

“When my record was finally expunged, it felt like I could breathe again. I was allowed to be seen for who I am now, not who I was at 19. I’m grateful, finally free from the chains of my past. I have a second chance.”

CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM
PARTICIPANT

Oakland County Clean Slate Program

Expungement leads to transformative employment, education and homeownership opportunities

In 2021, the Oakland County Clean Slate Program was launched to help eligible Oakland County residents successfully expunge select convictions from their public record. This program opens doors to new employment, education and housing opportunities. It is managed by Oakland County Michigan Works!

BY THE NUMBERS

(2021-2025)

2,748

Number of Expungement
Requests for Assistance
(Oakland County Residents)

949*

Number of Clean Slate
Program Participants

1,351

Number of
Expungements

*Not all applicants are eligible under Michigan law, and a number of applicant's convictions were automatically expunged starting in 2022.

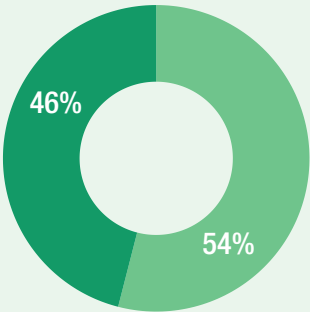


2025 Participant Survey

Oakland County conducted a survey of participants who had successfully completed the expungement process. A total of **168** people responded and the results illustrate the profound, positive impact of the program. Participants reported new job opportunities, higher earnings, greater educational opportunities, improved housing stability and perhaps, most importantly, a renewed sense of dignity, confidence and belonging in their communities.

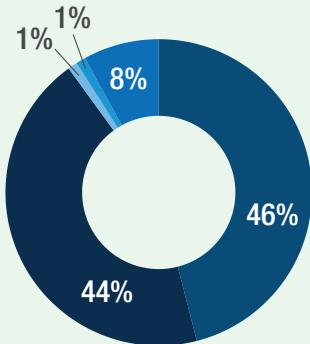
SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Gender



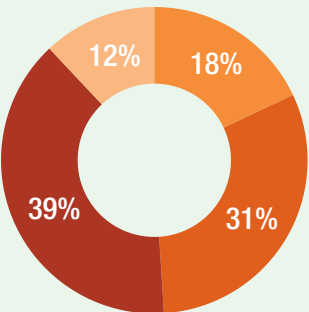
- Female
- Male

Race



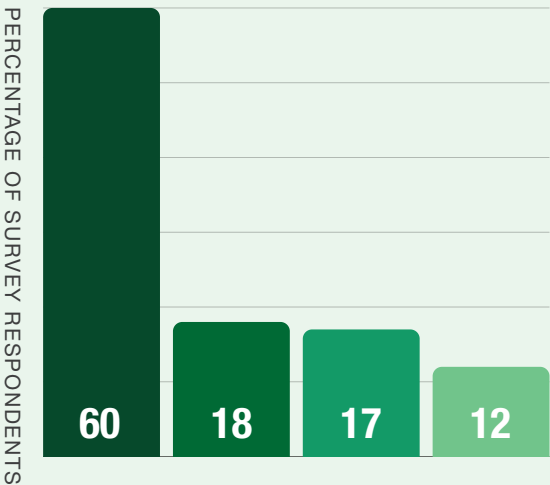
- White
- African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian
- Other

Age (at expungement)



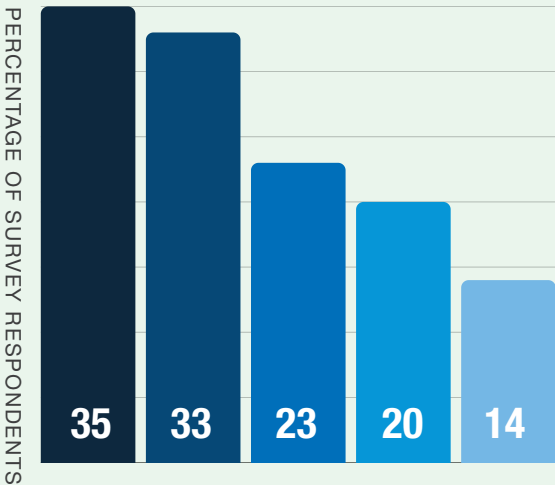
- Young Adults (18-30)
- Mid-Career Adults (31-45)
- Established Workers (46-60)
- Older Adults (61 and Over)

Opportunities Missed Prior to Expungement



- Denied a Job
- Discouraged from Applying for a License
- Denied a Professional License
- Denied a Promotion

Positive Impact of Expungement



- Wage Increase
- New Job Offer
- Career Change
- Promotion
- Training or Education Opportunity



INCOME

61 percent of survey respondents reported an increase in income level (i.e. pay raise, new job, or career change) after expungement

Prior to their conviction expungement, they earned between **\$1,000** and **\$2,999 per month**

After expungement, their average earnings increased to **\$2,999** to **\$5,000 monthly**

“It has made a wonderful change to know that I don’t have anything hanging over my head anymore and I can go and apply for jobs with better opportunities.”

CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



EDUCATION & TRAINING

Clean Slate participants invest in their futures and contribute to a skilled, employable workforce in Oakland County

39%

Before their expungement, **39 percent** of respondents said they avoided applying to an educational institution because of their public record.

42%

After expungement, **42 percent** said they have enrolled or plan to enroll in training or a formal educational program.

“This expungement allowed me to get into medical school, attend clinical rotations and internships, and will allow me to find future jobs in health care upon graduation.”

CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



HOUSING STABILITY

Clean Slate participants enjoy increased residential security, independence and long-term stability

8%

After expungement, the percentage of respondents who secured stable housing through a home purchase or renting increased by **eight percent**.

7%

After expungement, the decrease in percentage of respondents who lived with family or friends temporarily.

“I can live where I want to live and work where I want to work.”

CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT



COMMUNITY SUPPORT & IDENTITY

Expungement has a profound effect on a participant’s sense of self, community belonging and emotional wellbeing.

69%

69 percent of respondents said their criminal record negatively impacted their mental or emotional health.

88%

After expungement, **88 percent** of participants said they were more hopeful for their future; **62 percent** said their quality of life is much better.

“My life is really free of worry because I’m no longer considered a convicted felon.”

CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Oakland County Clean Slate Program Team (left to right): Jennifer Llewellyn, Stephen Rideout, Nina Accetta-Dushaj and Elizabeth Rivard-Weston



“My life has changed drastically for the good. I now have a great job and my opportunities are endless.”

CLEAN SLATE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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OakGov.com/CleanSlate

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Oakland County
Prosecutor's Office

Oakland County
Clerk's Office

Oakland County
Judicial Bench

Safe & Just Michigan

Michigan Justice Fund