



West

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

[The CSG Justice Center](#) combines the power of a membership association, representing state officials in all three branches of government, with the expertise of a policy and research team focused on assisting others to attain measurable results. Working directly with states, the Justice Center staff have assisted in providing data driven recommendations to improve policy and services related to justice reform.

The following are some recent efforts that states have made in collaboration with the CSG Justice Center:

- In February, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon signed a package of Justice Reinvestment legislation into law. [House Enrolled Act \(HEA\) 15](#), [Senate Enrolled Act \(SEA\) 19](#), [HEA 53](#), and [SEA 50](#) aim to reduce recidivism 25 percent by fiscal year 2024 and avert up to \$18.1 million in costs that can be reinvested in increasing the availability and effectiveness of community-based behavioral health treatment for people on probation and parole. [Read more about the legislation.](#)
- In April, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed House Bill (HB) [342](#) into law, a Justice Reinvestment bill that ensures crime victims will have more avenues by which to receive support. Another Justice Reinvestment bill, HB [564](#), was vetoed. Had it been enacted, it would have strengthened probation and parole supervision and adopted new strategies to handle technical violations of supervision. Governor Lujan Grisham indicated that the bill was “predicated on sound policy considerations” but [cited](#) the need for additional stakeholder engagement as her basis for



the veto. She announced her intention to continue working on probation and parole reforms leading up to the next legislative session. [Read more about the legislation.](#)

- In April, the Colorado legislature passed comprehensive juvenile justice legislation, [SB 19-108](#), which includes key provisions to expand the availability and use of diversion, reserve detention for only those youth who are identified as posing a risk to the community, require that supervision and service decisions are based on validated screening and assessment tools, and improve data collection. The bill was informed by findings from in-depth assessment of Colorado's juvenile justice system from referral to reentry conducted by the CSG Justice Center. The bill is currently awaiting Governor Polis' consideration.
- On May 7, the Sonoma County Probation Department in California launched a comprehensive review of its juvenile justice system to determine how well department policies and practices align with what research shows works to improve outcomes for youth while using resources efficiently. The review will be conducted under the direction of the Sonoma County Improving Outcomes for Youth (IOYouth) Task Force, a group established by the probation department and composed of probation leadership, district attorney and public defender representatives, the presiding juvenile court judge, and leaders from the education and behavioral health departments, among others. The review will be conducted by the CSG Justice Center,



and findings and recommendations will be presented to the Task Force over the next year.

- In May, the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators Western Region Summit will convene in Sun Valley, Idaho to focus on *Improving the Court and Community Responses to those with Mental Illness*. Interagency state and local teams from the West will participate in a day and a half event structured to promote collaborative, data-informed planning and peer learning that features policymakers and practitioners from throughout the region. The event will be organized by the National Center for State Courts with support from the CSG Justice Center and its Judges' and Psychiatrists' Leadership Initiative, a partnership with the American Psychiatric Association Foundation.
- Fifteen governors from both major political parties — including governors from Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and Utah — have participated in the ongoing Face to Face initiative, which challenges elected officials to engage in meaningful interactions with people who have firsthand experience with the criminal justice system. Read more about these events in the CSG Justice Center's latest report.
- For the more than 70 million adults in the U.S. who have a criminal record, and the more than one million youth who acquire juvenile court records each year, collateral consequences exist that hinder their attempts at gaining



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employment, housing, and even returning to school. Record clearance enables a person's criminal history information to be removed from easy public access, most often with the goal of improving employment and other outcomes for the affected person. Recently, the National Reentry Resource Center, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, launched the Clean Slate Clearinghouse, which helps support juvenile and adult criminal record clearance around the country.