

COMING HOME:

REENTRY SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR MINNESOTANS INCARCERATED SINCE CHILDHOOD

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About this resource

This resource sheet was made in partnership with the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY) and the Minnesota Collaborative Justice Project (MNCJP). It was designed to specifically highlight resources for people in the process of coming home after serving life or other extreme sentences since childhood. It is provided for informational purposes only, and the inclusion of any organization, agency, or service in this guide does not imply an endorsement or recommendation by the CFSY or the MNCJP. We do not guarantee the quality, availability, or outcomes provided by any of the listed organizations and are not responsible for their actions, policies, or practices. Individuals are encouraged to independently verify the information and determine the suitability of any resource for their specific needs.

"Our hope is that this guide proves even just a little bit useful for Minnesotans who were sentenced as youth. May their reentry be restorative, productive, and living proof that their worst days are behind them. Above all, we hope this guide says 'welcome home.' "

-Legal Fellow, Minnesota Collaborative Justice Project

Who We Are

The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY) is a national nonprofit leading efforts to end juvenile life without parole and other extreme sentences for children. The CFSY works to dismantle the racial disparities, social injustices, and lasting harms caused by the legal system while supporting survivors of violence, people incarcerated as children, their families and their communities.

The Minnesota Collaborative Justice Project brings together diverse stakeholders to collectively serve the needs of some of the most vulnerable in our society to support the successful reentry of individuals released from federal and state correctional facilities.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES OFFERED STATEWIDE

Minnesota Department of Human Services - MN Benefits

MNbenefits is where you can apply online for cash assistance, food benefits, emergency help and child care assistance or help paying for long-term care in a facility, such as a nursing home.

 <https://mnbenefits.mn.gov/>

Minnesota Department of Human Services - MNsure

MNsure is Minnesota's health insurance marketplace. Filling out a MNsure application is the first step towards becoming eligible for free health insurance.

 651-539-2099 or 855-366-7873

 <https://www.mnsure.org/>

MNsure certified Navigators offer free assistance to people applying for free or low-cost public health care programs:

- <https://www.mnsure.org/help/find-assister/find-navigator.jsp>

Upcoming enrollment events where you can get free help submitting your MNsure application:

- <https://www.mnsure.org/help/find-assister/enrollment-events.jsp>

Minnesota United Way

United Way 211 is a three-digit number that individuals can call to obtain free and confidential information on: food and housing support, mental health and substance abuse resources, legal assistance, youth programs, medical and dental clinics, and job training opportunities. United Way 211 is statewide.

 <https://211unitedway.org/>

 *Call menus are in English, Spanish, and Hmong.*
Call 2-1-1
Toll Free: 800-543-7709
Local: 651-291-0211

Office of Vital Records (OVR)

The OVR maintains birth and death records for the State of Minnesota. Contact them for copies of Minnesota birth certificates.

 651-201-5970

 <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/vitalrecords/death.html>

 health.vitalrecords@state.mn.us

See The Basilica of Mary Outreach (pg 6) for birth record vouchers that will cover the cost of requesting your vital documents.


Minnesota Housing Department

Minnesota Housing is a government agency that offers assistance for people to find and stay in affordable housing. You can find information about shelters, affordable housing, and assistance in making rental or mortgage payments.

 651-201-5970


 <https://www.mnhousing.gov/housing-help.html>

 mn.housing@state.mn.us

 400 Wabasha St. N., Suite 400 St. Paul, MN 55102


Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services

Minnesota's Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) Department provides driver, vehicle and identification card services to Minnesotans.

 *Driver's license/ID issuing:*
651-297-3298

Schedule a road test:
651-284-1000

Ownership transfers, titles, vehicle registration:
651-297-2126

 *Find information about a standard Minnesota ID card or driver's license:*

- <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/license-and-id/class-d-regular-dl/class-d-dl-forms-documents-and-manuals>

If you had a permit or a license prior to your incarceration, find information about a reintegration driver's license:

- <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/license-and-id/class-d-regular-dl/class-d-reintegration-dl>

Find your local office:

- <https://onlineservices.dps.mn.gov/EServices/>

Find driver education information:

- <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/license-and-id/driver-education>

Day One

Day One is a statewide network of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, youth and general crime programs in Minnesota. Day One hosts the Minnesota Day One Crisis Line which connects individuals seeking safety and resources to service agencies statewide via phone, text or chat message.

 1-866-223-1111 (interpreters are available)

 <https://dayoneservices.org/about/>

 safety@dayoneservices.org

Hennepin County Library

Hennepin County Libraries have a range of services for people that have been released from incarceration.

 612-543-KNOW (5669)

 <https://www.hclib.org/>

Corrections librarian (reentry specific questions):

- https://hennepinco.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5Bd1wIMEkrFQj66

Apply for a free library card:

- <https://www.hclib.org/about/library-cards>

For information on free library events, including events such as computer and tech help, legal info, job search assistance, and more, visit here:

- <https://bit.ly/4dOTmrl>

 <https://www.hclib.org/contact/ask-us-email>



Members of CFSY's Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network (ICAN), a nationwide group of formerly incarcerated children.

See page 6 for more information.


LEGAL RESOURCES

EXPUNGEMENT

Sabathani Second Chance Saturdays: Free Legal Clinic for Criminal Expungement

The Volunteer Lawyers Network provides free legal assistance with expungements every second Saturday.

 612-821-2300

 <https://sabathani.org/event/second-chance-saturdays-free-legal-clinic-for-criminal-expungement-7/>


 info@sabathani.org

 310 E 38th St, Minneapolis, MN 55409
Every Second Saturday from 11:30am - 3:00pm

Self-Help Expungement Clinic (Ramsey County Law Library)

Neighborhood Justice Center (NJC), Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN), and the Ramsey County District Court and Law Library offers self-help expungement clinics.

 651-266-8391

 <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/libraries/law-library>

 Ramsey County Law Library, 15 W Kellogg Blvd.,
St. Paul, MN 55102


Criminal expungement workshops are presented in the Ramsey County Law Library on the fourth Thursday of each month from 1-3 p.m.

CIVIL LEGAL AID

Legal Aid

Statewide free legal help for low-income individuals and families to assist with civil legal issues.

 1-877-My-MN-LAW (1-877-696-529)

 *Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid:*
• <https://mylegalaid.org/>

Central Minnesota Legal Services:
• <https://www.centralmnlegal.org/>

Southern Minnesota Legal Services:
• <https://www.smrls.org/>

Volunteer Lawyers Network

Helps Minnesotans experiencing poverty with civil legal issues by connecting clients with volunteer attorneys and clinics in the areas of immigration, general legal issues, expungement, name and gender marker changes, referrals, and family law.


 612-752-6677

 <https://www.vlnmn.org/help/clinics/>

Online intake form:
<https://www.vlnmn.org/intake/>

Legal Revolution

The Legal Revolution seeks to eradicate the collateral effects of incarceration by offering clemency support through their law firm and Prison to Law Pipeline Program. They offer civil legal services (pardons, commutations, expungements, human services licensing and business formation support) and externships for incarcerated pipeline scholars.

 (612) 489-7218

 <https://www.allsquarempls.com/the-law-firm>

 firminfo@thelegalrevolution.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

EDUCATION


TREC: Transformation and Re-Entry Through Education and Community

TREC is a college-in-prison and reentry program that offers college degrees inside facilities and reentry services for all justice-impacted students. They offer free higher education opportunities for justice-impacted students, scholarships, reentry services, academic and financial aid support, legal navigation, peer-mentorship, career services, housing referrals and an on-campus resource center.

 612-659-6740

 <https://minneapolis.edu/trec>

 trec@minneapolis.edu

 TREC Program, T3406, Minneapolis College, 1501 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55403
(Open M-F, 9:00am - 5:00pm)

HOLISTIC SERVICES

Goodwill-Easter-Seals Reentry Program

Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that offers job training and customized career support to eliminate barriers to work and independence. They offer case management, employment services, and support groups within the first six months of release in Minnesota.

 612-440-8526

 <https://www.goodwilleasterseals.org>

 outreach@gesmn.org

The Incarcerated Children's Advocacy Network (ICAN)

CFSY's ICAN is a national network of formerly incarcerated adults that were sentenced to extreme or life sentences as children. ICAN provides support for its members and empowers them to create positive change in their communities. They offer support groups, mental health, advocacy, financial assistance, and mentorship for those given extreme sentences for crimes committed as youth (under age 18).


 <https://cfsy.org/what-we-do/ican-stories/>

 Eddie Ellis at eellis@cfsy.org
Catherine Jones at cjones@cfsy.org

The Kingsmen Project

The Kingsmen Project is a mentoring support program that helps men and women at the pre-sentencing, pre-release, just released, and post release stages of the justice system navigate through the obstacles of seeking stability and change. They offer support, mentoring, and fellowship.

 <https://kingsmenproject.org/>

 erick.washington@kingsmenproject.org
tammi.washington@kingsmenproject.org

T.O.N.E. U.P.

T.O.N.E. U.P. (Teaching Ourselves New Examples to Uplift People) is a nonprofit led by individuals directly impacted by incarceration. It supports justice-impacted individuals and their families through pre-release planning, post-release stabilization, and long-term community reintegration. They offer mentorship, coaching, housing navigation, employment and economic stability, and civic engagement and advocacy.

 <https://toneup.org/>

 info@toneup.org

Ujamaa Place

Ujamaa Place is a safe space providing holistic, culturally responsive transformation for African-American men under the age of 40 experiencing inequity at the intersection of race and poverty. Enrolled participants receive coaching and mentorship, along with support in housing, financial literacy, education, employment, community connections, mental health and wellness, and advocacy.



651-528-8006



<https://ujamaaplace.org/>



office@ujamaaplace.org



Info Sessions: Every Wednesday at 10:00 AM
490 Concordia Avenue Saint Paul, MN 55103

The Basilica of St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Ministries Program

The St. Vincent de Paul Outreach program offers cash and other short-term aid to people in a crisis that affects their access to basic needs. They offer fellowship; vouchers for IDs, driver's licenses, and birth certificates; and vouchers for clothing, laundry, gas cards, etc.



612-333-1381



<https://mary.org/charity-service-ministries/>



1600 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30am - 11:30am

VOA - Amicus Reconnect

Amicus provides a free drop-in service center to help individuals who have been incarcerated connect to the necessities of day-to-day life, such as housing, employment, and transportation. They offer housing, employment, resources, transportation, and technology assistance.



612-877-4250



<https://www.voamnwi.org/amicus-reconnect-services>



amicus@voamn.org



Drop-In: 3041 4th Avenue South,
Minneapolis, MN 55408
Hours: M-F, 9:00am - 12:00pm, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Until We Are All Free

Until We Are All Free is a human rights organization led by formerly incarcerated criminal justice experts focused on building capital, resources and support to provide pathways to civic and economic liberation for individuals disenfranchised by mass incarceration. They offer a drop-in working safe space for justice impacted people, housing assistance, consulting and training, and advocacy for justice-impacted leaders.



<https://uwaaf.org>



ari@uwaaf.com,
Kevin@uwaaf.com,
Kahlee@uwaaf.com

“Many people serving extreme sentences as children will now have a chance to show the world who they’ve become. No child in Minnesota’s legal system should ever have to live without hope.”

HOUSING

HousingLink


HousingLink is a nonprofit organization that is Minnesota's primary source for affordable housing-related openings, data, information and resources. They offer affordable housing resources, information for renters, and listings for affordable apartments in Minnesota.

 <https://www.housinglink.org/>

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Beyond Backgrounds

HousingLink's financial assurance program for renters with criminal, credit, and rental history barriers. Renters can invest \$300 in Beyond Backgrounds, which offers insurance to landlords and can be a more affordable option for renters with background barriers.

 <https://www.housinglink.org/beyond-backgrounds-financial-assurance>

LSS Free Financial Counseling Program

LSS is a certified nonprofit financial counseling service. They offer free financial services, including budget & debt management counseling, credit report reviews, debt management plans (DMPs), foreclosure prevention counseling, homeownership counseling, and reverse mortgage counseling.

 888-577-2227

 <https://financialcounseling.lssmn.org/>

 lssfinancialcounseling@lssmn.org

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Reentry Lab

A nonprofit organization working to connect writers and other artists leaving incarceration to a community that's ready to receive them. They offer writing workshops accessible to justice-impacted writers, open mics, community events and a reentry specific newsletter.

 612-699-3506

 <https://reentrylab.org/about/>

 info@reentrylab.org

IMMIGRATION

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

ILCM provides free immigration legal representation to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota and North Dakota.

 <https://www.ilcm.org/immigration-help/>

 1-800-223-1368

If you are detained by ICE or calling on behalf of someone in the custody of ICE: 651-641-1011

WE HOPE THIS RESOURCE SHEET WAS HELPFUL!

We recognize that reentry resources can change regularly, and that everyone has a different experience in the reentry process. If you would like to share feedback about this resource sheet, or your experiences with the organizations listed, you can feel free to reach us at:

 202-289-4677

 cfsyresources@cfsy.org