



The Fortune Society
BUILDING PEOPLE, NOT PRISONS



ADVOCACY PLATFORM 2021

The Fortune Society and DRCPP History

Founded in 1967, The Fortune Society (Fortune) started when David Rothenberg and passionate formerly incarcerated advocates began speaking out to shape public perception and policy. Fortune's leaders toured the country speaking to the media, educating communities, and advocating for basic human rights (including during the Attica rebellion). Guided by people with justice involvement, Fortune expanded its reach beyond community education and advocacy to provide comprehensive reentry services. With over 50 years' experience, Fortune is now one of the nation's leading innovators in advocacy and public policy, while providing holistic and expanding services to over 9000 people annually.

The David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy works to build equitable legal systems and alternative approaches to justice, change counterproductive laws and policies, advance effective program models, and shift public perception.

Our Advocacy Priorities

DRCPP's advocacy platform highlights priorities aimed at advancing our mission. DRCPP is a means of leveraging our internal expertise to advocate for a fairer criminal justice system, promote effective program models for people with criminal justice histories, and change counterproductive laws and policies that prevent this population from successfully reentering the community. Our priorities include:

RECONSTRUCTING JUSTICE

- ✓ Promoting equitable policing, prosecutorial, and sentencing policies to reduce unnecessary criminalization and destructive reliance on incarceration.
- ✓ Advocating to improve conditions of confinement and increase access to vital services for people currently incarcerated while working to close Rikers Island.
- ✓ Defending the interests of individuals, families, and communities caught at the intersection of the criminal legal and immigration systems.

RESHAPING ACCESS

- ✓ Protecting rights to healthcare, housing, employment, and education for people with legal system involvement regardless of their race, gender, citizenship, age, zip code, or income.
- ✓ Providing expertise and technical assistance locally and nationwide to expand safe, stable and affordable housing options for people with conviction histories.
- ✓ Serving as an institutional plaintiff in litigation targeting discrimination based on justice involvement including housing and employment policies.

RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS

- ✓ Developing narratives with a call for meaningful change that respect people's humanity, while drawing attention to life experiences often silenced, ignored or marginalized.
- ✓ Sharing our values, insight and recommendations with the community and elected officials through testimony at government hearings, agency visits, and public events.
- ✓ Fostering personal expression through the creative arts to develop and deepen connections between people affected by overlapping inequities.