



**SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Greater than one.



## THE FREEDOM PROJECT

We offer full second-look representation, including robust resentencing and parole board representation.

Our award-winning Freedom Project is redefining the odds for indigent clients in California prisons and creating a national model for post-conviction public defense.



## AT A GLANCE: Freedom Project 2020-2025

With just 3 lawyers, 2 paralegals, and 2 social workers (social workers extended for 2 years through this \$850,000 grant):

- **104 client releases**
- **\$227 million** CA tax dollars saved
- **35% reduction** of San Franciscans in CDCR
- **1,703 years removed** from client's prison terms.

\*all as of 1-20-2026

# The Freedom Project brings justice & dignity to elders



- **69% of San Francisco's prison population is over 50**
- **44% is over age 60**
- **12% is over 70**
  
- CA spends 300% more to incarcerate people over age 55 than other age groups.
  
- Recidivism declines dramatically with age.
  
- Nearly all exiting prison have chronic health conditions.
  - Our caseworkers connect to primary care, mental health and specialty care, and targeted case management.

# The Freedom Project brings second chances to youth offenders



Charged as an adult at age 17, VR was released after resentencing. “I never thought in a million years I would have this close relationship with my son. After doing 15 years I am now working at UCSF. I was given an opportunity and I haven’t looked back. Thank you, for believing in me and fighting for me.”

JV fled an abusive home and was charged in the adult system at age 16. Despite victim support, the parole board refused to act. When the DA recommended resentencing and a new DA reneged, our advocacy produced a new rule of law: A shift in political winds alone cannot negate a resentencing referral. *People v. Vaesau* (2023) 94 Cal.App.5th 132.

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# The Freedom Project works to correct racial injustice

Youth of color comprise ~90% of cases transferred to adult court in CA.

“Just another” Black youth transferred to adult court in the 1980s at age 17, CJ spent 42 years in prison until our team undid his sentence. Released at age 59, he is now a case manager at the transitional home that welcomed him in early reentry.



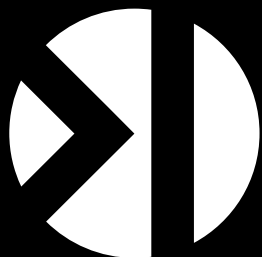
## WE DO NOT GIVE UP PEOPLE, FAMILIES, OR COMMUNITY.



**We build support systems** to keep our clients resourced, with our team available indefinitely.

**We strengthen community** through homecomings, Freedom Celebrations, and a monthly Freedom Peer Group to foster safe spaces and expand pro-social networks.

**We expand paths to freedom** with new laws and legal precedent.



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**THANK YOU**

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