

# CODE *for* AMERICA

We're people-centered problem solvers  
Showing that with the mindful use of technology  
Government can work well for *everyone*

# **CLEAR** *My* **RECORD**



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# **CLEAR** *My* **RECORD**

## **Our Vision**

People impacted by the criminal legal system are able to **pass a background check** so they can qualify for **jobs, housing, and educational opportunities** from which they're typically excluded.

Our team provides technical expertise on automatic record clearance **policy, process, and implementation** to ensure both **feasibility & impact**

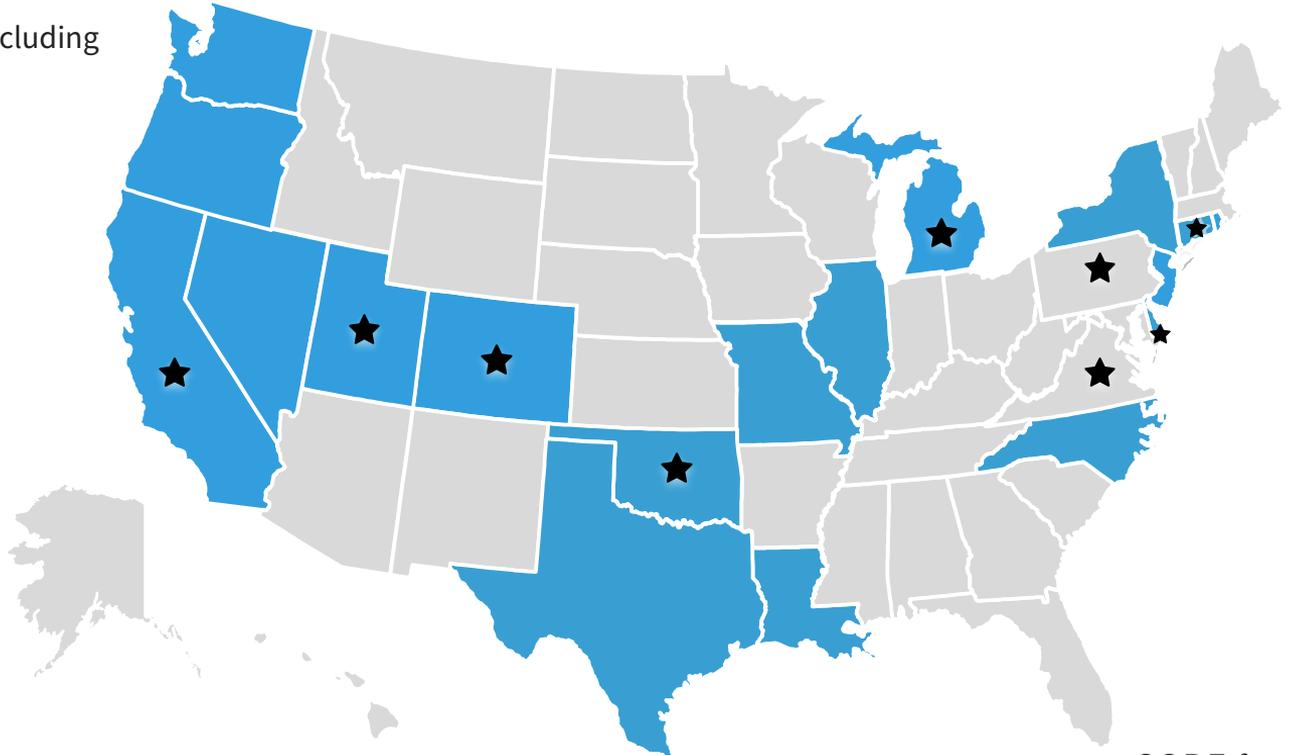
# Automatic record clearance landscape



States where CfA has worked (including current research & legislation)



Clean Slate bill passed



**About half of states that have passed cannabis legalization also included state-initiated automatic record clearance:**

*California, Connecticut, DC, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia*

What do we mean when we say  
**automatic** record clearance?

## The status quo: petition-based

A person with a criminal record must petition the court to have certain eligible convictions cleared.

**The petition process is initiated by the individual**, and involves paperwork, hiring lawyers, fees, and court time. The barriers inherent in the current system mean most people who are eligible for clearance don't get it.

## The vision: state-initiated

The government uses technology to **initiate** and **complete** the process of record clearance - with minimal manual human intervention and touchpoints.

This happens **without any action needed on the part of the person with the record**. This process takes place at scale, meaning that government is ultimately able to clear records much more efficiently, with a much greater impact.

What do we mean by “**clearance**”?

**Changing who has access** to criminal records

# What does automatic record clearance entail?



Determine  
**eligible charges**  
under the law



**Inform relevant agencies** about eligible charges



**Update records** in relevant agency systems

# Utah implementation

# Background

In 2019, Utah became the second state in the nation to pass a Clean Slate law automating its record sealing process for qualifying misdemeanor records.

The law removes the burden for qualifying individuals to petition the courts to obtain an expungement for most misdemeanor cases.

**How do we confidently match  
individuals in a messy data set?**

# Entity Resolution

NAME	DOB	SSN	ADDRESS
Anne Stringer		999-929-9999	383 E Vidas Ave Salt Lake City, Ut 84115
Anne M Stringer			383 E. Vidas Ave Salt Lake City, Ut 84115
Anne M Stringer	1975-11-03		383 E Vides Ave Salt Lake City, Ut 84115
Annie Stringer	1975-11-30		383 E Vidas Ave So Salt Lake, Ut 84115
Anne Michelle Hall	1975-11-03	999-929-9999	50 Brampton Way Salt Lake City, Ut 84110
Anne Michelle Hall	1976-11-03	999-929-9999	50 Bramopton Way SLC, Ut 84110
Anne Michelle Dawson	1975-11-03		828 38th Street Ogden, Ut
Anne Michele Hall	1975-11-03	999-929-9999	50 Brampton Way Salt Lake City, Ut 84110
Anne Baker	1975-11-03		550 West Fine Drive Ogden, Ut 84401
Anne Baker	1975-11-03		550 Westvine Ave Ogden, Ut 84401
Ann M Dawson			550 W Fine Dr Ogden, Ut 84401
Anne M Dawson	1975-11-03		

**So, how well does this work?**



## Validation Study Results

Out of 1,571 cases reviewed by human experts **only one error** was due to an individual having cases that were not identified by the automated solution

**Expungement  
Experts**

**97.3%**

**CFA Eligibility  
Software**

**99.9%**



# **Our services**

## Support we provide

### ● Technical advisement

#### Policy review & data point mapping

Close **reading and review** of technical implications of **current or proposed policy** in the context of the data required to implement and the systems in which that data resides

#### Technical assessments

Recommendations for **eligibility** criteria and automatic **process design**, based on legislation and the realities of existing criminal justice infrastructure

## Support we provide

Technical advisement

Data analysis

### Impact analysis

Custom reports to analyze the **potential impact of proposed or existing** automatic record clearance policy, and/or comparison of multiple scenarios to determine which is most impactful

## Support we provide

Technical advisement

Data analysis

Implementation support

### Data wrangling

Addressing data quality issues by aggregating, filtering, structuring and categorizing criminal record data in preparation for eligibility determination

### Entity resolution

For policies that include individual-level eligibility criteria, using software to match disparate records within and across criminal justice systems

### Eligibility determination

Designing custom eligibility logic that works off of criminal history data to identify records eligible for clearance

# How we get started

## **Shadowing opportunities:**

We work in partnership with government staff, which means we want to understand your processes, systems, and challenges

## **Access to data dictionary and de-identified data:**

This allows our team to deepen our understanding of the technical realities of your state and evaluate the scope of our work together

# Thank you!

[codeforamerica.org/programs/clear-my-record](https://codeforamerica.org/programs/clear-my-record)

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*Download our report on best practices for automatic record clearance policies in legalization and decriminalization!*



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