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The Sentencing Project

advocates for effective and humane responses to crime that minimize imprisonment and criminalization of youth and adults by promoting racial, ethnic, economic, and gender justice.

OUR POLICY PRIORITIES



OUR COMMITMENT TO RACIAL JUSTICE

We recognize that ending both mass incarceration and the ineffectiveness of our current criminal legal system cannot be achieved without addressing the rampant racism that supports it. This racism costs lives, inflicts atrocities, and prevents the United States from functioning as a true democracy.

As The Sentencing Project works to expand our impact, we are guided by a strategic focus on racial justice and a commitment to amplifying the work, voices, and leadership of directly impacted individuals, families, and communities.

Message from the Executive Director



Amy Fettig
Executive Director

Hope is necessary for human perseverance. Hope requires imagination. It requires action. For those of us who work to end mass incarceration, hope is our lodestar and our discipline.

At The Sentencing Project we plant seeds of hope by sharing data, research, and strategy that informs and advances the justice reform field. In 2022, we partnered with state and local activists working to expand voting rights and published the only national census of people denied the right to vote due to a felony conviction. Our work demonstrated that voting rights are expanding for justice-impacted people—but we must do better to ensure full democratic participation in our society—especially for communities of color who are disproportionately denied the vote.

In 2022 we also brought hope to the thousands of people serving extreme sentences. Working at the state and federal level with directly impacted leaders and communities, we partnered on campaigns to promote "second looks" so that people now serving decades behind bars, and often elderly, can demonstrate their rehabilitation and their

potential to contribute to their families and communities once home.

Finally, The Sentencing Project's hope for the future is grounded in protecting youth from the harms of the criminal legal system. Our work in 2022 focused on diverting kids from detention and ensuring they receive the support and care they need in the community. Despite improvements in youth justice, our research and advocacy found that youth of color are particularly vulnerable because they are more likely to be swept into the court system and confined compared to similarly situated white youth.

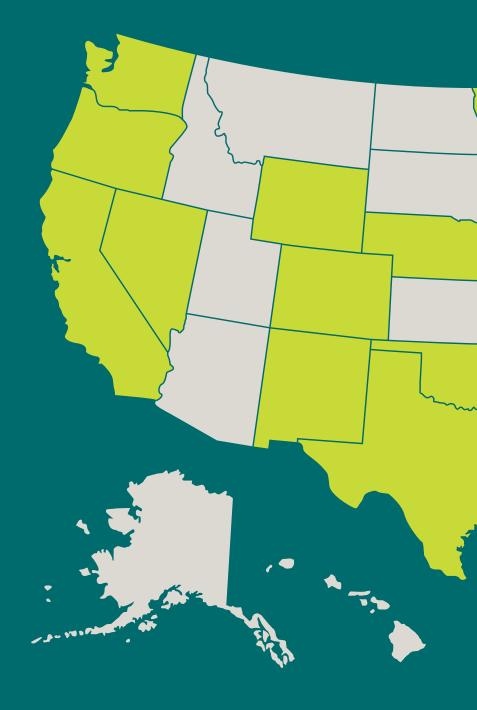
Moving forward in 2023 we mark the 50th year of mass incarceration—a devastating policy trend that has hurt so many without improving public safety or the lives of our people. For this, The Sentencing Project brings our hope informed by research, data, and strategy that we can, we must, and we will do better.

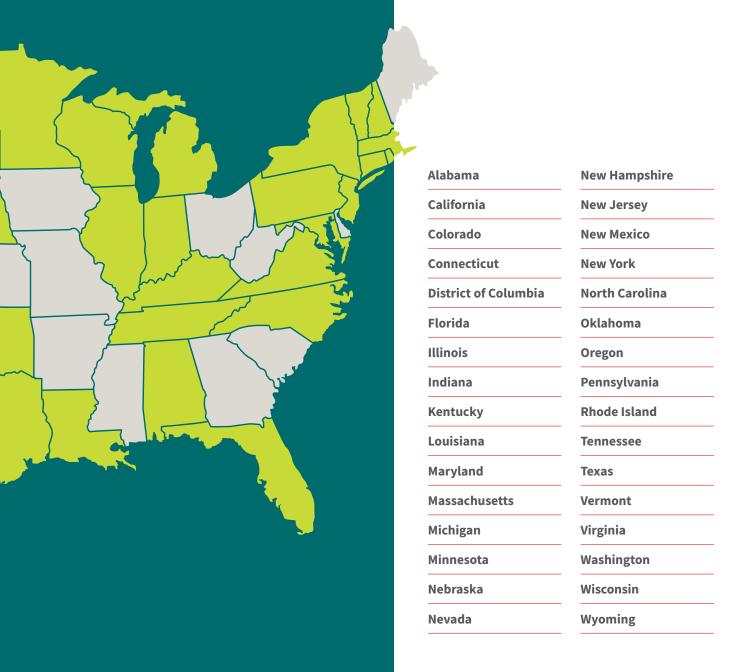
As always, we are bolstered by the generosity and care of our amazing and hopeful supporters!

Onwards!

Where We Work

The Sentencing Project brings unique value as a bridge organization, uniting work on the ground with overarching policy changes at the national level. We currently partner with 76 national groups and over 220 state-level organizations who are working with us to end extreme sentencing, expand voting rights, and promote youth justice. In all of these partnerships, we are committed to centering the voices, experiences, and leadership of directly impacted individuals and communities, and we use their direction to inform and tailor our support strategies for each collaboration.





Mass Incarceration: Survivors and Statistics

PROFILE

Jacob Brevard



If you want people to change and you want public safety to be paramount, we have to change the way we deal with people who are incarcerated or previously incarcerated and give them opportunities to be successful."



Jacob Brevard was 19 years old when he arrived in prison to serve a paroleeligible life sentence for a first degree murder conviction. While incarcerated, he made a promise to himself that he was going to show up differently in life. Brevard was granted release in 2014, and he now works as the Associate Director of Inside Programs at the Anti-Recidivism Coalition.

21

The number of states that partially or fully closed at least one correctional facility since 2000. 4.6M

The number of Americans currently banned from voting due to felony convictions.

240,000

The most recent number of youth detained, incarcerated, or both in a year.

PROFILE

Joel Castón



Anytime a member of a society is not afforded the right to express his or her opinions by way of the democratic process, we can not achieve the ideals of democracy."



Joel Castón is a formerly incarcerated Washingtonian, who also serves as a mentor, writer, and activist. After being convicted at age 18, Castón underwent a remarkable transformation, driven by mentorship, faith, and education. In June 2021, he was elected as an advisory neighborhood commissioner (ANC), becoming the first incarcerated individual elected to public office in Washington D.C.

He is one of the founding mentors in the Young Men Emerging Unit at the DC Jail, a program that provides recently incarcerated people ages 18 to 25 with mentorship, job training, and educational programming. Last year, Joel was released from prison after 27 years.

56%

The percentage of the total prison population serving a sentence of ten years or longer.

47%

The percentage of people serving a Life Without Parole sentence who are 50 years of age or older. 1.8M

The number of people currently confined in America's prisons and jails.

Extreme Sentencing

Our Campaign to End Life Imprisonment is building a movement to end extreme sentencing in the nation's capital and beyond.

This year, The Sentencing Project helped to realize a historic victory in the Council for the District of Columbia through advocacy for the Revised Criminal Code Act (RCCA). The legislation was the product of 16 years of research, deliberation, and community feedback, and a critical step towards equal justice and compassion by eliminating most mandatory minimum sentences, lowering sentence maximums to 45 years, and allowing a judicial sentencing reconsideration after 20 years of imprisonment for adults—all policies that have been shown by our research to help reverse the growth of mass incarceration while maintaining public safety.

As part of this campaign, our staff provided testimony, submitted letters of support, and conducted on-the-ground advocacy to educate City Council members and the general public about the benefits of these policies. The RCCA passed unanimously through the DC Council in November, 2022.

In addition, our Extreme Sentencing team supported advocacy campaigns in 15 states through coalition building, research and communications support,

and visits to our incarcerated partners. This work advanced a range of sentencing reforms that provide a well-deserved second chance for people serving extreme sentences of 20 years or longer.



Alexandra's visit to Chippewa prison changed the atmosphere here...Her talk on second look gave hope to the hopeless. We are more serious than ever about how to rewrite the rest of our lives."

DEMEL DUKES, NATIONAL LIFERS ASSOCIATION LEADER AT CHIPPEWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN MICHIGAN



RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Voting Rights

To be a just and democratic nation, every state in the country must eliminate laws that bar people from voting on the basis of incarceration status.

In 2022, our Voting Rights team supported advocacy efforts in eighteen states to advance a range of voting rights issues for citizens in jails, prisons and the community, including guaranteed voting for all regardless of incarceration or conviction status. In addition to bringing national attention to this urgent issue through op-eds, research, and a robust slate of public education activities, we celebrated victories in Massachusetts and Washington state, where legislation was passed to support ballot access for jail based voting.

To build continued momentum for reform, we partnered with State Innovation Exchange (SiX), to host a national convening for voting rights advocates from 15 states. The convening laid the groundwork for increased impact nationwide–participants were energized by this opportunity to collaborate, learn from, and strategize with peers from across the country.

In advance of the midterm elections, we released *Locked Out 2022*, a report that chronicles the devastating impact of felony disenfranchisement



on our democracy. The report received widespread attention, logging over 309 media mentions on the day of its release, including widely shared coverage from NPR. As the only organization in the country researching and publishing this data, our findings significantly influence voting rights discourse and advocacy nationwide.



The Sentencing Project has been an invaluable partner and resource for our local coalition. Through the power of this partnership, we are building a movement to educate Oregonians about how our state disenfranchises incarcerated people and to change that so all eligible Oregonians can participate fully in our democracy."

ZACH WINSTON, DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND OUTREACH, OREGON JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER

Youth Justice

Our research has helped to refute false narratives and change the conversation around effective approaches to public safety and youth justice.

Throughout the pandemic, alarmist news coverage and inflammatory rhetoric from politicians appeared in national and local media highlighting serious violent crimes by youth. This exaggerated fear mongering led to calls for rollbacks of recent reforms and the adoption of increasingly punitive youth justice policies.

To counter this harmful narrative, we responded with the facts. Our research dispelled the myth of a "youth crime wave" and showed that increasingly punitive policies are ineffective, often causing irreparable harm to youth while doing little to increase public safety.

To bring attention to these important findings, we held a public webinar featuring Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Administrator Liz Ryan and advocates from across the country. Over 1,130 people registered to participate, making this one of our most popular public education events of the year.

Our Youth Justice team also provided support to campaigns in six states: Maryland, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wyoming, Wisconsin, and Texas. We achieved a significant win in Maryland, where we helped state advocates pass transformative youth justice reforms. Our advocacy efforts included recruiting coalition members, coordinating meetings, providing testimony, and meeting with state leaders. With our support, the Maryland coalition more than doubled in size and the state legislature successfully passed a new omnibus bill that reduces the use of detention, shortens terms of probation, and encourages the use of diversion programs, leading to better outcomes for Maryland youth.



The Sentencing Project has been a trusted resource on so many of our issues. From ending the detention of young children to starting all youth cases in juvenile court, The Sentencing Project has provided data and research that bring clarity and understanding to some of the most pressing issues facing our community."

JAUNAE HANGER, PRESIDENT, CHILDREN'S POLICY AND LAW INITIATIVE OF INDIANA

10 POWERING THE MOVEMENT

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

Prison Closures

Rather than relying on the failed policies of the mass incarceration era, policymakers must fund crime prevention efforts led by community stakeholders through substantial investments at the local and state level.

In 2022, we released a pivotal new report, *Repurposing Correctional Facilities to Strengthen Communities*, which highlights the growing movement to repurpose prisons for community benefit. In the report, we provide successful examples of prison reuse and offer recommendations for the continued reprioritization of resources towards social services that prevent criminal legal system contact.

The report includes several examples of how former prisons have been transformed to provide support for communities, serving as art studios, movie production facilities, nonprofit offices, and retail spaces. These efforts have created new jobs and have helped to address the collateral damage of mass incarceration. In addition to garnering significant media attention, the report was prominently featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*.

While prison repurposing projects remain more of an exception than the norm today, we believe this report lays the groundwork for continued advocacy around



Fifty-five acres of the Lorton Reformatory prison complex were successfully transformed into the Workhouse Arts center, which today houses galleries, artist and dance studios, and community event spaces.

decarceration and prison repurposing as a critical step towards building healthier communities and ending mass incarceration.



Repurposing closed prisons is an exciting advancement and critical next step in building stronger and healthier communities and ending mass incarceration."

NICOLE PORTER, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY, THE SENTENCING PROJECT

Racial Justice Fund

We're partnering with grassroots allies to increase the momentum and impact of the movement for racial justice.

In 2021, The Sentencing Project established its Racial Justice Fund (RJF) to support state advocacy partners. Many RJF grantees are small organizations led by directly impacted advocates. These targeted grants provide our partners with the support needed to build their capacity and increase the scope of their impact without cumbersome application and reporting requirements.

In 2022, we funded 17 grants to grassroots organizations in 14 states. Grants supported a wide range of projects including social media campaigns, printed newsletters, in-person teach-ins, and hiring community organizers.

We continue to see incredible results from grantee organizations. One state partner, Parole Illinois, used their grant to hire a community organizer. The new capacity expanded the reach of the organization's Corrective Clemency campaign and engaged more participants through new community events where directly impacted advocates shared their stories. Another grantee, Together Louisiana, used their funding to launch Civic Education Academies in the often overlooked rural parishes of Louisiana.







The Sentencing Project's generous grant helped Release Aging People in Prison expand our community organizing and public education efforts in key areas of New York State around ending extreme sentences...This has been of critical importance during a period when conservative forces are weaponizing false notions of 'public safety' against ending such sentences."

LAURA WHITEHORN, CO-FOUNDER AND ORGANIZER, RELEASE AGING PEOPLE IN PRISON

A generous grant from The Sentencing Project was vital to kick-starting our Corrective Clemency Campaign... In addition to providing us with the necessary resources for this project, the grant provided a huge boost of confidence to our incarcerated members by showing them that people across the country believe in them."

SHARI STONE-MEDIATORE, ADVOCATE, PAROLE ILLINOIS



The funding provided by TSP has been essential for our efforts to address extreme sentencing... It is the foundation upon which we can organize directly impacted people in the community, many of whom are already living in poverty or on the financial edges of our society. [It] has been the conduit for incarcerated voices to be heard by the outside world. Without it, the lines of communication would truly be silent, and they would remain forever invisible."

DR. BRASHANI REECE, CO-FOUNDER, DROP LWOP NEW ENGLAND

2022 Publications at a Glance

The Sentencing Project is changing the conversation about crime, punishment, and public safety through data-driven research, advocacy, and public education.



Reports, fact sheets, and research briefs produced

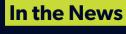
18
Opinion pieces
published

18

Letters of support, amicus briefs, petitions and testimonies provided

4,598

webinar registrants





6,660

mentions in national, state, and local media

public talks and presentations given by The Sentencing Project staff



Our Team

THE SENTENCING PROJECT STAFF

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Executive Director

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End Life Imprisonment Fellow

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Senior Advisor

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Director of Communications

Richard Mendel

Senior Research Fellow

Ashley Nellis, Ph.D.

Co-Director of Research

Terry Nixon

Director of Operations & Finance

Nicole Porter

Senior Director of Advocacy

Joshua Rovner

Director of Youth Justice

William "Bill" Underwood

Senior Fellow

Jordyn Wilson

Youth Justice

Campaign Associate

2022 RESEARCH FELLOWS

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Connie Budaci

Columbia Law School

Mackenzie Buday

University of Pittsburgh

Keiko Engel

University of Wisconsin

Mariana Espinoza

American University

Ayanna Lyons

Delaware State University

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2022 Supporters

The Sentencing Project's work is made possible through the commitment and generosity of our community. Thank you for standing with us in our fight for a more fair and effective criminal legal system. This listing includes all supporters who gave contributions of \$1,000 or more in 2022.

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18 POWERING THE MOVEMENT

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The Just Trust

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The Rubin Family Foundation

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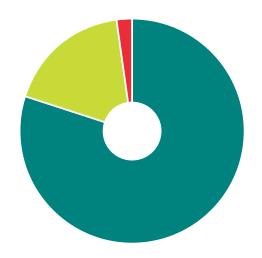
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2022 Revenue and Expenses



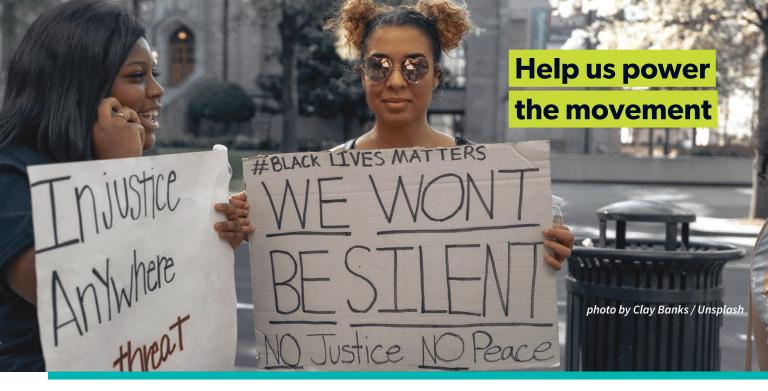
REVENUE

18% Individuals \$895 2% Other \$110	472
18% Individuals \$895	,961
	,027
79% Foundations and Corporations \$3,847	,484

EXPENSES

Total		\$3,705,494
9%	Management	\$317,241
15%	Fundraising	\$536,303
77%	Program Services	\$2,851,950

These financials are presented using the Form 990 tax-method of accounting. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number. Our full audited financial documents are available for review at https://sentproj.org/financials.



Learn

more about the issues, key criminal justice facts, and our recommendations for reform on our website at sentencingproject.org, and follow us on social media.

Share

your support for our policy priorities with your friends, family, networks, and local legislators—your voice is essential to make change happen!

Donate

to make another year of our impactful research and advocacy possible. The Sentencing Project is almost entirely funded by charitable contributions, and our work is only possible with your support.

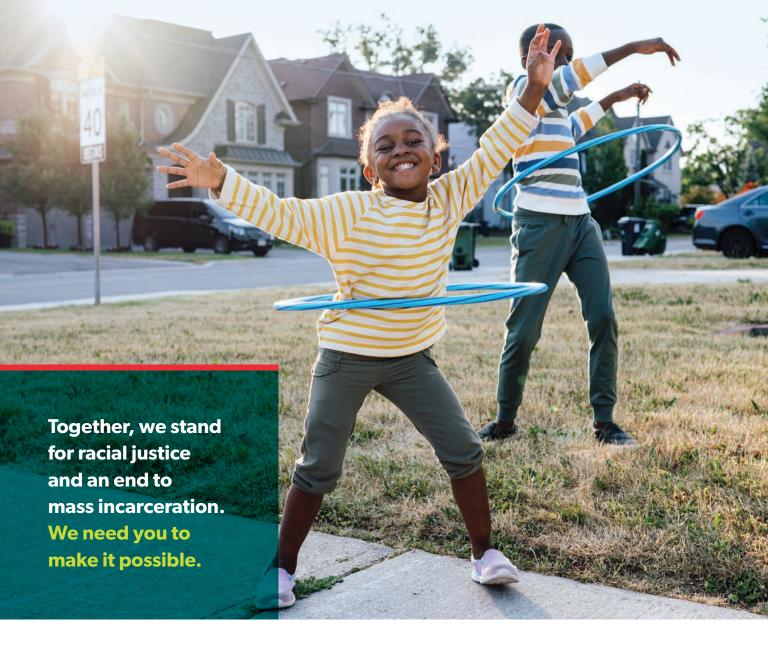
Join us

on Thursday, May 4, 2023 for a community town hall to learn about our current campaigns and opportunities to get involved.

Register using the OR code below!

REGISTER HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY TOWN HALL EVENT







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