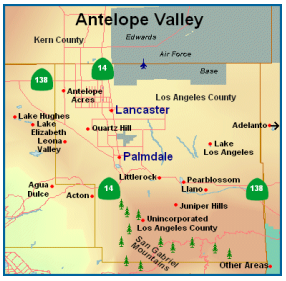
Register Employment

August Spotlight
LARRP Regional Committees

LARRP's Regional Reentry Committees have been created for the purpose of accomplishing our mission of working with the broader Los Angeles County community to build an effective public-private partnership and network within the local communities that are aligned with our network's priorities. Regional Reentry Committees aim to coordinate the implementation of evidence-based leading practices in reentry service delivery; serve as a regional voice for community and faith-based organizations in policy and funding decisions; advocate for administrative and legislative policy reforms; and serve as an information exchange between public and community partners.

The Regional Reentry Committees will allow LARRP to expand our partner network and membership throughout LA County while maintaining our mission and collaborative approach. Currently, the Regional Reentry Committees are active in Antelope Valley and Pomona Valley. We look forward to continuing in conversation with committed partners in Long Beach City and West Los Angeles as to establishing committees in these communities.

LARRP Antelope Valley Regional Committee



The LARRP Antelope Valley Regional Committee has identified four areas of concern in their community and have developed four issue committees through which to address the needs of their justice-impacted families including housing, employment, policy/issues and education. They believe that no one can do life alone and especially while confronting systemic barriers. Members are committed to working alongside their community to support justice-impacted families to reinforce that YES

LARRP Pomona Valley Regional Committee

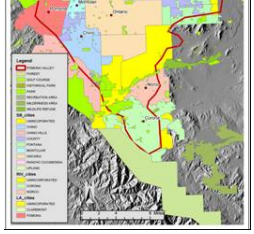
The LARRP Pomona Valley Regional Committee has identified housing, education, legal and policy, employment, integrated health, and voter registration as pertinent issues impacting their community. They currently have active committees to focus on each of these prioritized issue areas. The



Education Issue Committee is organizing a college fair tentatively confirmed for August 23rd in

they can complete their dreams and help them dream again.

The AV Regional Committee continues to foster partnerships between member organizations which in many cases have resulted in securing funding opportunities. Most recently, ***Paving the Way Foundation*** in partnership with ***Timelist Group*** was awarded a California Community Reinvestment Grant to support job training and mental health services for 150 AV community members. **A true testament to the power of partnership. Congratulations to both member organizations!**



partnership with several local colleges including Citrus College and Cal Poly Pomona's Project Rebound. Additionally, the Integrated Health Issue Committee in partnership with the Public Defenders' office will continue to hold expungement clinics every other month and in the upcoming school year will begin to organize legal clinics.

Through their monthly General Meetings, the Pomona Valley Regional Committee aims to provide their members with grounding information as to county departments including the District Attorney, Probation and additional offices within the county reentry system. These informational presentations by county departments will be coupled with a presentation from a not-for-profit organization to provide both county and community-based perspectives as to reentry services available for Pomona Valley community members. We look forward to continuing to learn and build with our partners in Pomona Valley!

POLICY UPDATES

July was a quiet month for policy, as the State Legislature is in recess until August 16, 2021.

Our State Work: All 13 of our remaining priority bills are still under consideration in the state legislature, and we are working hard to call and email legislators in order to advocate for these positions. We are asking you, our network, to also reach out to your elected officials and make clear your positions on these bills. During the recess period, most state legislators are back in their districts taking meetings with constituents, so if you're interested in getting involved in the political advocacy process, it is a great time to begin. The list of priority bills is available on the LARRP website ***here***, or by clicking the button below.

LARRP Policy Priorities

Our county work has been involved with the LA County Board of Supervisors' vote on the first 975 million dollars of American Rescue Plan Funding. We advocated for over 164 million for programs like job training for the reentry population and the expansion of ODR funding for beds, and many other programs to expand access to resources for the reentry community. That letter can be found below as well if you would like to see what specific line-items we spoke in favor of.

BOS ARP MCJ Letter of Support - LARRP

Our federal work: Last week, LARRP signed on as a supporter of the bipartisan ***Sherrill/ McKinley Expanding Pathways to Employment Act.*** This bill sets out to provide specific funding and support for many folks who are disenfranchised by the system including those who have faced historic discrimination, such as the population who are experiencing homelessness and the reentry population. Our support will help to provide more equitable workforce training and support for the reentry world.

We are also planning a LARRP policy workshop for August 19, 2021 from 1:00PM - 2:30PM.

We will be providing an overview of the California state government, and lobbying strategies on how to begin your journey as a policy entrepreneur. If you are interested in this training, we encourage you to sign up for information ***HERE!***

LARRP LEADERS

Leading, Engaging, Advocating, Demonstrating, Enhancing and Expanding Reentry Systems

LARRP is excited to announce the launch of our second cohort in LARRP LEADERS Training Academy. In this training academy we take 12 leaders in the community and empower them to become change agents in their community!



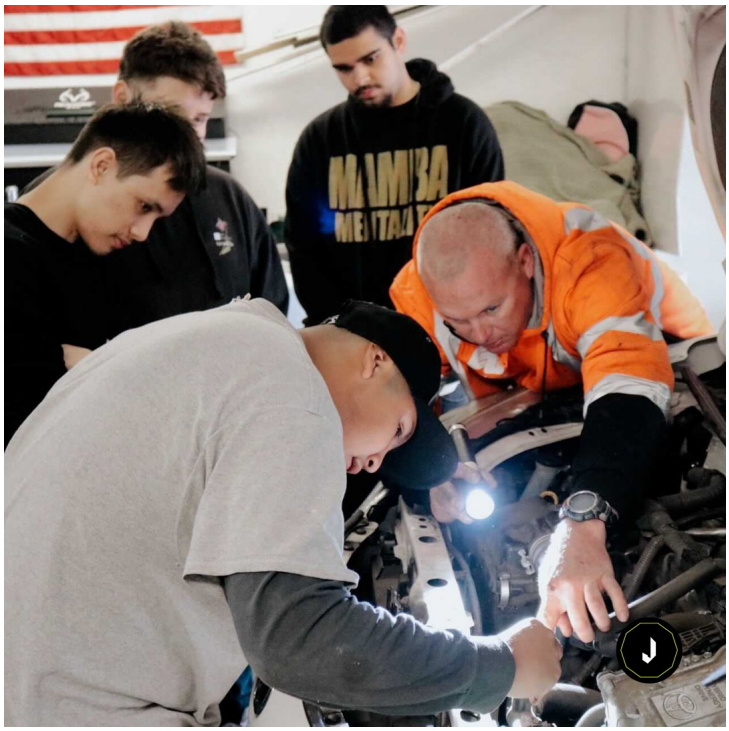


Member Newswire

Just Us 4 Youth

Just Us 4 Youth mentors at-promise youth to be better students, better people, and better leaders. Founded and centered in Pomona, JU4Y has served thousands of young people in the east San Gabriel Valley since 2017. Its activities and commitments include:

- Educating the community on restorative justice and its practices;
- Conducting and joining regular listening circles to build healing relationships, raise the voices of at-promise youth, and promote dialogue;
- Strengthening leadership and civic engagement of black youth, system-impacted youth, foster youth, transitional-age youth, English learners, and the parents of these under-represented young people; and
- Offering "youth to work" job opportunities, improving access to housing, and developing life skills for transitional-aged youth.



JU4Y has been among the founding members of the Pomona Valley LARRP affiliate, offering leadership in its Policy & Legal, Education, and Housing committees.

Thanks to LARRP, JU4Y continues to become more active in legislative advocacy, particularly around youth

www.ju4y.org
Social media: @justus4youth
Email: ***info@ju4y.org***
909.784.5787

active in legislative advocacy, particularly around youth diversion, reentry housing, and changes to terms and conditions of incarceration.

Community Events

We update our website DAILY with new events of interest to our Community. It is perhaps the most complete calendar of such events. Please visit frequently as events so often come in at the last minute.

And if you have an event or an announcement - please send it our way! ***info@LAreentry.org***

Upcoming Events!



Measure J Re-Imagine LA Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 5 at 4:00 PM

CLICK HERE To Join The Zoom Meeting
(Zoom registration required)

To participate via telephone only:
Dial-In: +1 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 847 8127 6540#



Learn How To Restore & Build Your Own Credit!

August 12th, 2021 5pm to 7pm

LARRP & Rise Up Have Joined Forces To Present To You: A Free Credit Workshop

REGISTER







Bridging the Gap

August 9th at 1:00pm

SoCal Pre Apprenticeship would an Info Session where they will be introducing our 16-week Pre Apprenticeship program designed to pave a pathway into the Industry Trades!

REGISTER

CLARE | MATRIX

Saving Lives Through Recovery

Narcan: Opioid Overdose Reversal

August & September Narcan Training Dates

- **August 10th, 10am:** ***https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsdeGhrjoiGdR4aJ3Eoiv4gxuZjZJEcUgl***
- **August 30th, 6:30pm:** ***https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlf-qhrTgjGNUZNVEvNxzJRjblGs5X5YCj***
- **September 14th, 10am:** ***https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldu-GrrzkrGNS6aWPMg4efeydmLWo1TFmq***
- **September 20th, 10am:** ***https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkduqugTIrHdJJ3mHujwscmwlBMUksPo_o***



LARRP policy workshop

August 19, 2021, 1:00PM-2:30PM.

We will be providing an overview of the California state government, and lobbying strategies on how to begin your journey as a policy entrepreneur. If you are interested in this training, we encourage you to sign up for information ***HERE!***

CCJBH | Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health | *Building bridges to prevent incarceration*

CCJBH/CSG Housing Report Launch Event

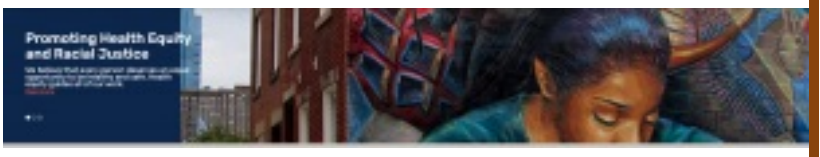
Wednesday, August 18th, from 2:00-3:30 PM

The Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center is pleased to announce a new date for the housing report launch event.

Please join us on for a rescheduled webinar to celebrate the public launch of the report, ***Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Jails and Prisons***.

This event will set the stage for future collaborative efforts around this critical issue.

REGISTER



Community Safety through Racial Justice Learning Series

Prevention Institute will facilitate a three-part bi-monthly learning series for local health jurisdictions and their community and government partners on applying racial justice principles and practices to build community safety.

Sep 21, 2021 11:00 AM

Sep 21, 2021 11:00 AM
Nov 16, 2021 11:00 AM

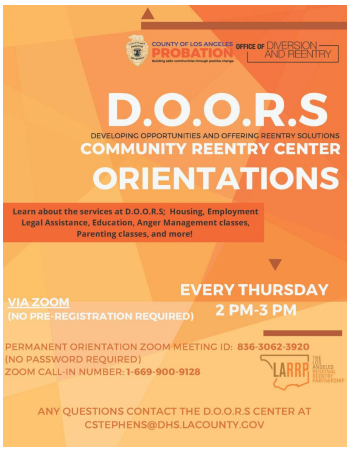
MORE INFO AND REGISTER

Recurring Clinics and Workshops

Please visit our website and scroll past Partner Events for a **growing list** of recurring workshops and clinics!

DOORS Community Reentry Center Orientations

Every Thursday
2:00 - 3:00 PM



Download Flyer

NEW!

Legal Clinics

hosted by the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) and the D.O.O.R.S team

- **Expungement and Early Termination of Probation Workshop:** Every 1st Wednesday of the Month at 1:00pm ***(More Info)***
- **Citations/Tickers Workshop:** Every 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 10:00am **(More Info)**
- **Fair Chance Hiring Workshop:** Every 4th Wednesday of the Month at 1:00pm ***(More Info)***

Questions: Call D.O.O.R.S Center reception desk at 323-730-4442

Court Relief for Criminal Records

Last Tuesday of Each Month
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Attendees of this Webinar will find out

- How Reductions of Charges, Expungements, and Certificates of Rehabilitation may increase their opportunities for employment and job licensing.
- The criteria to qualify, how to apply if eligible, and be provided resources in their community that can be helpful in their rehabilitative journey.
- In addition, a lawyer from the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association will be present to answer questions and provide information on the free legal services they offer for eligible individuals. **Registration required.**

More info and register



Information and Opportunities

Make sure to check out the DOZENS of new jobs on our website. These jobs are constantly updated!

Visit our website





Visit our website

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
ATI OFFICE
ATI YJR ACR Meas J
Alternatives to Incarceration
"Care First, Jails Last"

INCUBATION ACADEMY

The ATI Office opened applications for its Incubation Academy.

The academy provides training, funding and technical assistance to new and existing community-based organizations, especially those run by Black, Latinx, and justice involved individuals.
The Incubation Academy builds capacity to deliver prevention and intervention service to justice involved individuals in their communities, giving judicial officers an alternative to incarceration in communities with the greatest needs.

CLICK HERE TO APPLY

The Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) is seeking to identify partners to host a VSAP Flex Vote Center for the upcoming Gubernatorial Recall Election in September 2021.

The VSAP Flex Program will run during the voting period beginning Saturday, September 4 through Monday, September 13. VSAP Flex Vote Centers allow the RR/CC to provide targeted voting services on a scheduled basis to Los Angeles County voters. Flex Vote Centers provide all the services and equipment available at a traditional vote center. In response to COVID-19, VSAP Flex Vote Centers are fully equipped to ensure voter safety.

Flex Vote Centers will be scheduled for 4-8 hour voting windows. The schedule will depend on a variety of factors including availability, regional distribution and the expected number of voters. We ask our partner organizations to identify 2 volunteers to assist as Election Workers at the Flex Vote Center. They will be trained and receive a stipend for their service.



MEPS is working on a way to help re-entry populations stay healthy and away from drugs.

Want to participate and get paid?

Download the Brochure



L.A. CADA HIV Intervention Program

Download the Flyer



Click here to apply to host a VSAP Flex Vote Center!

The deadline to apply is Monday, August 6, 2021.

MORE INFO



Interested in a Career with LA County?

Worker Education and Resource Center's training program connects individuals with barriers to employment to opportunities with various County Departments

f you are interested in attending an information session please call us at 213-639-2220 on Tuesdays and Thursdays or email us at ***place@we-rc.org*** and a Case Manager will contact you

In the NEWS

Feature News Story

US Recidivism Rates Stay Sky High



The Crime Report by Eva Herscowitz, July 30, 2021

Seven in 10 incarcerated people released in 34 states in 2012 were rearrested within five years, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) report on recidivism rates for prisoners in 34 states between 2012 and 2017.

The report includes grim findings about recidivism in the United States, where rates are among the highest in the world.

READ MORE

READ THE REPORT

More news....

Hear Us:
California Is Trailblazing the Path to Debt-Free Justice. Other States Should Follow.

Next City, OP-ED, July 29, 2021 by Jhumpa Bhattacharya & Stephanie Campos-Bui & Brandon Greene



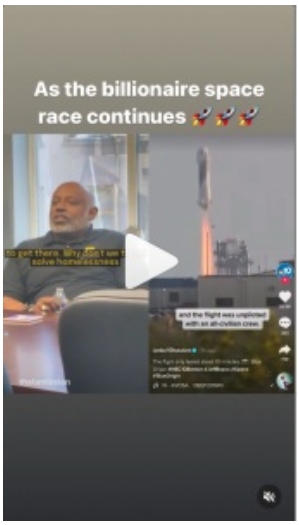
Abolishing criminal fees and writing off current debt is the only systemic, permanent solution to this form of racialized wealth extraction, and it is a solution our communities want and deserve.

READ MORE

4,000 Homebound Detainees Could Be Sent Back to Prison After Pandemic Emergency Order Lifted

Democracy Now July 26, 2021

READ MORE



CEO of homeless shelter remarks on billionaires joyriding in space

Boing Boing, Jason Weisberger, July 21, 2021

WATCH

Governor Selects Contra Costa DA's Office For Resentencing Pilot

Patch Martinez, CA by Maggie Fusek, Jul 20, 2021

"The strain on the state prison and criminal justice system is immense from these failed policies of our past," DA Diana Becton said.

Participating counties will develop protocols for processing resentencing applications from individuals serving custody within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
The state has appropriated $18 million across nine counties to fund the three-year-long pilot. In addition to Contra Costa, the participating counties are Los Angeles, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Riverside, San Diego, Yolo, Merced and Humboldt.

READ MORE

Read the **For the People** ***Press Release*** for more details



Renowned artist Kenny Scharf unveils towering mural on LA's Skid Row

Los Angeles Daily News By Hans Gutknecht, July 19, 2021

A colorful 66-foot tall mural unveiled at the Los Angeles Mission was donated and painted by the renowned artist Kenny Scharf.

READ MORE

California delays considering supervised sites for drug use

By Associated Press Sacramento Jul. 06, 2021

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California lawmakers will wait until next year to continue considering a bill that would give opioid users a place to inject drugs in supervised settings, the bill's author said Tuesday.

READ MORE

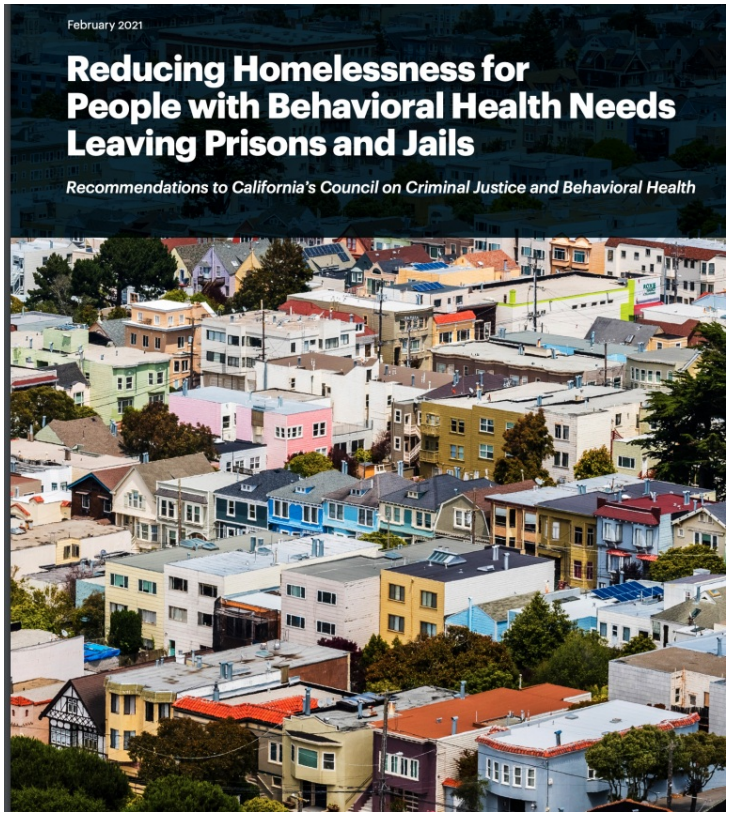
LAPD chief stands with embattled D.A. George Gascón as others attack, try to recall him

LA Times, By Kevin Rector , July 2, 2021

Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore and L.A. County Dist. Atty. George Gascón stood side-by-side at a joint news conference this week to discuss a crime initiative first made public months ago.

READ MORE

REPORTS



Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Jails and Prisons

Report by The Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. February 2021

Homelessness is a longstanding problem in California, as it is in much of the U.S. While homelessness has many root causes, including an overall lack of affordable housing and lack of coordination between social service systems, incarceration is a major risk factor.

The causes of the connections between homelessness, behavioral health conditions, and involvement with the criminal justice system are many. However, they are rooted in the deinstitutionalization of mental health care in the 1970s and 80s. This change came without a corresponding increase in the housing and community-based services needed to support people with mental illnesses living independently and resulted in an

"institutional circuit" between shelters, jails, and emergency rooms.

READ THE REPORT

Building exits off the highway to mass incarceration: Diversion programs explained

Prison Policy Initiative By Leah Wang and Katie Rose Quandt, July 20, 2021

We envision the criminal justice system as a highway on which people are heading toward the possibility of incarceration; depending on the state or county, this highway may have exit ramps in the form of diversion programs and alternatives to incarceration.

READ THE REPORT

Public Safety Realignment

Weak State and County Oversight Does Not Ensure That Funds Are Spent Effectively

California State Auditor Report, March 2021

To support the counties' realignment responsibilities and offset the costs of providing required public safety services, the State allocated $6 billion to California's counties in fiscal year 2019–20. However, because the three counties we reviewed have narrowly interpreted the scope of public safety realignment funding, their Community Corrections Partnership committees—responsible for monitoring such spending—have overseen less than 20 percent of the funding the counties receive. **Each county also maintains excessive realignment surpluses, which they could spend to improve public safety.** Finally, the counties lack comprehensive planning and oversight for realignment spending, without which they cannot make informed decisions.

READ MORE