

WHAT YOU CAN DO **NOW**

If you are:

Formerly Incarcerated

- Share real-life stories (via YouTube, Vimeo, Twitter, etc.) about your success despite the stigma
- Share real-life stories about obstacles/challenges you've faced as a result of having a felony conviction

Legislators/politicians

- Draft, co-sign and/or submit legislation that dismantles policies and practices that undergird the stigma, including policies that promote discrimination in housing, employment, voting, education, etc.
- Write opinion pieces for print and online publications
- Sign executive orders and/or declarations proscribing discriminatory practices in employment, housing, etc.
- Convene public hearings and town hall meetings to explore the extent and impact of the stigma

Employers

- Hire qualified formerly incarcerated people
- Promote the fact that you hire qualified formerly incarcerated people
- Highlight the business, tax, social and public-safety benefits of hiring members of this population
- Encourage other employers to hire qualified formerly incarcerated people
- Make hiring the formerly incarcerated an agenda item at trade association meetings

Property owners/Landlords

- Rent, lease or sell to qualified formerly incarcerated people

Academics

- Establish college courses/curriculum on collateral consequences of felony convictions
- Establish college-affiliated centers for the study of collateral consequences of felony convictions
- Write pieces for academic journals, newspapers and online publications about the extent and impact of the stigma

Federal, State and Local Government Administrators

- Institute tax and other incentives for employers, property owners/landlords, etc.
- Proactively and vigorously enforce rules/policies proscribing unlawful and discriminatory practices against the formerly incarcerated

Criminal Justice Advocates

- Form coalitions to educate the public about the extent and impact of the stigma
- Urge legislators to convene public hearings and town hall meetings
- Enlist the formerly incarcerated, the incarcerated and their loved ones to share their real-life stories about the effects and extent of the stigma
- Convene symposia and conferences that address the stigma
- Launch aggressive grassroots campaigns, including those online via Change.org and other sites

Media

- Run stories that offer an honest and fair depiction of the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated
- Run stories that explore the impact of the stigma of incarceration
- Swear off fear-mongering headlines and stories

Advertising

- Develop public service announcements that promote companies, organizations and individuals that treat and portray the formerly incarcerated fairly
- Develop public service announcements intended to battle the stigma of incarceration

Civil Rights Organizations

- Lend to the End the Stigma Campaign their support, infrastructure, know-how, networks, strong brand reputation and experience
- Establish as part of their organizations offices/chapters of the End the Stigma Campaign

Legal Practitioners

- Draft legislation for and educate legislators on the extent and effects of the stigma
- Educate the public on the extent and impact of the stigma
- Proactively inform clients of the collateral consequences of having a felony conviction by providing a complete list of the consequences

Social Service Administrators

- Aggressively disseminate information about services available to persons with felony convictions
- Partner with parole and probation departments to streamline the flow of information and resources
- Develop programs specifically for formerly incarcerated people

Students

- Establish an on-campus chapter of the End the Stigma Campaign
- Organize film festivals and screenings of campaign-produced videos/documentaries
- Convene on-campus symposia and conferences
- Launch letter-writing and online petition campaigns
- Launch educational social media campaigns

Human Rights Advocates

- Write pieces in academic and other journals
- Appeal to legislators and government agency administrators
- Organize events to explore the stigma and educate the public on its extent and impact

Policy Analysts

- Research and analyze the policies that undergird the stigma, and broadly disseminate the findings
- Write policy proposals

Researchers

- Conduct research on the extent and impact of the stigma

Faith Community

- Convene symposia and conferences
- Organize congregations to work against the stigma
- Host town hall meetings that include legislators, politicians, experts, etc.
- Sponsor support groups for people directly and indirectly affected by the stigma
- Organize screenings of campaign-produced videos