

Reform & Advocacy

A.R.R.O (Advocacy, Re-Entry, Resource, Outreach) aims to connect individuals who have a criminal record to quality resources in order to ensure successful community integration. When ARRO was created, it was created because we saw the barriers that society puts in the way of those that “made a mistake”. We found a community that had unwarranted fears or families with shame if someone in their family was a felon. We have spent the last ten years working to change perception and work to change the dynamics in our criminal justice system. ARRO works towards prisoner reentry, prisoner diversion, food assistance, transportation, college applications, advocacy, and community organizing.

<http://nwlansing.org/programs/a-r-r-o/>

ACLU of Michigan Smart Justice Campaign is an unprecedented, multi-year effort to eliminate racism in the criminal legal system and reduce the U.S. jail and prison population by 50 percent. The campaign focuses its work on the “front end” of the criminal justice system—from policing to sentencing—seeking to end excessively harsh criminal justice policies that result in mass incarceration, over-criminalization, and racial injustice and that stand in the way of a fair and equal society.

<https://www.aclumich.org/en/campaigns/smart-justice-campaign>

MI-CURE is a grassroots justice reform organization. It is a chapter of National CURE. We work to educate and inspire individuals to advocate for themselves and for improvements in the state's justice systems. We do that by publishing a quarterly newsletter, publishing self-help literature, and hosting an annual membership meeting.

<https://www.mi-cure.org>

Safe & Just Michigan works to reduce the harm caused by both crime and incarceration. We advance evidence-based reforms that improve public safety and eliminate unnecessary corrections spending. Our goals include: Increase public investment in services proven to reduce crime and violence, including trauma-informed services for crime survivors. Safely reduce the number of people incarcerated in Michigan. Collaborate with a wide range of organizations to help build a broad-based, bipartisan movement for a safe and just Michigan. Support the work of leaders representing those most harmed and least served by the criminal justice system.

<https://www.safeandjustmi.org/our-work/>

The Michigan Clean Slate Initiative is an initiative through Safe & Just Michigan, which will make criminal record expungements automatic for all people who are eligible for them. Under current rules, that means that people who have no more than one felony or two misdemeanors would see their records expunged after seven years of no criminal violations.

<https://www.safeandjustmi.org/our-work/clean-slate-for-michigan/>

#CleanSlateMichigan is a campaign under JustLeadershipUSA’s #workingFUTURE campaign, which works to expand Felony & Misdemeanor Expungement.

<https://jlusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/WORKINGfuture-Michigan-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

The Restorative Justice Coalition of W. Michigan has been serving as a convener and catalyst to move forward an innovative Restorative Justice Conference Program for Juvenile Criminal Behavior with the following partners: Kent County Prosecutor Kent County Juvenile Probation Grand Rapids City Attorney Dispute Resolution Center of West Michigan The pilot program is designed for those juvenile offenders who admit to their role in certain Assault and Battery, Malicious Destruction of Property or Larceny offenses where those who are harmed are also willing to engage in a restorative justice conferencing process.

<http://restorativejusticewmi.org>

Legal Aid & Advocacy

AFSC Michigan's Criminal Justice Program advocates for and with over 1,500 people in prison in Michigan and their loved ones each year, building an "advocacy network" throughout the state. Individual advocacy directly informs our systemic change work and helps us build power through relationships. Ultimately, we work to expose the problem of using prisons and punishment in Michigan to deal with deeply rooted and complex social harms. Once exposed, we work for a Michigan where we center transformation and holistic accountability for all people harmed by the criminal punishment system and for people harmed by other people. Our work centers on the hardest and most complicated work--people with severe and persistent mental illness, people serving long sentences for deep harm caused in communities, people held in solitary confinement, people experiencing harsher conditions while confined because of their LGBTQ identities, and women in prison. We use a racial justice and anti-oppression framework and strive toward a world without prisons. <https://www.afsc.org/office/ypsilanti-mi>

Detroit Justice Center (DJC) is a non-profit law firm working alongside communities to create economic opportunities, transform the justice system, and promote equitable and just cities.

<https://www.detroitjustice.org>

Michigan Innocence Clinic: Students investigate and litigate cases on behalf of prisoners who have new evidence that may establish that they are actually innocent of the crimes for which they have been convicted. Unlike many other innocence clinics, which specialize in DNA exonerations, the Michigan Innocence Clinic focuses on innocence cases where there is no DNA to be tested. The Clinic's work spans all levels of state and federal courts. Since its founding in 2009, the Clinic has successfully won the release of 22 people who had been wrongfully convicted, and served anywhere from two to 46 years in prison.

<http://www.law.umich.edu/CLINICAL/INNOCENCECLINIC/Pages/default.aspx>

Education & Advocacy

U-M Carceral State Project is an interdisciplinary collaboration that brings impacted communities and advocacy organizations together with researchers, writers, and artists from the University of Michigan to address the current crisis as well as collateral consequences of mass incarceration, policing, and immigration detention in the State of Michigan, and to work towards more just responses to the safety concerns and social needs of this region.

Michigan Organizations

<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/carceral-project/>