



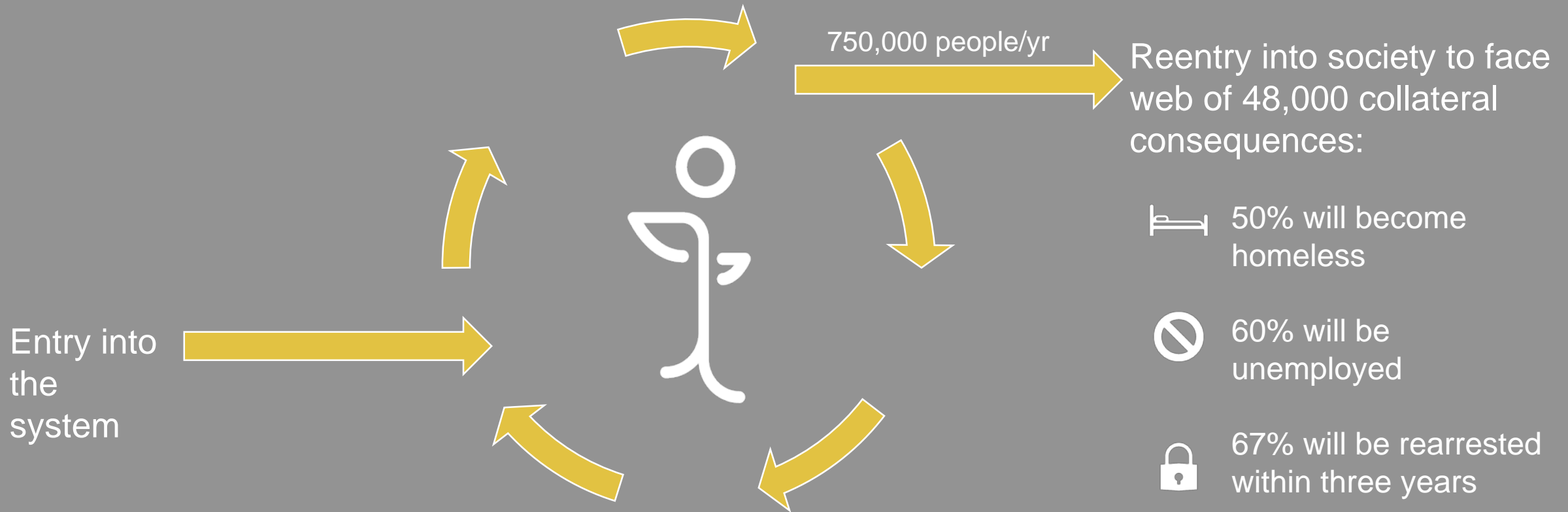


Root & Rebound's mission is to transfer **power and information** from the policy and legal communities to the people most impacted by our criminal justice system through **public education, direct legal services,** and **policy advocacy**, so that the law serves, rather than harms, lowincome communities and communities of color in the United States.

Our Story

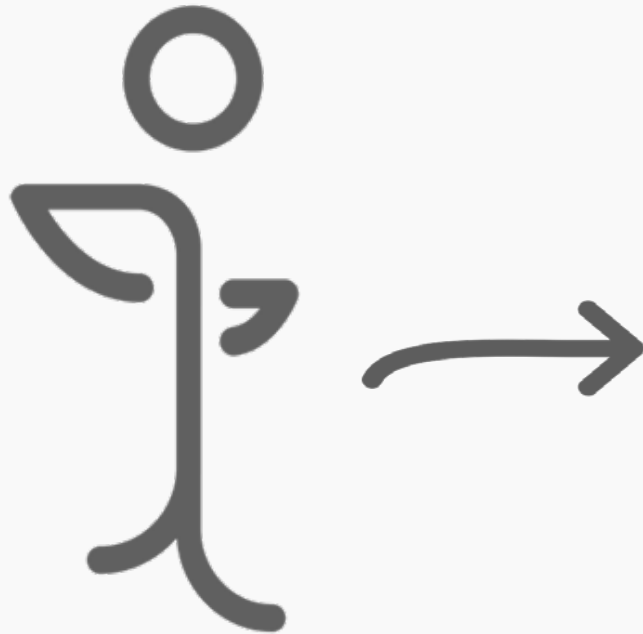
- Starting in 2013 as a group of lawyers, Root & Rebound aimed to help individuals impacted by incarceration navigate the complex web of collateral consequences
- In Year 1, Root & Rebound directly served 100+ clients through our 1:1 model
- By 2014, Root & Rebound desired to work on a broader solution, given the 50,000+ people released per year from prison and jail in California alone
- In 2015, realizing our clients were hungry to advocate for themselves if empowered with the practical information, R&R published the first “Roadmap to Reentry: A California Legal Guide”

National need: Reentering life outside



Barriers to reentry

System-impacted individual



Challenges faced during reentry¹



46% had difficulty finding a job and 75% are still unemployed over 1 year after release



40% lack a high school diploma or GED



39% lost custody of their child or had parental rights terminated



24% had difficulty finding housing



45% struggle to pay fines and fees

1. Source: Californians for Safety and Justice's 2018 report: "Repairing the Road to Redemption in California"

Who are R&R clients?

100% of attendees at a recent legal clinic reported they **had nowhere else to go** for legal support.

On average, ~84% of clinic attendees report that they have **not gotten legal support** on their issue in the past.

On average, ~73% of clinic attendees in tribal and rural communities report having **at least one dependent**.

On average, ~72% of clinic attendees report that the legal issue for which they came for support has **impacted their employment opportunities**.

On average, ~34% of clinic attendees report currently living in a **non-permanent housing** situation and 6% report being chronically homeless.

R&R's 3-pronged model



Educate communities impacted by mass incarceration to know their rights



Advocate for protection and full restoration of rights for impacted persons



Reform the law to better serve people with criminal records



Education

R&R creates **guides**, **toolkits**, **online materials**, and **self-help tools** for people directly impacted and infrastructure agencies

With partner organizations, R&R conducts **customizable trainings** on topics ranging from mitigating challenges on parole to best practices for working with people with conviction histories

Our impact

- Provided legal resources, training, and support to **79,000 people**
- Created know-your-rights resources for **9 states**
- Trained over **4,833 people** in CA about their rights with a record



Advocacy

Through the only free **Reentry Legal Hotline** in the nation, **statewide clinics**, and **court representation**, R&R assists clients and empowers them with legal education so that they can access basic necessities including employment, housing, and family reunification



Our impact

- Served over **2,285 clients** through the **Reentry Hotline**
 - 93% of clients report that their reentry legal issue was resolved through Hotline support
- Served over **442 clients at clinics**
 - 91% of clinic attendees report that R&R services improved their ability to advocate for themselves
 - 96% of clinic attendees report that R&R services provided them with a plan and concrete steps



Reform

In a feedback loop of information and partnership with clients and policymakers, R&R **advances policy reform** that eliminates barriers to self-sufficiency and success for people with criminal records while amplifying the voices of people most impacted



Our impact

- Launched a **coalition** of 50+ partner groups for occupational licensing reform
- Co-sponsored **AB 2845**, reforming the CA pardon and commutations process to improve transparency and accessibility
- Partnered on **AB 2293**, requiring all EMT boards in CA to collect and report data about the denial rates of applicants with criminal records
- Partnered on **AB 2138** (under review), making the application process to state licensing agencies more fair to people with records



Advocacy: Direct Services

- **Our legal team assists client with issues such as :**
 - Understanding and challenging conditions of parole or probation
 - Getting an ID & drivers license
 - Navigating family reunification and child support requirements
 - Understanding what an employer can ask applicants about their criminal history
 - Rights and options for going back to school after incarceration
 - Understanding occupational licencing restrictions and options
 - Applying to housing with a record
 - Applying to public benefits with a record



Advocacy: Reentry Legal Hotline

Root & Rebound's **Reentry Legal Hotline** operates every Friday from 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Our Hotline is free and open to anyone in California with a reentry-related legal issue, question, or concern, including those who are incarcerated.



Why is our Reentry Legal Hotline important?

- We reach a wide range of people across the State of California
- We take in-prison calls helping people who are currently incarcerated prepare for release.
- We give people the information they need to advocate for themselves to help them navigate the 48,000 legal barriers to reentry.



Advocacy: Reentry Legal Clinics

- Clients meet **one-one** with a member of our legal team learn about their legal rights with a criminal record!



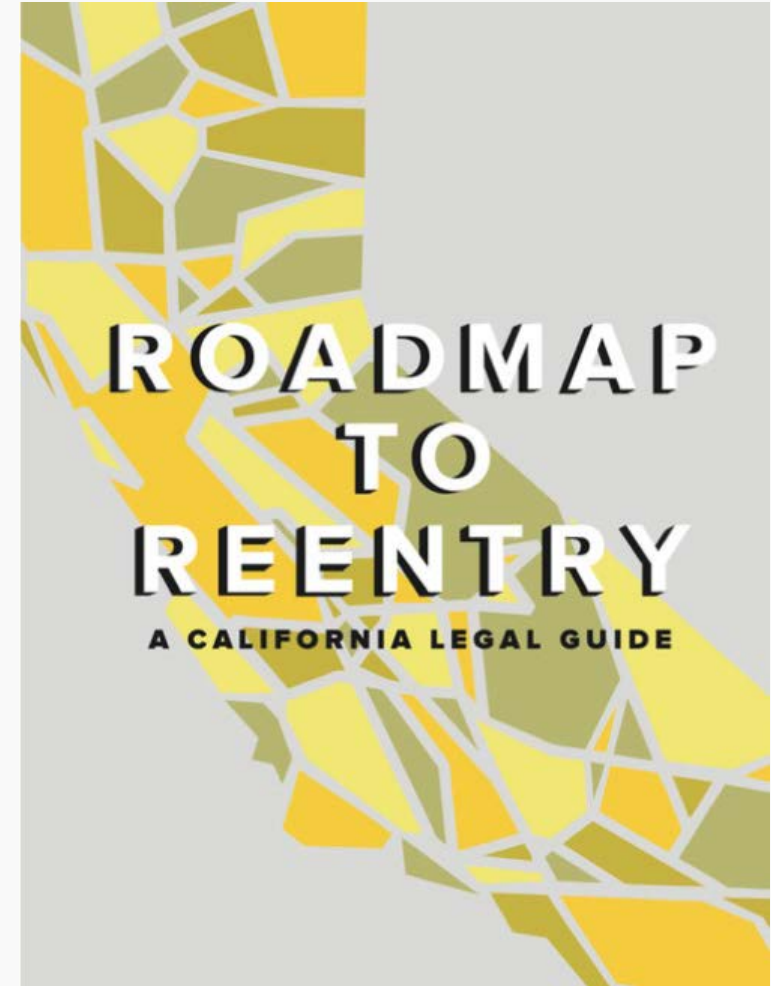
Why are our clinics important?

- We travel **across the state of California** to host pop-up reentry legal clinics in rural areas where access to justice services are sparse or nonexistent.
- We reach people who would not otherwise be aware of our services.
- We offer **holistic** in-person support helping people with records feel seen and heard.



Public Education: Publications

- California Resources
 - *Roadmap to Reentry: A California Legal Guide*
 - ***Reentry Planning Toolkits***
 - *For People with Records*
 - *For Loved Ones*
 - *For Social Service Providers*
 - *My Education, My Freedom Toolkit*
 - *California Employers Fair Chance Hiring Guide*
 - *Tribal Reentry Advocacy Guide*

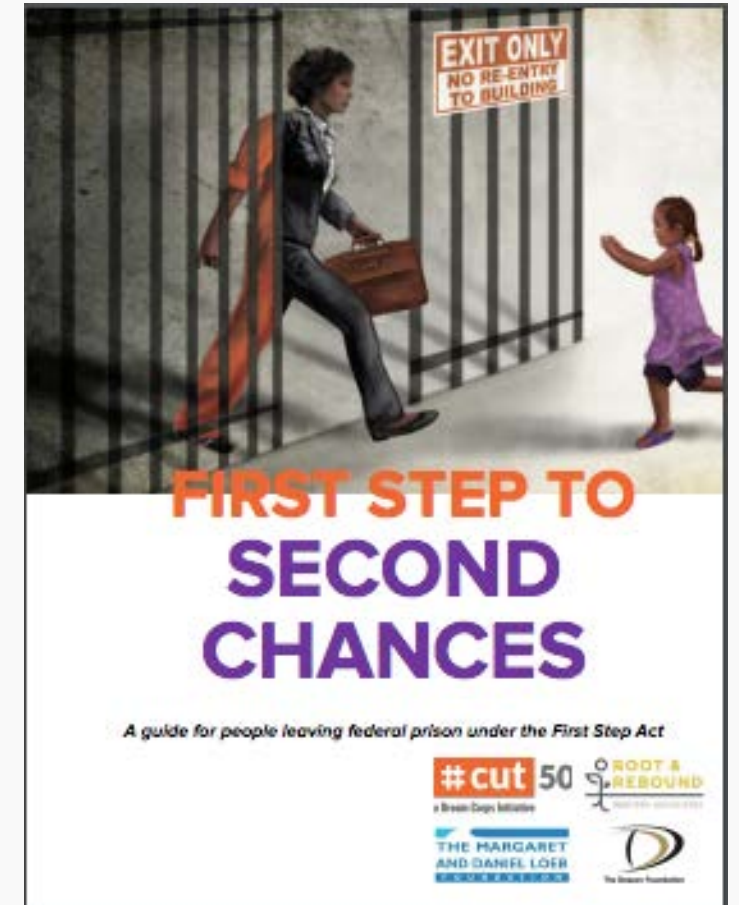




Public Education: Publications

National Resources

- *First Step to Second Chances Guide*
- *National Fair Chance Housing Guide*
- *Minnesota Employers Fair Chance Hiring Guide*
- *Hawaii Reentry Legal Guide*





Public Education: Trainings



- *Workshops & Trainings*
 - *Tribal Reentry Advocacy: Best Practices for Reentry*
 - *Fair Chance Housing Webinar/LiveCast*
 - *Fair Chance Hiring Workshop*

R&R drives tangible impact in system- impacted communities



Employment

Assisted a client in gaining a living wage job— her **income went from \$48 to \$4200 per month** . R&R worked with the client to gain clearance from the teacher commission, preparing her for the hearing, coaching on who should provide support letters, and attending the hearing to support.



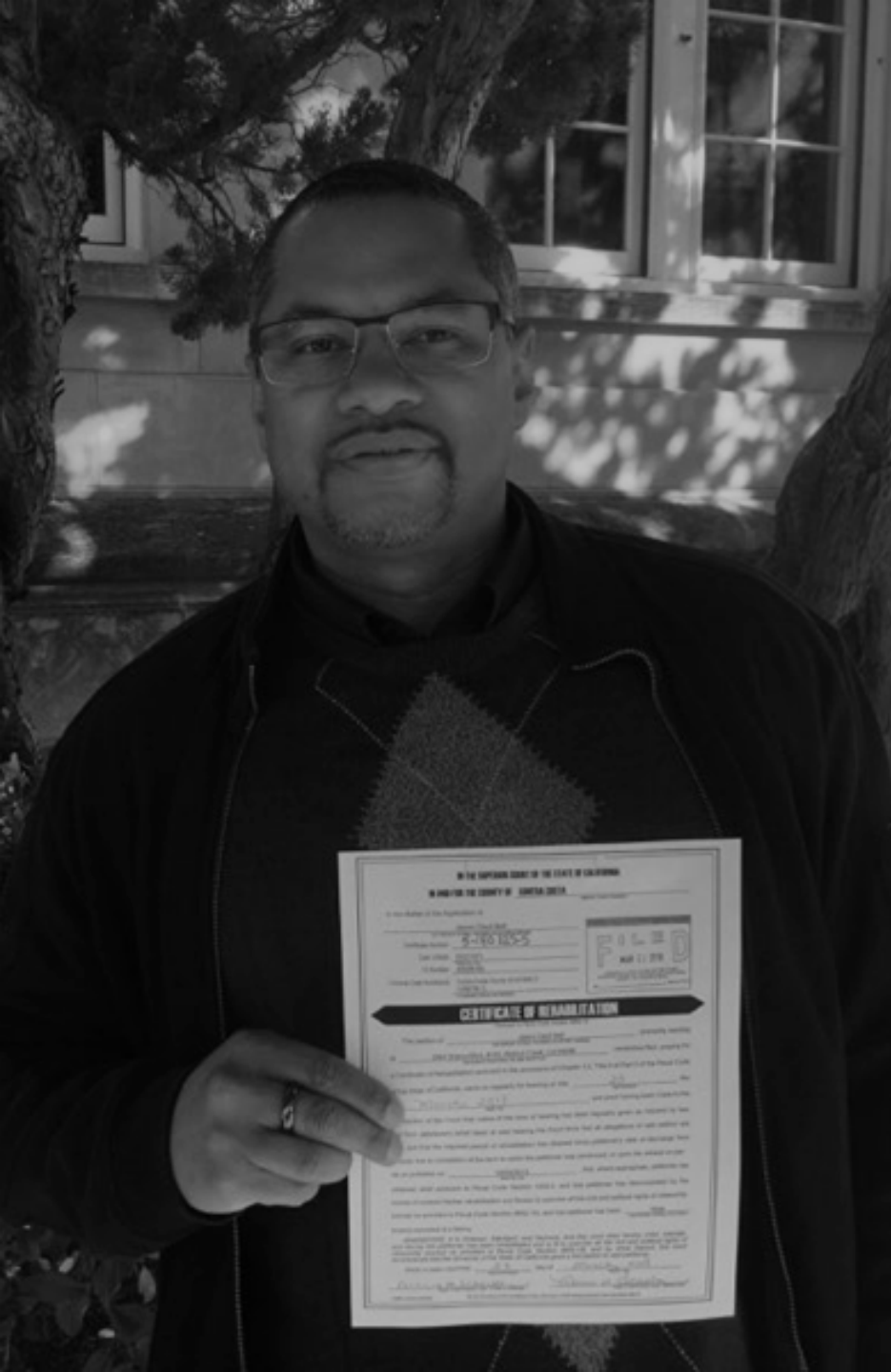
Family Reunification

Helped a client achieve significant increase in visitation with her child – **from 4 hours every other Saturday to 8 hours every Saturday and 8 hours every other Sunday** . R&R coached the client in how to present her story and attended hearings to continue supporting



Parole

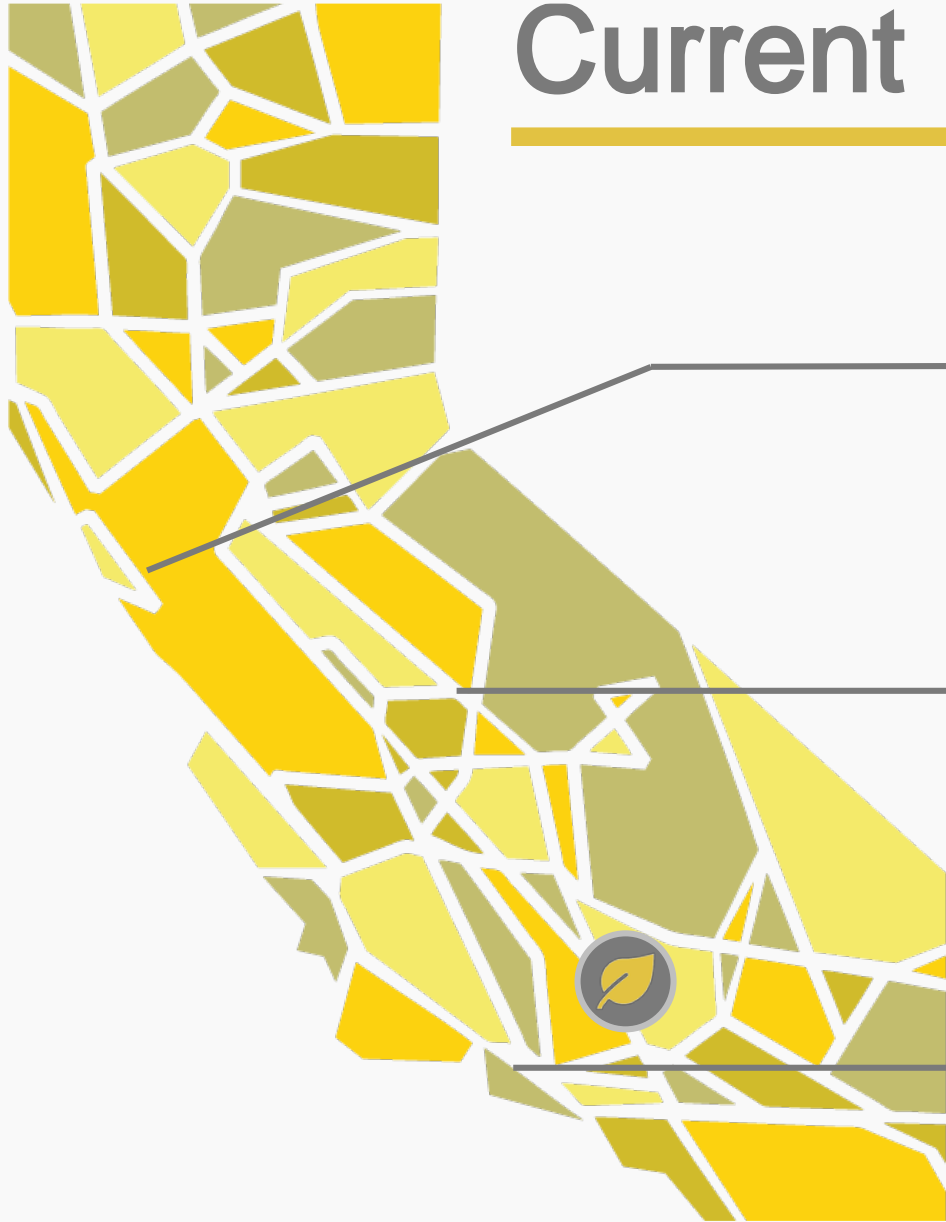
Reduced client's **parole term from 10 to 3 years** . R&R provided assisted in explaining the process and filing client's paperwork



Voices from the field

- “We have literally no resources here. To be able to call someone on the outside – I can’t even tell you how valuable that is.”
- "I have so much gratitude that I can call this hotline. You guys take so much anxiety and panic that comes with being released and give me hope instead.”
- "This book is the biggest blessing in the world. I have read the whole thing. I tear out pages and organize them into folders.”
- “God bless you all. You have helped so many people out here in Hoopa get jobs. Thank you all for your work.”

Current R&R footprint



Oakland

HQ office that runs the statewide free reentry hotline

Fresno


Satellite office focused on financial wellness and employment for women in the Central Valley

L.A.

Partnership site with 1 R&R attorney embedded in the Anti-Recidivism Coalition

Expansion

Model for growth will continue through partnerships with grassroots organizations, including additional sites identified in:

 San Bernardino with *Time for Change Foundation*

Thank you.



Backup

Based in Greenville, SC, Soteria creates opportunities for previously incarcerated men to reenter society through transitional housing, life skills, and job training

Founded by [Jerry Blassingame](#), A JustLeadershipUSA Leading with Conviction Fellow, reentry leader and expert, and accomplished criminal justice reform leader in SC, Soteria is our dream partner for expansion

South Carolina expansion site

Partnering with Soteria Community Development Corp.



Direct services

- Place a holistically-trained R&R attorney onsite
- Provide community and statewide legal support to Soteria families and people throughout S.C.
- Create self-help materials, hotline services, clinics, and direct services



Policy change

- Partner with Soteria to launch the South Carolina Child Support Advocacy Initiative
- Support advocacy focused on expungement and legislation initiatives regarding child and family reunification, housing, and employment.

National need: Long term issues

The cycle of poverty impacts incarceration and continues to be a consequence long after the initial transition



Impact from 2 on -site attorneys



- **Statewide Clinics:** Host 1-2 community legal clinics quarterly, serving ~400 clients annually through in-person clinics
- **Full Court Representation:** Directly represent ~50 clients annually, focusing on the legal barriers and issues most underserved by civil legal aid offices
- **Policy Advocacy:** Co-sponsor 1-2 bills per legislative cycle, with positive impacts on thousands if not millions of people with records across the state

Estimated impact of ~600 people from on -site attorneys

R&R's 3-pronged model



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communities
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Advocate
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Reform
the law to better
serve people
with criminal
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