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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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
- Determine eligible charges under the law

Inform
- Inform relevant agencies about eligible charges

Update
- 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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne Stringer</td>
<td></td>
<td>999-929-9999</td>
<td>383 E Vidas Ave Salt Lake City, Ut 84115</td>
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<td>Anne M Stringer</td>
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<td>Annie Stringer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne Michelle Hall</td>
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<td>50 Brampton Way Salt Lake City, Ut 84110</td>
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<td>550 West Fine Drive Ogden, Ut 84401</td>
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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.
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

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