



Office of the SF Public Defender

CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM ACCEPT AND EXPEND GRANT -- CRANKSTART
FOUNDATION - KELSON FOUNDATION - - \$250,000 AND \$35,000 RESPECTIVELY

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, APRIL 14, 2021.

The Clean Slate Program

- ▶ Since being established in 1999 by Jeff Adachi, the Clean Slate program has served more than 30,000 clients.
- ▶ Clients are legally discriminated against when denied education, housing and employment because of their criminal records. The SF Public Defender program restores dignity to these clients by removing barriers and allowing them to return to the community.
- ▶ Clean Slate intervention has also prevented many client deportations based on decades old drug offenses.

Most Offenses are Arrests (Non-Conviction) and Low-Level Convictions (Drug, Theft)

- ▶ Under the 2018 C.A.R.E. Act, Clean Slate experienced a high volume of new clients seeking relief. This law allows any person who is arrested but ultimately not convicted of a crime in California to petition the court to have his or her arrest record sealed—that record remains private and protected.
- ▶ Based on Prop 47 and 64, reclassifying many low-level felony offenses to misdemeanors, a large part of Clean Slate legal services are reclassifying felony offenses involving marijuana, drug possession and theft to misdemeanors. With record-number unemployment amidst the pandemic, Clean Slate staff have had difficulty meeting the public demand for services.

Rising to the Challenge

- ▶ Amidst pandemic where the Public Defender's Office couldn't hold weekly walk-in clinics at office or regular bi-monthly community clinics, the Clean Slate program did the following:
 - ▶ Provided legal services to 3,518 applicants.
 - ▶ Filed 1,242 motions on behalf of clients in court.
 - ▶ Held Zoom clinics in partnership with SFPD, SFDA, and community organizations and agencies, like The Family Compass Center.

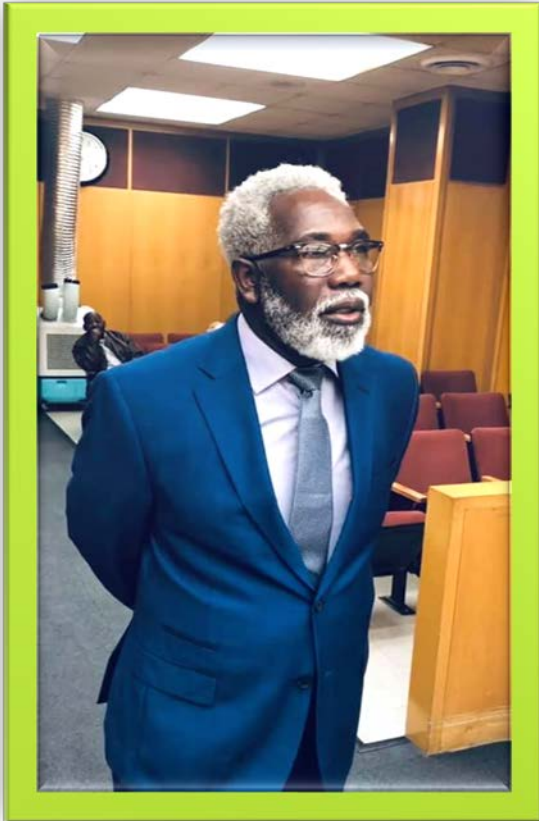
* All this was achieved with one Clean Slate staff attorney, one paralegal and a single processing clerk.

This Grant Will Expand Clean Slate Services by 50%

- ▶ Current 2021 Targets based on current staff of one attorney, one paralegal and one clerk:
 - ▶ Legal Services provided for 6,000 clients
 - ▶ 2,000 motions filed on behalf of clients
- ▶ Increased 2021 Targets with addition of one attorney and one paralegal:
 - ▶ Legal Services provided for 9,000 clients (50% increase)
 - ▶ 3,000 motions filed on behalf of clients (50% increase)

Clean Slate Services can substantially expand with the Crankstart and Kelson Foundation grants by 50%.

Client Stories



"I was sentenced to life in prison for possession of drugs, but after the law changed three-strikes sentencing, I got released from prison. I thought that was the best day of my life, and then I went to the Clean Slate program. Thanks to my San Francisco public defender, I obtained a Certificate of Rehabilitation and now I'm an ordained minister and studying social work at Humboldt State. Words can't describe my gratitude. God defined my path, not my record." - A. Busby



"I thought I'd be deported but the Clean Slate program cleared my drug record from nearly two decades ago. With my public defender's help, I was able to stay in San Francisco and work hard for my family, especially for my beautiful little daughter Kalea. Now, we're all so happy because I'm just days away from finally becoming a United States citizen. Thank you Clean Slate for making my American Dream come true!" --K. Him

Thank you!

▶ Questions?