LARRP December Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



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*This newsletter is **packed** with information. When you get to the place where it says "Message clipped" make sure to click "View entire message"*

With gratitude in our hearts for each and every one of our partners, friends and community, LARRP wishes you a holiday full of joy, and hope and regeneration!



The Seven Principles of Kwanza to reflect on this month:

Umoja: Unity

Kujichagulia: Self-determination

Ujima: Collective work and responsibility

Ujamaa: Cooperative economics

Nia: Purpose

Kuumba: Creativity

Imani: Faith

All LARRP Meetings Cancelled for December!
See you in 2025!

Register for 2025 Committee Meetings

December Spotlight

Giving Thanks for our L.E.A.D.E.R.S.

As we approach the holiday season, we at LARRP want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible impact of the LEADERS Training Academy and express our deep gratitude to everyone who has contributed to its success. This program continues to transform lives, empowering individuals with the tools to lead, inspire, and uplift their communities. Through your dedication—whether as participants, program managers, or supporters—we are witnessing the power of resilience, education, and connection.

Stories of Gratitude and Growth

Each participant's journey through the LEADERS Training Academy is a testament to the transformative power of education and community. Here are a few highlights from our graduates:



- **Robert F**, now a youth pastor, credits the Academy for teaching him vital skills like financial literacy and violence prevention, which he uses to mentor children and lead his church's homeless outreach program. ***"The open communication during the sessions shaped me into a better listener and teacher."***
- **Julisa C,** who learned to manage conflict and seek therapy, expressed profound gratitude for the Academy's support during a tragic personal loss. ***"This program didn't just give me resources; it gave me a community that lifted me when I needed it most."***
- **Braylin J** found the courage to transition from a self-described "hothead" to someone who inspires others. ***"This program taught me I could grow into someone people look up to,"*** Braylin says. ***"It opened my eyes to the possibilities of a better future."***
- **Emagine S** appreciates the Academy for helping her master self-control and empathy. Reflecting on the meditative exercises, she said, ***"It cleared my mind and helped heal my body."***

Community Impact: Graduates like Lamonte Bolden have used their skills to organize food drives and mentorship programs, while others, like Latrice Ewell, improved communication and resilience to overcome personal challenges. As Karla Fuentes beautifully puts it, ***"When you sit down and look back where you were, you see how much you've accomplished. It's so powerful."***

Looking Ahead: We are excited to continue this incredible work in the new year and welcome more voices into this transformative program. If you or someone you know could benefit from the LEADERS Training Academy, please reach out to anthony@lareentry.org. Together, we will keep building a brighter future, one leader at a time.

November General Meeting Recap

The November General Meeting featured inspiring stories of resilience and community impact, including Jose Carrasco's journey from incarceration to career coaching, updates from Executive Director Troy Vaughn, and presentations on racial equity initiatives from ***Catalyst California***, housing solutions from ***Linc Housing***, and impactful community outreach from ***Chrysalis***.



Connect with our network at the next LARRP General Meeting. Sign up on our ***website*** or ***here***

Full Dec. General Meeting

Policy Update

As we work through the disappointing results of the 2024 election here in California, now more than ever it is important that we remain vigilant and engaged in the legislative and advocacy spaces. It can be easy to feel like these major losses with Propositions 6 and 36 are insurmountable, but community engagement and local activism are powerful tools to help balance out the scales of power.

We saw the birth of many local coalitions that worked together to uplift stories of impacted folks and speak truth to power. That process must continue with more voices as we see more threats to our progress in reforming the criminal justice space. While we expect to see more incarceration as a result of Proposition 36's passing, we are already working closely with the LA County Board of Supervisors to help safeguard funding and services for diversion and reentry systems. We will continue to align statewide with our partners to fight even harsher regressive changes to the criminal justice system.



In the meantime, the holidays provide us a small break from the barrage of local political work. At LARRP we plan to hit the ground running in January! Our fight is far from lost, and if you feel angry or scared, we encourage you to rest and recharge yourself over the holidays so that you can stand with us in the new year.

Member Spotlight: PCS Thanksgiving Drive

The PCS Family Services Thanksgiving Drive was a heartwarming success, bringing together over 40 vendors to support the community. The PCS team distributed food bags, provided haircuts, handed out new clothing, and served more than 300 hot meals to those in need.

To Learn more about the votal services PCS Family Services provides, ***click here***



Justice in Pop Culture

Ear Hustle



Ear Hustle launched in 2017 as the first podcast created and produced in prison, featuring stories of the daily realities of life inside California's San Quentin State Prison, shared by those living it. Co-founded by Bay Area artist Nigel Poor alongside Earlonne Woods and Antwan Williams — who were incarcerated at the time — the podcast now tells stories from inside prison and from the outside, post-incarceration.

In 2020, Ear Hustle was named a *finalist for a Pulitzer Prize* in audio reporting — the first time the category was recognized — for bringing audiences "a consistently surprising and beautifully crafted series on life behind bars."

Listen

LARRP Programs

The UCLA/UC Berkeley Research Project

Community-Based Safety and Violence Prevention Trainings



LARRP is partnering with the MEPS Research Project to connect statewide and support impactful university research efforts. Our diverse 9-member Board of Advisory Stakeholders (BASH) is driving efforts with their expertise. We're seeking a research partner in San Diego or San Bernardino counties to help implement on-the-ground research implementation. Know a good fit? Contact Charles Vignola at Charles@lareentry.org to help make a meaningful impact!information.

Download the Flyer



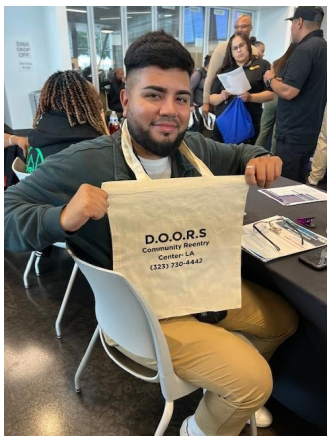
This program is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to address violence and promote safety within their communities. Participants actively shared their lived experiences, contributing to meaningful discussions on the social determinants of health and their connection to community-based violence. Feedback from participants has highlighted key takeaways, including the impact of systemic racism, disparities in school districts, and the importance of self-expression in fostering community safety. Many have noted the program's effectiveness in providing valuable insights on violence prevention, expanding their perspectives on community challenges, and empowering them to take on leadership roles to drive positive change. For questions or more information, contact Megan@lareentry.org.

For all questions and more information, contact ***Megan@lareentry.org***

LARRP and Doors at the Community Safety's Reentry Resource and Wellness Fair

November 6, 2024





Funding Opportunities!

Los Angeles Justice, Care And Opportunities Department Request For Statement Of Qualifications (RFSQ) For A Justice Support Services Master Agreement (JSSMA)

Initial Submissions Due: On or before December 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Please visit the ***Los Angeles County Solicitations webpage*** to access this

CARE Grant (2025 – 2028) Now Accepting Applications

Applications must be submitted by

11:59 pm on December 11, 2024.

California Reentry and Enrichment (CARE) Grant programs are insight-oriented, restorative justice programs that focus on increasing empathy and accountability among participants.

Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program Round 1 (2024): Request for Applications

Application due date December 13, 2024, at 5 p.m. PT (no exceptions)

Eiegible entities may apply and receive funding support to construct, acquire, and rehabilitate real estate assets in behavioral health settings that serve Medi-Cal members. DHCS will award up to $3.3 billion in grant funds to Bond BHCIP Round 1: Launch Ready projects that expand the community-based continuum of behavioral health treatment infrastructure by building

Solicitations webpage to access this RFSQ by clicking on the “Open Solicitations” link and searching for Solicitation Number “JC-110424-J1”.

To review the application questions prior to submission, please see the ***Qualtrics Application Questions More Info***

facilities and expanding services.

More Info

More Funding Opportunities - Become a Member Today

Don’t miss out! December Events

DAAC meeting

Monday, December 2nd at 11 AM
I’ll send aro

und the agenda as we get closer, but we plan to discuss how the coalition wants to operate going forward; how we want to engage with the Hochman administration, and our top concerns about possible Hochman related to immigration, the death penalty, kids in adult court, and more

Join Meeting



Probation Oversight Commission Virtual Town Hall: Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall And Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall Inspections

December 4th at 5:30 p.m.
Register

- Read the Los Padrinos Inspection Report: ***bit.ly/lospadrinos24***
- Read the Barry J. Nidorf Inspection Report Draft: ***bit.ly/bjn24***

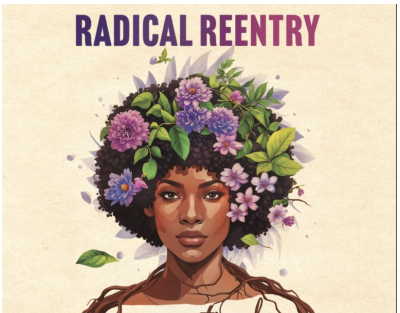


Greenbuild Job Fair

December 18, 2024 9:00am - 12:00pm
Northeast San Fernando Goodwill
342 N. San Fernando Rd. LA 90031

- Meet companies seeking workers with diverse expertise and transferable skills to work in clean energy,
- Learn about great vocational renewable energy training programs.

More info and RSVP







A New Way of Life Reentry Project 2024 Annual Gala: Radical Reentry

December 8, 20245:00pm Reception
6:15 pm Gala Program

We are delighted to invite you to join us at this year's Gala as we celebrate another year of impactful freedom work!

Tickets

DHCS Harm Reduction Summits

DHCS aims to collaborate with communities across the state to promote harm reduction within California's substance use disorder treatment system and create low-barrier, patient-centered care. DHCS encourages substance use disorder treatment providers and staff (including social workers, peers, front desk staff, case managers, nurses, physicians, and all staff in substance use disorder treatment settings) to attend and learn about best practices for incorporating the tenets of harm reduction into substance use disorder treatment. Summits will be held in Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego counties in winter 2025.

Register

In the News Last Month

Featured News Story

This month we feature one of many articles about election results that will directly effect our community



So you voted to overhaul L.A. County government. Now what?

LA Times By Rebecca Ellis and David Zahniser, Nov. 23, 2024
The proposal, which will bring on an elected county chief executive and nearly double the size of the Board of Supervisors, divided both the electorate and the supervisors themselves, with two of the five calling it a bad idea.The rollout may be equally contentious.

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More News Stories





Is The Age of Progressive Prosecutors Over?

Newsom Pardons Former San Quentin Inmate Who Became Pulitzer Prize Finalist

The Epoch Times, By Katabella Roberts, 11/28/2024

Walter Woods launched the 'Ear Hustle' podcast in 2017 —the first-ever podcast recorded and produced entirely from prison.
California Gov. Gavin Newsom granted 19 pardons on Nov. 27, including one for a Pulitzer Prize finalist who spent more than two decades imprisoned at San Quentin State Prison.

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State regulators, advocates prepare to sue if LA County refuses to close troubled juvenile hall

Pasadena Star News, By Jason Henry, November 27, 2024
'We are navigating uncharted waters,' county Supervisor Barger said in a statement. 'We are out of viable options.' That forced closure seems all but inevitable now after the Board of State and Community Corrections, the regulatory agency overseeing California's jails and juvenile halls, took no action to reverse its shutdown order during its meeting Thursday, Nov. 21, the last currently scheduled for this year.
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Los Angeles County District Attorney George

The Marshall Project, By Lakeidra Chavis, November 23, 2024

Some believe progressive prosecutors have had their moment, but others argue that view misinterprets what's happening across the country.
Progressive prosecutors became a popular scapegoat — even as numerous studies concluded that they have little influence on violent crime rates and that the role is inherently reactive.

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Editorial: California voters rejected an anti-slavery measure to end forced prison labor. Now what?

The LA Times Editorial Board, Nov. 20, 2024

The Legislature should pass a bill to remove mandatory work from the Penal Code that doesn't rely on a constitutional amendment. While the Constitution allows forced labor in prison, it is the Penal Code that mandates it. Only voters can change the constitutional provision, but lawmakers have the power and duty to change the law. California Gov. Gavin Newsom should also explore the possibility of an executive order directing prison officials to end forced labor.

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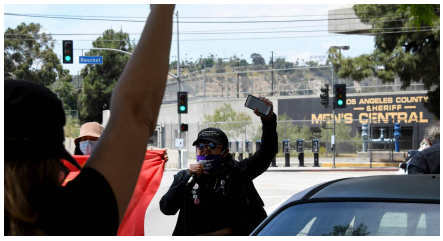

With 27 Deaths in 2024, LA Jails Continue Deadly Trend

Vera Institute of Justice, Sam McCann, Nov 12, 2024

What's killing people in LA County jails?
Overcrowded facilities are the most significant single factor driving jail deaths in Los Angeles. The jail system has operated as high as 16.7 percent over capacity since the start of last year. This means that not only are the facilities physically crowded, but resources are also being stretched beyond their breaking point.

Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón Reflects on Transformative Achievements and a Commitment to Justice Reform

November 27, 2024
Landmark reforms, increased accountability, and a focus on community safety mark Gascón's tenure as District Attorney of Los Angeles County
As Thanksgiving approaches, District Attorney George Gascón reflects on the progress made during his tenure, expressing gratitude for the collective efforts that have shaped a more just and equitable Los Angeles County. Under his leadership, the Office has implemented historic reforms focused on public safety, transparency, and centering the needs of victims and communities disproportionately impacted by crime and systemic inequities.

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In a historic shift, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors will nearly double in size

LA Times, By Rebecca Ellis, Nov. 12, 2024
A proposal to add four more members to the five-member board as part of a massive overhaul of the county government's structure has passed.
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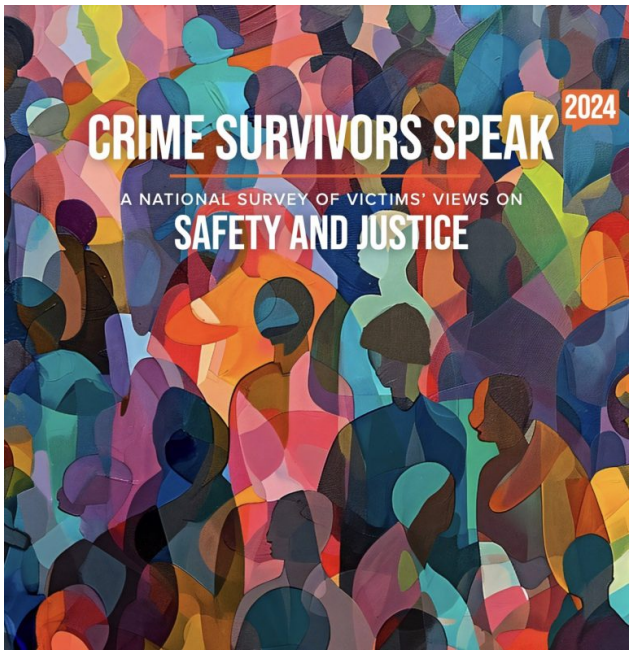
Reports



Crime Survivors Speak

A National Survey of Victims' Views on Safety and Justice

Despite billions spent on public safety in the United States, there is a gap between the safety investments victims of violence prefer and what government leaders prioritize. Crime Survivors Speak 2024 is the largest commissioned survey of violent crime victims in the nation. The results expose that gap and offer a safer path forward.
Aligning public policy with the needs and preferences of violent crime victims would cause a breakthrough in American crime policy and bring safety and healing to millions. It's a breakthrough that's long overdue.

Read the Report

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