

DOES THIS CONCERN ME?

Chicago 400 Alliance is a grassroots campaign to challenge all public conviction registries and housing banishment laws. If you are directly-affected, or ready to stand in solidarity with people who are, please sign on to this campaign.



Above and Beyond Family Recovery Center
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation (CAASE)
Illinois Justice Project
A Just Harvest
Housing Action Illinois
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Cook County Office of the Public Defender
Safer Foundation
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC)
Illinois Alliance for Reentry and Justice (ILARJ)

THE PROBLEM: Public conviction registries and housing banishment laws set us up to fail.

- Going to police stations all the time is painful.
- We lose jobs. We lose housing. Then we get prison time for "failure to register." It's a downward spiral.
- Illinois has alarming rates of people on registries:
 - 1 in 145 men** in Illinois is on a public conviction registry
 - 1 in 42 Black men** in Illinois is on a public conviction registry
 - 53% of people who register weekly** have already gotten one or more felony for "failure to register"
- Registry and banishment laws derail us when we are doing great. They drag us down when we are already struggling.
- They lead to poverty and prison.
- They waste police time + resources with endless re-registrations.
- These laws are not evidence-based. They do not improve public safety and have been shown to increase crime.

THE SOLUTION: Build a strong coalition to challenge these laws.

We work with service providers, victim advocates, housing advocates, reentry groups, and civil rights groups. We are all connected to support people impacted by these laws.

We have introduced legislation to reform these laws.

NEXT STEPS: Get the votes for the two C400 bills.

- We have great bill sponsors, such as Illinois State Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford. If passed, our bills will offer immediate relief.
- A bill needs a *majority of votes* to become law. We need 30 votes in the Senate and 60 in the House.
- When formerly-incarcerated people and our families speak up, lawmakers respond. They are *our representatives*.

When we talk to them, they become champions of the bill.

Many state legislators think this is a reasonable ask:

- We should be able to live in the housing we have
 - without our addresses being made public.
- We should be able to live in the housing we have
 - without our homes suddenly becoming "illegal."
- We served our time and should not have to pay fees every year.

Give your state legislator a reason to stand up for you.

The only way to change our future is to change the state laws.

WHY WE ORGANIZE

- We served our time.
- We are not ok with being listed on public conviction registries.
- We are not ok with being kicked out of our housing.
- We often ask our families for help in dealing with these laws, but fighting the laws is something we can do for ourselves.

Organizing works.

We have built power from our numbers, our commitment, and our hard work.

SB2254 / HB3625 will:

- 1. Shrink housing banishment zones from 500 feet to 250 feet.**
Home day cares will be taken off the banishment list.
This will open up housing. Many people will go from homeless to housed.
- 2. Create a "grandfather clause" so people are not forced out of housing.**
A person can't be forced to move if something opens up.
- 3. No weekly registration if homeless.**
(Applies to ALL registries.)

SB2197 / HB3469 will:

Abolish registration fees for ALL public conviction registries. For everyone.
No more permanent financial punishment.

Other legislative priorities:

Repeal/reduce time on ALL registries.

Registries turn our homes into targets and endanger our families. We served our time. Our data should not be online.

CHICAGO 400 ALLIANCE

Our lives are valuable. Our families are valuable. Yet, these laws cause ongoing problems with housing, jobs, and police for life.

- Probation or prison is enough punishment. After we serve our time, we should not be listed online or forced to report to police.
- The laws cause lifelong instability and make it impossible to get housing. Some people can't even stay in nursing homes.

The sooner we fight, the sooner we win.

- Advocates, community groups, and C400 leaders are working together to repeal these laws. We need numbers to succeed.
- If you have a question, concern, issue, reach out: (978) 414-5373

Housing is a human need. Housing is health care. Housing is sleep, safety, and stability. Housing is the foundation for success. Let's make it legal.

We have in-person meetings and trainings.

Chicago 400 Leadership invites you to our in-person meetings:

- prep to meet state lawmakers
- media training
- join your district team
- video, audio, and art
- make campaign decisions
- leadership training

We meet at UIC (off the UIC-Halsted CTA Blue Line)

For the meeting schedule, call or text: (978) 414-5373.

We get right to work. We have something for everyone to do.
All are wanted. All are welcome.

Apply to join the 2026 CHICAGO 400 teams!

- Chicago 400 Alliance seeks 5 members for the Art + Media team. We document the laws with video, photo, audio, drawing.
- We seek 5 members for the organizing team.
- We seek 2 office people w/ tech, office, organizing experience.

OUR VALUES

1. **Accountability.** Individuals should be held accountable for their actions. Governments should be held accountable for harmful laws and how they carry them out.
2. **Freedom.** We served our time. We seek the freedom to succeed and have peace in our lives. We should not be set up to fail.
3. **Housing is a human need.** The state should not put us at risk by making us homeless, transient, or publicizing our addresses.
4. **Common sense.** The resources drained on these senseless and damaging laws could be used to truly help people, including us.
5. **Solidarity.** These laws are designed to intimidate and isolate people, based on past convictions. We refuse to be divided by a system that does not acknowledge our dignity and potential.
6. **Unity.** By recognizing our common struggle, we gain clarity, community, and the power we need to transform the system.

FROM CHICAGO 400 MEMBERS

*I've been doing this for 17 years now.
How long do we want to keep doing this?*

Southside and westside lawmakers are reforming the police and prison system. We told them how crazy all this is and they listened. That's how we got a bill.

If we want a better life, we have to change the state laws. I'd rather talk to my state legislators now. Than keep going back to these police stations.

Remember that we are free. We are not in custody. I have a conviction. But I will not live my life in shame. I will not be made to feel illegal.

Civil rights come from struggle. I am proud to be in this struggle for housing, peace, and freedom.

This campaign isn't about one law or one registry. This is about what the system is doing to all of us and how to end it. It's all one system.

We can make history or just complain. I'd like to make history.

This put my whole family in a downward spiral. But now I'm standing up for myself, my kids + my grandkids. I'm a revolutionary and I'm not giving up.

It is impossible to follow laws that are impossible to follow.

See excellent news media + other info here: <https://linktr.ee/Chicago400>

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES + INFO

Call: (978) 414-5373

Email: info@chicago400.net

Visit: www.Chicago400.net

CHICAGO 400 HELP DESK

C400 members with any registration or housing issue, please text or call:

(978) 414-5373

It is common to have problems.

We try to help or direct you to resources.

We are a supportive place. Call us!

Save this card in case you need it.