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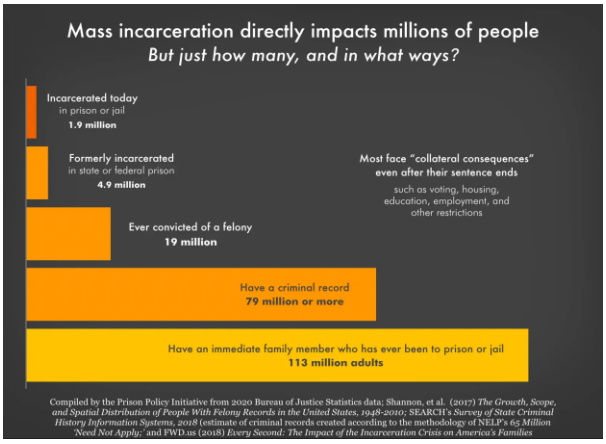
THE LA REGIONAL REENTRY PARTNERSHIP (LARRP) CELEBRATES APRIL SECOND CHANCE MONTH WITH RESOURCE FAIRS AND AWARENESS RAISING

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Los Angeles, CA - In Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Regional Reentry Partnership (LARRP) and dozens of reentry service partners will be celebrating "Second Chance Month" this April, with resource fairs, job opportunities, and recognition of our many members who have beat the odds and successfully returned to our communities after incarceration. Second Chance Month has been observed every April since 2017, and it is an opportunity to learn about the vast number of Americans living with a criminal conviction (1 in 3), the challenges and barriers to successful reentry after incarceration, as well as reflect on the many stories of return and resilience.

"Without a second chance and frankly many more, I would be incarcerated or homeless and my children would be without a mother," said LARRP Steering Committee Member Maria Alexander, who is also the Executive Director of the Center for Living and Learning, which supports formerly incarcerated people and those who have struggled with substance abuse disorder find jobs and successfully reintegrate after system involvement. "Second chances restore us to dignity, create safer communities, reunite families and is the humane thing to do." Alexander concluded.

The United States incarcerates more people than any other country in the world, followed by China, then Brazil, India and Russia. The U.S. has a complex system of incarceration utilizing thousands of facilities, which hold over 1.9 million people in 1,566 state prisons, 98 federal prisons, 3,116 local jails, 1,323 juvenile correctional facilities, 142 immigration detention facilities, and 80 Indian country jails, at a system-wide cost of at least $182 billion each year. 95% of prisoners will be released. This period of 'reentry' into the community after incarceration is critical to reducing recidivism (rearrest or incarceration) and to ensuring the long term success of the returning individual.



With California having the largest state prison system in the country and Los Angeles having the largest jail in the world, our communities are impacted by both the exodus of people into the carceral systems and their eventual return. Thousands of Angelenos come home from incarceration every year, and must then live with the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction, with often lifelong barriers to employment, housing, family reunification and many education opportunities.

On March 19th, the Board of Supervisors proclaimed April 2024 as Second Chance Month in Los Angeles County, "to help individuals, communities, and agencies across the country recognize the importance of providing meaningful opportunities for reducing recidivism, fostering redemption, improving outcomes, and facilitating healing for the justice involved population through reentry programs, culturally specific services, restorative justice, and trauma-informed care," read the motion authored by Supervisor Hilda Solis.

LARRP invites the community to spread the word and join any of the Second Chance Month Partner Events, including:

- April 3rd: Spring Fling Resource Fair with JCOD and partners
- April 5th: 1st District JCOD Resource Fair with Homeboy Industries
- April 10th: 4th District JCOD Resource Fair with City of Long Beach
- April 17th: 3rd District JCOD Resource Fair with Center for Living and Learning
- April 17th: Resource Fair and Expungement Clinic with A New Way of Life and LARRP
- April 25th: 5th District, Paving the Way Foundation Wellness Center Ribbon Cutting
- April 26th: 2nd District JCOD Resource Fair with Watts Community Action Committee

"For me second chances represent the epitome of a civilized society, of truly understanding the redemptive value of a human life," said Pastor Troy Vaughn, LARRP's Executive Director who is also CEO of the LA Mission. "I personally stand as an example of what this means, and LARRP is here to help people returning home from incarceration know they can contribute to society and be the change we want to see."

LARRP invites members of the press and the broader community to follow LARRP's Instagram for stories and commentary from the membership.

LARRP is a network of more than 495 non-profit organizations, public agencies, and advocacy groups formed in 2011 to ensure that Los Angeles County's implementation of Public Safety Realignment (AB 109) meets the needs of our service providers, communities, and the people we serve. The mission of LARRP is to support the development and implementation of a comprehensive, culturally competent, and effective community reentry system by providing a strong community voice in public policy and funding decisions; by serving as a convener of reentry service providers, advocates, and other stakeholders; and by building capacity among stakeholders to meet the needs of system participants.

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