LARRP March 2025 Newsletter

Restoring People! Rebuilding Community! Reshaping the Nation!



THE LOS ANGELES REGIONAL REENTRY PARTNERSHIP

In this Issue

LARRP Committee Meetings * Insurance Opportunity * Know Your Rights * Policy * LARRP LEADERS * Housing * LARRP is Hiring * Featured Job ***** Where was LARRP * * Partner Events * Reports * News * Programs ***

Become a Member Today!

Education Committee
March 6, 2025
3:30 - 4:30pm

Education

AV LARRP
March 18, 2025
11:00 - 12:00pm

Join Meeting

LARRP General Meeting
March 20, 2025
10:00 - 11:30am

General Meeting

Housing Committee
March 28, 2024
10:00 - 11:00am

Housing

Integrated Health Meeting
April 7, 2025
2:00 pm

Integrated Health

Employment Committee Meeting
April 16, 2025
2:00 - 3:30pm

Employment

Affordable Insurance Opportunity for your Nonprofit



LARRP is offering an exclusive insurance bundle in partnership with Gallagher to help organizations like yours save on costs, simplify coverage, and meet funding requirements. This program is designed to make insurance more accessible and affordable for



nonprofits in the reentry space. Stay tuned for the *March General Meeting on March 20th* for a presentation.
If you're interested, provide your contact information *here* to learn more.

Immigration: Know Your Rights

CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

At our last General Meeting, Jeneatte Zanipatin from CHIRLA delivered an insightful presentation on ICE interactions and immigrant rights. Staying informed and prepared is crucial, so we encourage you to review the presentation and explore the resources below. Please share this valuable information with your community.

Essential Resources:

- Know Your Rights App – *Access here*
- Red Card (Know Your Rights Printable Guide) – *Download here*
- Southern California Rapid Response Network – (888) 624-4752
- LARRP Immigrant Rights Resource Hub – *Explore here*
- *Chirla Presentation*

Recording of the *February LARRP General Meeting*

Policy Announcement

LARRP is proud to announce that we are co-sponsoring 2 bills this year in the California Legislature and providing our community with many tools and resources to help get involved in the legislative process.



The first bill is AB-1144 authored by Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, which will create protections for elderly incarcerated individuals to voluntarily step back from their work requirements in jails and prisons while being protected from adverse consequences from CDCR. Currently, any incarcerated individual who cannot receive a medical exemption must work their assigned job or risk being reprimanded, including but not limited to losing visitation, canteen, and other privileges. Enabling this population to be their own best judge for how much work they can take on will help restore dignity and autonomy to this group. Firsthand accounts shared with us describe older individuals who have to push heavy dollies with one hand while supporting their oxygen tanks with the other. We are dedicated to helping the incarcerated population, and this is a great first step to help some of the most vulnerable folks work as much as they see fit without being scared of being punished. We are co-sponsoring this bill with the

Our second bill is AB 1231 authored by Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, which will create new opportunities for diversion for 1170(h) felonies. Diversion is a legal process that allows individuals charged with certain offenses to avoid incarceration by completing rehabilitative programs, community service, or other alternatives instead of serving time in jail or prison. Currently, diversion is a great tool judges have to sentence folks to non-carceral outcomes for convictions, but diversion is only currently available for certain felonies. With AB 1231, more non-violent, non-sexual felonies will be eligible for diversion, based on the case and individual. Being able to keep more people from being incarcerated will have numerous benefits, as serving time in jail or prison is directly correlated to higher rates of substance use, homelessness, and unemployment. This bill will create new pathways for support and provide options for judges to provide non-carceral sentences, benefiting everyone involved in the judicial system. We are co-sponsoring this bill with the Vera Institute, Drug Policy Alliance, Pico California, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, and Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

How YOU Can Support These Bills

We need your voice! The LA County Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on March 18 on whether to support AB 1231, our bill expanding diversion options. This is a critical opportunity for LA County to lead the way in non-carceral sentencing. Currently, the motion is in clusters for the county, meaning it is being discussed before going to the full Board of Supervisors for a vote.

We will provide template language and instructions in our mid-month update, so make sure to keep your eyes open to

California Coalition for Women Prisoners, Cure CA, and A New Way Of Life.

get involved!

LARRP LEADERS



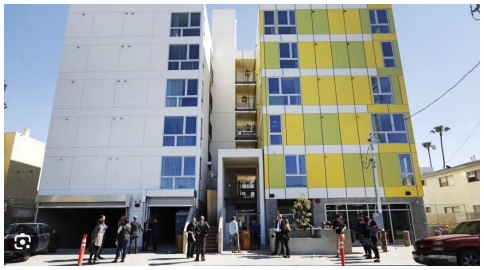
The LEADERS Training Academy is in full swing, with participants actively preparing for their Community Impact Project: Community Resource Fair on Thursday, April 24, 2025. This event will connect community members with employment opportunities, legal aid, housing assistance, and critical support services, showcasing the hands-on, transformative work LEADERS are doing.

What Are LEADERS Currently Learning?

Our participants—formerly incarcerated individuals dedicated to community reinvestment—are gaining valuable skills through training sessions such as:

- Harm Reduction & Community Safety – Learning about substance use prevention, overdose response (Narcan training), and harm reduction strategies to protect vulnerable populations.
- Networking & Relationship Building – Engaging in coalition-building workshops and professional networking to strengthen their impact.
- Grant Writing & Fundraising – Developing skills to secure funding for grassroots initiatives, ensuring sustainable change.
- Building Healthy Relationships – Mastering conflict resolution, communication, and emotional intelligence to foster stronger personal and professional connections.

Help Shape the Future of Housing in LA!



Housing Survey

Mayor Karen Bass wants your input! Take the **Los Angeles Housing Survey** to help shape policies on affordability, accessibility, and community development. By participating, you have the opportunity to influence decisions on housing accessibility, affordability, and community development.

It only takes a few minutes, but your impact can last for years.
Take the survey now: *Click here*

LARRP is Hiring!



Researcher and Data Analyst

- Conduct qualitative and quantitative research, including surveys, focus groups, and in-person interviews, to collect data directly from individuals and communities impacted by reentry.
- Analyze complex datasets to identify trends, disparities, and actionable insights across LARRP network initiatives.
- Develop logic models and frameworks to guide research projects and program evaluations.

Job description and application link

Featured Job



Creative Acts

We seek a formerly incarcerated individual to become the new ED for Creative Acts, an LA-based nonprofit that leverages the arts to facilitate healing from social justice trauma.

Could it be you?

See below for full job description and how to apply

[More Info and Apply]

Where was LARRP in January?



LARRP also attended “New Year, New Me” Resource Hub 2 on 2/6/25
and
The CCM Career Fair “Empowering Futures Together” 2/21/25 and on 2/21/25 CCM the Career Fair “Empowering Futures Together”

Amity Foundation DOL GO Convening

On February 20th and 21st LARRP staff Julyanna Mendez, Anthony Garcia, and Betty Mills attended the Amity DOL-Go Convening for an all-day event focused on the grant and best practices. The Convening was highly productive with CRCD, SBCS, and California Family Life Center offering valuable insights and discussions. LARRP also delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the LEADERS progress over the past year, showcasing key achievements and our ongoing efforts in the reentry support for our LEADERS TAY



LARRP Unites with Housing Leaders to Address Homelessness Policy Shifts

On February 26, Charles Vignola, LARRP’s Public Policy and Community Engagement Manager, joined fellow Conrad Hilton Foundation grantees to connect with housing and homelessness policy experts and discuss the rapidly evolving policy landscape. With representation from LA Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), Housing CA, and Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP), the convening was a valuable opportunity to strategize how to amplify local voices in national policy conversations.



The Hilton Foundation’s unwavering commitment to housing justice has been instrumental in strengthening organizations like LARRP, providing critical resources and support to advance our shared mission. Thanks to this partnership, we are better equipped to advocate for those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity across California. We are proud to stand alongside the Hilton Foundation and its network of grantees, working together to drive meaningful change in housing policy and community support.

Upcoming Events







Employment & Resource Roundup

March 12th 10 - 12pm
3965 S. Vermont Ave 3rd Fl, LA, Ca 90037

RSVP



Healing Through Forgiveness

This Four-Part Virtual Workshop Series with Ernst Fenelon Jr. will explore forgiveness, emotional intelligence, and personal accountability.

Sessions include:

- Part One: Understanding Forgiveness & The Psychology of Anger – **March 12**
- Part Two: Overcoming Barriers to Forgiveness & Radical Acceptance – **March 19**
- Part Three: Emotional Intelligence & Personal Responsibility – **March 26**
- Part Four: Healing Relationships & Setting Boundaries – **April 2**

Time: 10 AM – 11 AM

RSVP



Building A Future Without Gun Violence: California

March 19, 2025 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
11301 W. Olympic Blvd, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90064
The summit is designed to gather advocates, community leaders, experts, practitioners, frontline workers, and anyone concerned or impacted by gun violence to address its root causes, including the easy access to firearms. We will explore supply-side solutions and strategies to ensure the gun industry is held accountable for its role in perpetuating gun violence. During our summit, you will hear from experts about how to stem the illegal flow of crime guns into our communities, and you will have the opportunity to network, brainstorm, and share ideas on how we can address this issue TOGETHER!
RSVP



FREE Screening of The Strike – Winner of the San Quentin Film Festival

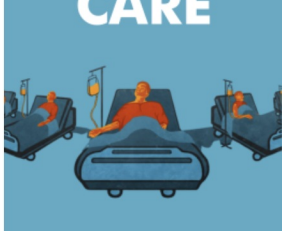
March 19, 2025
School of Law, UC Davis, 400 Mrak Hall Drive Davis, CA 95616
In 2013, inmates at the notorious Pelican Bay State Prison launched a concerted and historic protest to challenge inhumane conditions of solitary confinement in the California state prison system. Over 30,000 prisoners across the state joined forces, refusing meals to demand an end to indefinite isolation. Their advocacy resulted in landmark prison policy changes and fueled the fight to dismantle the country's unjust system of mass incarceration.
The screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring the filmmakers (JoeBill Muñoz and Lucas Guilkey), strike organizers, and Professor Carter White, director of the law school's Civil Rights Clinic. Dinner and refreshments will be provided. Free admission.
RSVP

Reports



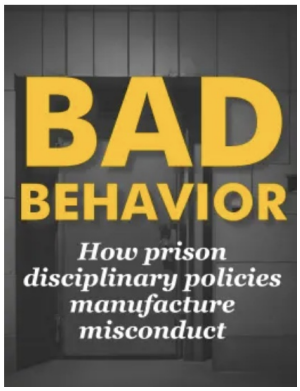
Cut-rate care: The systemic problems shaping 'healthcare' behind bars

Prison Policy Initiative, By Brian Nam-Sonenstein, February 2025



While people in the United States have long *struggled with cost, quality, and access to healthcare*, the crisis is particularly severe for people confined in jails and prisons. Since 2000, conditions have been so bad that roughly half of all state prison systems have been court-ordered to improve mental and medical healthcare, according to our analysis of data from *The Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse*.

Read the Report



Bad Behavior: How prison disciplinary policies manufacture misconduct

By Brian Nam-Sonenstein and Nell Haney, January 2025

Prison disciplinary systems are supposed to provide safety, security, and the orderly operation of corrections institutions. In some cases, they're even supposed to aid in rehabilitation. However, our analysis of policies in all state prison systems and testimony from dozens of incarcerated people show these unfair and unaccountable systems are counterproductive, traumatizing, and lengthen prison stays.
Read the Report

In the News Last Month

Featured News Story

As so many of the reforms we have been working towards for so long come under threat, we want to keep highlighting news about the many programs that are successful!



A Violence-Prevention Helpline for Those Who Want to Change Gains Ground in California

Witness LA, March 1, 2025, by Claudia Boyd-Barrett

The Alliance for Boys and Men of Color, a network of community and advocacy organizations focused on advancing racial and gender justice, is spearheading expansion of the helpline in California. For the past several years, the network has led a campaign to create new ways of addressing intimate partner violence that don't involve the criminal or legal system.

Read More

See this resource and many more on our Get Help page

More News Stories





Large majority of homeless people in California are not illicit drug users, study finds

LA Times By Doug Smith, Feb. 27, 2025

A large majority of people living on the streets in California are not illegal drug users, a study found. But drug use is still deeply intertwined with homelessness, both as a risk factor and an effect of losing housing, the researchers wrote.
The study, published in the medical journal JAMA by the Benioff Homeless and Housing Initiative at UC San Francisco, gives a complex statistical picture of a topic that has been fraught by conflicting narratives.
Read More

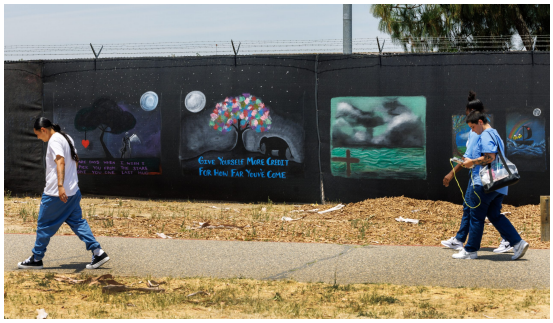


Newsom launches new digital democracy tool with initial focus on wildfire victims

LA Times, By Phil Willon, Feb. 23, 2025

The initiative will attempt to connect Californians directly with government officials in times of disaster and allow them to express their concerns about matters affecting their day-to-day lives.
Known as Engaged California, the platform will go live with a focus on aiding victims of the deadly wildfires in Pacific Palisades and Altadena who are struggling to recover.

Read More



'We're not sure if "reform" is cutting it': Activists call on California to close 10 prisons

A test of California's rightward lurch on homelessness

Politico, By Lindsey Holden 02/12/2025
MOVE ALONG: A Bay Area city known for its Tesla plant and tech workforce is testing the boundaries of a growing movement to ban homeless encampments.
Leaders in Fremont, a suburban community of about 226,000 just north of San Jose, late Tuesday voted to expand its ban on camping in public spaces. But its ordinance goes further...
Read More



How Trump's Immigration Crackdown Blurs the Lines Between Reality, Rumor and Theater

The Marshall Project, by Jamiles Lartey, Feb 8, 2025

ICE arrests, including "collateral arrests," are up — and often in front of cameras. But experts say the data is incomplete — and hoaxes abound.
Read More



California parole agent allegedly tricks transgender woman into leaving home, leading to arrest by ICE agents

Fox News, By Gina Silva, February 6, 2025
A California parole agent seemingly deceived Natalie Marinero, a transgender woman from El Salvador, into leaving her home, leading to her arrest by ICE agents. Marinero, who had been rebuilding her life after serving time for a second-degree murder conviction, now faces deportation to El Salvador, where she fears for her safety.
Read more or watch

Prison Reports, by Victoria Valenzuela, February 12th, 2025

A coalition of more than 80 organizations is ramping up its abolitionist campaign, urging Gov. Gavin Newsom to direct resources to supportive services
Read More

LARRP Programs

The UCLA/UC Berkeley Research Project



Going into 2025, our work with the California MEPS Hub Project continues to be an exciting opportunity to bring LARRP's community leadership and convening expertise to the frontline of research into how our network handles STI prevention, SUD support, and mentoring to help encourage folks to live their healthiest and best lives. Our work to identify a San Bernardino or San Diego research partner is ongoing, so if you or anyone in your network know of organizations in these cities which have the capacity to help roll out a new approach to connect at risk individuals with dedicated recovery and support resources, please reach out to Charles Vignola at ***Charles@lareentry.org.***
Download the Flyer

Community-Based Safety and Violence Prevention Trainings



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*

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