



Lansing job seekers receive a fresh start at Expungement Job Fair

Everyone has things they wish they could change — moments in their lives they wish they could alter, actions they wish they could change, and situations they wish they could relive to try to create a different outcome. Everyone has made a mistake. But for some, those split-second decisions continue to haunt them because they prevent them from working, finding a place to live, and starting fresh on their journey for a better life.

Having a conviction on your criminal record creates many barriers. Even if you did the crime and served the time, it can be challenging to move on with life. Expungement is a way for people to get convictions removed from their criminal records. It is an opportunity for people to breathe a sigh of relief, escape the scrutiny of human judgment and bias, and enter the community with a fresh start and a clean slate.

On Feb. 6, Capital Area Michigan Works! partnered with a number of Lansing-area organizations to host an Expungement Job Fair, supporting job seekers as they pursued new employment opportunities and improved their chances of landing those jobs by removing qualifying criminal charges from their personal records. [Safe & Just Michigan](#), [Lifeboat Addiction Recovery](#), [Wellness InX](#), [Legal Services of South Central Michigan](#), the [Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Michigan State Police](#) and the [United States Chamber of Commerce Accreditation Program](#) provided on-site resources including legal advice, fingerprinting and introductions to hiring employers to assist the fair's attendees during the expungement process.

"Expungement job fairs like ours highlight how difficult the expungement process is to tackle alone," said CAMW! Program Compliance Manager Nick Chaffin. "By developing strong partnerships and sharing information, we are able to make that process easier for people and support them in their journey toward a second chance."

Prior to the event, attendees were encouraged to fill out a pre-screening questionnaire to confirm their eligibility for expungement. Of the eligible pre-screened individuals, 24



attended, and there were an additional 64 walk-ins. In total, 141 people were served prior to and during the event.

The event was made possible through CAMW!'s [Clean Slate Program](#), dedicated to assisting people seeking criminal record expungement. The program coordinates with the recently enacted Clean Slate laws in Michigan, which aim to remove barriers that prevent people from reentering the workforce or sustaining employment.

During the expungement fair, CAMW! CEO Carrie Rosingana discussed the benefits expungement will have on Michigan employers who are struggling to fill their open positions.

"We know employers are struggling to find people to join their teams," Rosingana said. "There are qualified and passionate job seekers who are eliminated from the hiring process because of a criminal charge that is years and sometimes decades old. If we can assist in removing those charges and increasing the number of people applying for jobs, we can help employers fill those employment gaps."

The benefits of expungement are abundant and affect more than just our workforce. Expungement can help people find a place to live and allow them to go back to school to pursue their education. It empowers people to locate and obtain jobs so they can provide for their children and families. Expungement allows people to strive for, achieve and define success in their own lives. It creates a community that is more prosperous economically and more empathetic socially. Expungement is an opportunity for a new beginning.

To receive the latest information about expungement legislation and upcoming events, please visit the state of Michigan's [expungement assistance webpage](#), or email expungements@lsscm.org with questions.