



The Fortune Society
The David Rothenberg Center For Public Policy

POLICY AGENDA 2017

Celebrating 10 Years of Ardent Advocacy

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Founded in 1967, The Fortune Society's vision is to foster a world where all who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated will thrive as positive, contributing members of society. To help make this vision a reality, in 2007 The Fortune Society launched the DRCPP to engage in advocacy, research, technical assistance, and community education, drawing upon expertise from three primary sources:

- The voices of formerly incarcerated individuals, leveraging their direct personal experience as they personally understand the realities of the criminal justice system.
- Fortune's almost 50 years of experience providing a broad array of services, advocacy, and outreach to people with criminal histories, including the development of models that have received national recognition.
- Best practices and research from the social and criminal justice fields to shape our advocacy, research, and community education work.

OUR ADVOCACY, RESEARCH, AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORK

REDUCING SOCIETY'S RELIANCE ON INCARCERATION:

- Reforming policies to reduce over-utilization of incarceration and unnecessarily long sentences by promoting the use of effective alternatives to incarceration
- Advancing policies to eliminate the disproportionate impact of the justice system on individuals, families, and communities of color
- Supporting policies that promote the fair treatment of immigrants, particularly individuals with criminal justice system involvement

INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS DURING AND AFTER INCARCERATION:

- Expanding awareness of the need for quality and culturally sensitive medical and mental health care, especially for people with chronic conditions like HIV/AIDS
- Decreasing discrimination in housing, education, employment, and other sectors
- Supporting greater access to essential services including employment, housing, and educational assistance both during incarceration and the reentry process
- Raising awareness to address the unique needs of special populations

PROMOTING CHANGE THROUGH RESEARCH AND LITIGATION:

- Exploring the relationships between food security and persons living with HIV/AIDS
- Engaging in an ongoing study to explore the ramifications of criminal justice debt
- Drawing conclusions from an analysis of the Ban the Box policy in New York City
- Challenging discriminatory policy and practice through judicial proceedings

