

NORTH COUNTY SAN DIEGO

Homeless Court

North County San Diego Homeless Program is a special community court that provides practical and effective solutions for program participants who demonstrate progress towards self-sufficiency in community-based programs.

These solutions include resolving and dismissing outstanding fines, misdemeanor offenses and warrants in San Diego County.

WHO ARE THE KEY PLAYERS

Collaboration with Justice partners:

- Court
- Prosecutor
- Public defender
- Service agencies
- Participants



CLIENT ELIGIBILITY

- Be a participant in a Homeless Court Provider Program and meet the provider program's requirements for referral.
- Homeless or at risk of homelessness
 - unstable housing, residential program, shelter, hotel, couch surfing, living in a vehicle, loss of job or experiencing financial hardship
- Any condition or circumstance that contributes to homelessness. Possible examples:
 - Economic hardship
 - Mental health issue
 - Physical disability
 - Substance abuse



CASE/OFFENSE ELIGIBILITY

Location/jurisdiction of Citation:
Only cases occurring in San Diego County are eligible.

- **Misdemeanors**

- **Infractions (tickets)**

Case may be eligible even if:

- Client has already plead guilty and owes fines
- No plea has been entered

➤ Some examples include:

- Trespass
- Illegal lodging
- Traffic tickets
- Sprinter/Trolley tickets
- Public intoxication, jay walking, moving violations
- Other citations and misdemeanor matters

Cases Ineligible for Homeless Court

- Cases outside of San Diego County (Some counties will honor proof of local program progress, please contact northcountysandiego@homelesscourtprogram.org for more information)
- Some parking violations (see later slide)
- Domestic Violence cases (including violation of a Domestic Violence Restraining Order) and Child Abuse Cases
- Civil Cases
- Juvenile Cases
- Juvenile Dependency Fees
- All felony cases and felony probation related costs
- All federal cases
- Bail bond fees
- DUI cases that are still pending trial and have not been settled
- Impound or DMV fees

Benefits of Homeless Court

Tickets: Fines are cleared and most cases are dismissed.

Return of the driver's license: Can impact employment, housing, and legal issues

Misdemeanors: All fines and fees are cleared. Some warrants may be cleared.

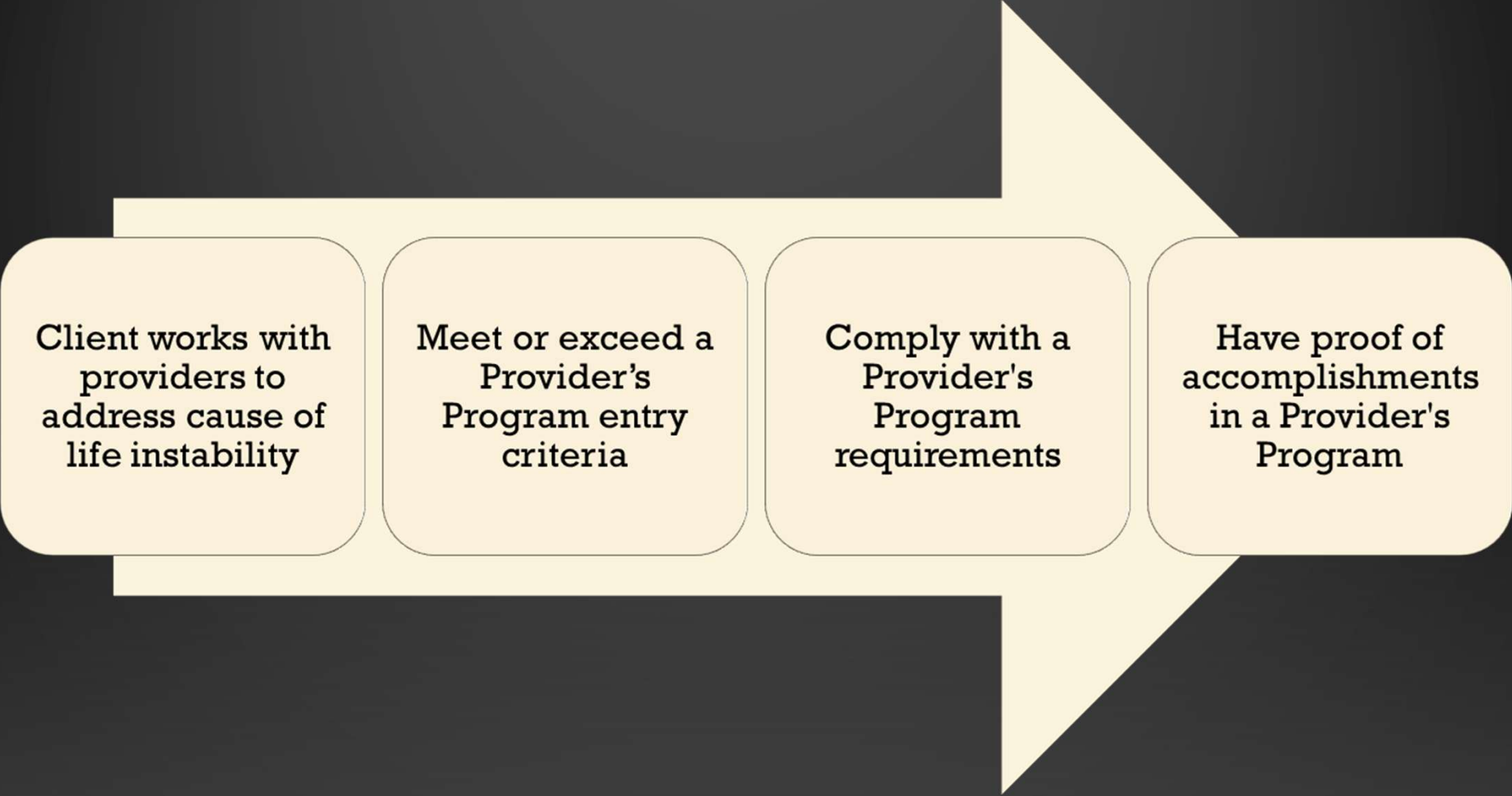
Open misdemeanor cases may be reduced or dismissed through negotiation.

Clearing of wage garnishments/ tax return interception that are due to court fines.

Fines from the past and present are cleared, even after probation is over.

The judge in homeless court may terminate probation so the participant can seek an expungement.

REFERRAL PROCESS: CLIENT AND PROVIDER PREPARE FOR HOMELESS COURT



Client works with
providers to
address cause of
life instability

Meet or exceed a
Provider's
Program entry
criteria

Comply with a
Provider's
Program
requirements

Have proof of
accomplishments
in a Provider's
Program

PROVIDER ADDS CLIENT TO HOMELESS COURT SUBMISSION FORM

- **Name: Last name, First name and AKAs**
- **Agency providing the service**
- **Birth Date: Month, Day, Year**
- **Active Warrant (if applicable include case #)**
- **Court Case Numbers: 1 Verified case number**
- **(Case number may be found on court correspondence, Alliance One, DMV or other searches)**
- **Upload the participant's letters**

FINDING THE CASE NUMBER

Alliance One: for cases in collections (877) 541-8420

DMV: (800) 777-0133

San Diego Superior Court Public Traffic Portal

TRAFFIC CASE SEARCH:

<https://portal.prod2.odyssey.sdcourt.ca.gov/ODYPortalProd2>

WARRANT SEARCH (Sheriff's Website):

<https://apps.sdsheriff.net/warrant/waar.aspx>

MISDEMEANOR CASE SEARCH:

<https://courtindex.sdcourt.ca.gov/CISPublic/enter>

Recent Tickets: may not show up on a records check until shortly before the first scheduled court date. Client may submit an online request for a one-time 30 day extension before the first traffic court date to allow more time for program progress.

Provider's Advocacy Letter

Description of
program and
services

Start date and
length of time in
program

Summary of
client's
circumstances

Insight
overcoming
challenges,
positive change

Work hours,
number of
meetings, etc.

Statement from
client
(optional)

Accomplishments



Program Letters: The prosecutors involved with Homeless Court are asking us to provide more information about the client and their progress in each program letter. The contents of the letter outlining client's progress influences the prosecutor's/judge's decision.

Letter Format: The suggested format includes one paragraph about the program description/services, and the rest of the letter about the client. The client's effort, progress and accomplishments are the reason the relief is being given, whether it be dismissal of cases and/or clearing of fines. Please include a few paragraphs that are specifically about the client.

Possible areas of progress to mention:

Include other letters from additional programs if applicable, e.g., when client completes a program and then transitions to your program

Goals the client may have as far as employment, education etc.

Efforts to obtain a license, housing or find employment

Reconnection or reconciliation with family

Strides in obtaining child visitation/custody

Completion of a resume

Involvement in veteran's groups/treatment/outreach

Receipt of a bus/transit pass (especially when there are trolley/licensing violations)

Volunteer work

Caring for an elderly/ill relative or friend

AA/NA involvement

Progress as a sponsor/sponsee

Serving on Resident Council in program

Parenting classes

Anti-theft classes

Domestic Violence Classes

Anger management classes

Proactive steps to address medical issues

Proactive steps to address mental health issues

Academic Training

GED efforts

Involvement in DUI/OHS classes

Efforts to overcome difficult obstacles in their life



Solutions for Change

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

[REDACTED] is currently a resident at Solutions for Change which is a 700-day program serving homeless families with children. [REDACTED] and her [REDACTED] entered our Intake and Access Center (shelter) on 10/08/2019 and advanced to our Solutions for Change Transitional Apartments on 12/27/2019. Before entering our program, she endured an overall length of homelessness of 10 years in her lifetime for four years most recently. [REDACTED] now consistently pays rent and bills on time and has been diligent in providing receipts to case management.

[REDACTED] continually shows active participation in her program. She completed the following programming and classes: 380 hours of employment related training, three 12 step meetings per week, 32 hour of Servant Leadership, 12 hours of Anger Management, 20 hours of Parenting Education, 10 hours of Codependency Education, and 10 hours of Financial Literacy. [REDACTED] utilizes tools learned from these classes which increased her job skills, interviewing skills, communication skills, stress management skills, parenting skills, and recovery skills. All of which she can practice in her future. She models outstanding resident behavior within our community and inspires other residents with her personal story. [REDACTED] has been completing three 12 step meetings per week.

The primary reason of [REDACTED] homelessness is due to a 8 year long history of drugs and alcohol addiction which also resulted in two DUIs. Before entering our program, she completed an inpatient substance abuse treatment facility called CRASH Short term in San Diego. [REDACTED] continues to demonstrate her dedication to her recovery by Twelve step meetings. [REDACTED] obtained a sponsor since 02/22/2019 and completed all 12 steps thus far with this sponsor.

[REDACTED] is furthering her education by practicing for her GED. [REDACTED] works 20 hours per week as an Empowerment Aid at Solutions for Change. She consistently exhibits how she can balance employment, education, and family life with her two children. Please consider assisting [REDACTED] in her goals to create a healthy home and lifestyle for her family. If you have any questions, please contact me at the phone number below.

Sincerely,

Lilia Cantero
Empowerment Manager
Solutions for Change
(760) 941-6545 Ext. 412
lcantero@solutionsforchange.org

Sample
Program
Letter:



Adult Rehabilitation Center

1335 Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

November 14, 2018

To: The Honorable Judge Providing

Re: [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED]

Your Honor, [REDACTED] entered the San Diego Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) for chemically dependent men and women on **March 20, 2018**. He made a commitment to fully participate in all aspects of the program for a minimum of **180 days**. Having met all program requirements for **Phase I** (6-month Residential-Treatment), [REDACTED] completed **Phase I** on **September 19, 2018**. [REDACTED] then had the opportunity to apply for **Phase II** (Re-Entry/Job Search) and was accepted. Shortly after entering **Phase II**, [REDACTED] was able to obtain employment and move into **Phase III**. Currently [REDACTED] is living in our men's residence in **Phase III** which is our Live-In/Work-Out phase. [REDACTED] will remain in **Phase III** until such time as he is able to transition to **Phase IV** which is our Transitional Living/Bridge Housing phase of our program.

While residing here at the San Diego ARC, [REDACTED] has been participating in the following classes and recovery-oriented activities. He has displayed a sincere desire to excel in recovery and life skills. *(Classes are listed along with the number of classes attended):*

27	Individual Counseling Sessions	8	Anger Management Classes
26	Group Counseling Sessions	12	Beginner 12-Step Study Classes
96	Outside AA/NA Meetings	8	Intermediate 12-Step Study Classes
78	In-House AA/NA Meetings	26	Bible Study Classes
26	Chemical Dependency Classes		
12	Relapse Prevention Classes		

[REDACTED] has been an active participant in this program and [REDACTED] has worked very diligently on his recovery. [REDACTED] has gained a deeper understanding of his addiction and the negative impact on his life. [REDACTED] has set an excellent example to others as he has participated in The Salvation Army program. He has an AA sponsor, a home group, and is working the twelve steps of AA. [REDACTED] was recognized by his WTA supervisor for having an excellent work ethic. When asked about his experience here at the San Diego Adult Rehabilitation Center [REDACTED] stated "my time with the Salvation Army has been a life-changing experience. It has made it possible for me to live a clean and sober life. It has also helped me to be physically and spiritually fit. With guidance from the Salvation Army I have been able to secure gainful employment of my choosing."

It has been my experience that [REDACTED] is very sincere in his desire to change his life which is evidenced by his great progress. It has been a pleasure to see him move forward in his life. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (619) 239-4037 ext. 326.

Respectfully,


Manuel J. Bedard, CADC-II
Program Secretary

Sample
Program
Letter:

Homeless Court Resolution Process:

- All court partners (Public Defender, District Attorney, City Attorney & Judge) involved will sign to approve dismissal of case & clearance of fines.
- Court Docket will get filed with court.
- Traffic courts will be notified of case resolution.
- A copy of court docket will be sent to program provider who made referral.
- Section #5 on docket will include any follow-up needed by client regarding homeless court process.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO <input type="checkbox"/> CENTRAL DIVISION, CENTRAL COURTHOUSE, 1100 UNION ST., SAN DIEGO, CA 92101 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NORTH COUNTY DIVISION, 325 S. MELROSE DR., VISTA, CA 92081		FOR COURT USE ONLY FILED Clerk of Court NOV -4 2020 By: Y. Pooler, Deputy
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA V. DEFENDANT:		
STIPULATION & ORDER FOR DISMISSAL AND/OR SATISFACTION OF FINES (Pen. Code §1385)		CASE NUMBER(S): (See below)

The above defendant appearing pursuant to PC977, the parties stipulate to resolving the cases as indicated below due to the defendant's participation in Homeless Court.

FP Fines/Fees Satisfied	FP Fines/Fees Satisfied	AC Dismiss	DMV HOLD <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant <input type="checkbox"/> CA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FP Fines/Fees Satisfied	FP Fines/Fees Satisfied	AC Dismiss	
FP Fines/Fees Satisfied	FP Fines/Fees Satisfied		
AC Dismiss	FP Fines/Fees Satisfied		
AC Dismiss	FP Fines/Fees Satisfied		
AC Dismiss	AC Dismiss		
AC Dismiss	AC Dismiss		
AC Dismiss	AC Dismiss		

Catherine Oberholtzer
 Catherine Oberholtzer (Oct 26, 2020 09:29 PDT)

Catherine Oberholtzer
 Deputy District Attorney

Angela L. Law
 Angela L. Law (Oct 27, 2020 09:12 PDT)

Angela L. Law
 Deputy City Attorney

Terri Peters
 Terri Peters (Oct 27, 2020 09:12 PDT)

Terri Peters
 Deputy Public Defender

The court finds from the records on file in this case, and from the foregoing petition, that the petitioner is eligible for the following requested relief based on petitioner's participation in a designated Homeless Court Program. In accordance with the terms of their Homeless Court participation:

1. The court **GRANTS** the petition for resolution of the above cases as listed unless indicated in other orders below.
2. The court **SETS ASIDE** the balance of all civil assessments, fines and fees, **RECALLS** warrants, **REINSTATES/CONTINUES** probation, and **ISSUES** abstracts to DMV on the appropriate cases.
3. The court **VACATES** future dates in the above listed actions.
4. Unless otherwise stated all other terms and conditions of probation **REMAIN** as previously ordered.
5. _____

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: 11-4-20
 Judge of the Superior Court

BRAD A. WEINREB
 BRAD A. WEINREB

HOMELESS COURT VS. POP-UP EVENTS

MONTHLY HOMELESS COURT: clears all eligible fines and cases based upon accomplishment in a qualifying program.

SAN DIEGO POP-UP EVENTS: Normally held twice a month on Fridays in various locations in the county.

- Walk-up resource fair providing access to many services: Child Support Assistance, Showers, Program referrals and some services provided by the Office of Homeless Solutions. Some immediate barrier cases may be addressed, including warrants.
- This event is designed as an outreach to people not yet involved in a program.
- One of the goals of this event is to assist people needing immediate services and to connect them to ongoing program involvement.
- DMV only appears periodically at these sessions Pop-up sessions.

Parking Tickets

- **Eligible Parking Tickets:** Tickets from City of San Diego, Oceanside and Vista
- Tickets must be past due
- Client requesting ticket relief must be the current registered owner of the vehicle
- **Eligibility limited to:**
 - Veterans attending annual Stand Down or
 - Clients referred through Monthly Homeless Court
- Referring Program must be approved as a Central Homeless Court provider in order to refer client for parking relief.
 - Contact Matt Wechter, Public Defenders Office for more information
 - SanDiego@homelesscourtprogram.org
 - (619) 717-6101

NEW PROVIDER APPLICATIONS

➤ Step One: Initial Contact

- HCP Team will provide an example and template for Statement of Service and application process

- northcountysandiego@homelesscourtprogram.org

➤ Step Two: Potential provider fills out a Statement of Service which includes the following

- Two program contacts
- Target Population
- Program requirements for homeless court referral to be made

➤ Step Three: Approval

- The Steering Committee reviews and approves Statement of Service
- Training available following approval

Criteria for Statement of Service:

North County San Diego Homeless Court Program

Homeless Service Provider

Statement of Services

Agency Mission Statement:

Describe the importance of collaboration between your agency and the HCP:

What criteria do clients meet in your program to be eligible for the HCP:

Checklist of Services offered by your agency:

- Assessment/Orientation
- Life Skills
- Education (literacy, training, skill development, high school/college/technical)
- Counseling (individual, group, family/parenting, anger management, PTSD, therapy)
- Substance Abuse (AA/NA, Chemical Dependency, Relapse Prevention)
- Medical (physical/mental health)
- Government benefits (SSI, GR, VA, etc.)
- Housing
- Employment

- Total number of activities:

Comments:

North County Lifeline, Inc- Communities In Action Program (CinA)

Agency Description:

North County Lifeline (NCLL) has been a leader in social service programs for the community since 1969 when the agency started as a drop-in center for youth, and our mission is to build self-reliance among youth, individuals and families through problem solving, skill-building and accessible community-based services.

Services offered by CinA:

- Referrals to Community Resources & Benefits Application Assistance
- Stabilization supports (such as clothing, emergency food, emergency utility assistance and hygiene packs) to assist those experiencing a crisis or who are vulnerable to an imminent crisis situation
- Workforce Development support (resume building; interviewing skills; job search assistance; guidance on obtaining promotions)
- Financial Skills Classes
- Access to Free Tax Assistance to benefit from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit
- Education and cognitive development services with an inter-generational approach to foster life-enhancing growth for families.
- Resident Leadership Academy: A program to develop leadership skills and engage community residents

Target Population:

Is composed of low to very low income individuals experiencing multiple barriers to employment and housing. These barriers include homelessness or the risk of becoming homeless, and frequent or extended periods of unemployment.

Requirements for CinA clients to participate in the Homeless Court Program:

Communities in Action refers clients who demonstrate engaged and consistent participation in the program's case management services. Engaged and consistent participation includes the following:

1. Attendance of case management visits for at least 30 days upon enrollment on the date and time scheduled. A maximum of 1 rescheduled visit, 1 no-show visit, and 1 late arrival (less than 15 minutes) are allowed. A late arrival 15 minutes or over may be counted as a no-show.

2. Client creates at least 3 case management goals and demonstrates follow-up on all 3 goals, applying to housing, creating online job search accounts, etc.
3. Must attend a minimum of one workshop (Financial or ECDS)
4. Referrals: clients must follow up on all referrals provided by program that align with their case management goals within 1 week of referrals being provided. For example, if client and Case Manager identify obtaining employment as a goal, client must follow up on all referrals to career centers, job leads, employment coaching, or relevant vocational training.
5. Client must show proof to Case Manager of follow through on referrals, for example, business cards or flyers from career centers/potential employers.
6. Once goals are met, client must show proof to Case Manager such as a pay stub, a lease agreement, or other supporting documents.

Contacts:

Graciela Gutierrez
Program Manager
760-842-6234
ggutierrez@nclifeline.org

Maria Aparicio
Case Manager
760-509-3352
maparicio@nclifeline.org

All San Diego County
Homeless Court Providers

**App listing all San Diego County approved
homeless court providers:**

hcpsd.glideapp.io

• **[http:bit.ly/sdhcp](http://bit.ly/sdhcp)**



North County Homeless Court Steering Committee Members

- North County Public Defender's Office/ Deputy Public Defender Terri Peters
terripeters@sdcounty.ca.gov (760) 945-4081
- North County Homeless Court Steering Committee Chair Angel Flores
angell.flores@sdcounty.ca.gov (619) 518-1590
- Interfaith Community Service Program Manager Gersain Medina
gmedina@interfaithservices.org / homelesscourt@interfaithservices.org
- Operation Hope-Vista
Stephanie Mata stephaniemata@operationhopeshelter.org
- Committee Secretary- Katy Peters
- katelyn.rvc@gmail.com
- Lifeline Community Services
- Elizabeth Ramos
- eramos@nclifeline.org
- Jamila Small
- jsmall@nclifeline.org
- Crystal Goodspeed
- Cgvolunteers1@gmail.com

EXPUNGEMENTS

- **Court self help link** (not best option for several cases)
<https://sdcourt.ca.gov/sdcourt/criminal2/criminalexpungement>
- **Pillars of the Community** may be an option:
<https://www.potcsd.org/events/expungement-clinic>
- **Public Defender Fresh Start Unit:**
(applications are temporarily closed)
- <http://bit.ly/freshstartsd>
- **Local colleges Justice Involved Programs**
offer free expungement help to students
(MiraCosta, Palomar, CSUSM)

PREPARING FOR THE EXPUNGEMENT PROCESS

GATHERING DOCUMENTATION:

- Case requirement completion proof
- Progress and completion reports from programs
- Certificates, licenses and awards
- Proof of recovery & treatment (meetings)
- Transcripts, school/courses
- Volunteer work proof
- Paycheck stubs or job rejections (based upon record)
- Housing rejections (based upon record)
- Letters from family/friends/employers/people in the community