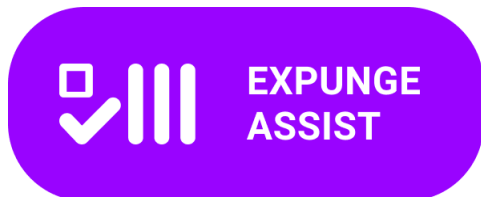# ExpungeAssist (expunge assist.org)

Expunge Assist, formerly "*The Record Clearance Project*," aims to help people in California with criminal records expunge, reduce or clear those records.

We address government and non-profit partner needs by creating software tools to change the legal landscape.

History

In 2019 Code for America had a National Day of Civic Hacking (NDoCH) themed: justice, equity and record clearance. Hack for LA (HfLA) along with 80+ other Code for America affiliated brigades created local activities around these topics. Out of this "The Record Clearance Project" was created to facilitate Prop 47 and Prop 64, laws intended to allow people to reduce or clear sentences for nonviolent drug and cannabis convictions in CA. The project was and is staffed by volunteers from a variety of different backgrounds and lived experiences, including direct experience with the criminal justice system.

Record Clearance Project Achievements and Goals

Based on research insights made possible through partnering with NDICA, we are moving forward with creating digital tools to help the 200,000+ residents of LA county who are eligible for record clearance.

Community organizers and nonprofits are already working in this area and getting results. We aim to partner and improve upon the existing body of work in this space.

Initial Steps

- Conducted participant observation at NDICA's expungement clinic and conducted interviews with organizers, public defenders and pro se applicants to map user journeys
- Met with industry experts and researchers to document the expungement process in CA

In-Progress Milestones

- Building upon established networks and forming new relationships to collaborate with key organizations to shape our work to meet the criminal-legal ecosystem's needs
- Developing **Expunge Assist**, a host site for expungement tools: initially a digital personal statement generator to expedite the record clearance petition process

Upcoming Roadmap

- Solicit partnerships with government and nonprofits in the record clearance space
- Mapping new use avenues for the Personal Statement Generator tool
- Seeking information regarding opportunities to expand on informational campaigns
- Create marketing collateral for outreach
- Localize personal statement generator into other languages