

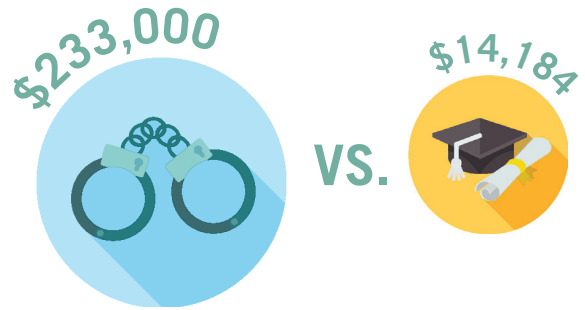


# SMART JUSTICE REFORM: Smart Investment

Profound social and economic benefits through prevention, incarceration and reentry reforms.

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce’s Smart Justice reform efforts aim to reduce crime and build a thriving and inclusive economy. Our work is grounded in programs, policies and collaborative systems change efforts that dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, support in-custody education and job readiness services, and connect the reentry population to education and employment opportunities.

L.A. County spends more than \$233,000 per year for each youth incarcerated in juvenile detention. By contrast, Los Angeles Unified School District invests \$14,184 per pupil.



## PREVENTION

The Chamber supports policies and cross-sector collaborative systems change efforts that address the connections of crime to poverty, employment, education and mental health.

70%

Children who do not receive high-quality early childhood education are 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime.

The Chamber advocates for quality early education to ensure all young learners, especially from underserved families, avoid incarceration and are prepared for the 21st century workforce.

20%

20 percent of young people leaving foster care will be incarcerated within a few years after turning 18 years old.

The Chamber is a leading partner in the L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative that works to connect transition-age foster youth to education and employment pathways.



## CUSTODY

The Chamber aims to expand employment and education opportunities for people with criminal records by building business engagement and support for in-custody, education, life skills and job readiness programs. These programs have been linked to reductions in violence among detainees and recidivism among those returning to our communities.

43%

Individuals who participate in any kind of educational program while incarcerated are up to 43 percent less likely to reoffend and return to prison

Working with the L.A. County Office of Education and L.A. County Probation Department, the Chamber supports adjudicated youth through career development programming in local probation camp schools.

700,000+

More than 700,000 individuals are released from the state and federal criminal justice systems each year, often with no new skills or work experience.

The Chamber cultivates business champions who understand the realities of adults and juveniles in probation settings. The Chamber coordinates member visits to L.A. Men's Central Jail and juvenile camps to engage with detainees and discuss preparation for reentry into society, including education opportunities. By de-stigmatizing the detainees, the Chamber builds support for second chances.



## REENTRY

The Chamber encourages businesses to adopt open and fair hiring practices that can improve their bottom line and reduce recidivism. As a trusted partner to our more than 16,000 member organizations, we build durable coalitions and provide a thoughtful voice to reentry efforts in the L.A. region.

1,300+

With the passage of Proposition 47 in 2014, more than 1,300 detainees were released in L.A. County, which operates the world's largest jail system.

The Chamber was one of the first business organizations to support Proposition 47. The Chamber, along with key stakeholders, leads the L.A. County Proposition 47 Jobs & Services Taskforce, devoted to building public-private partnerships that help reclassified individuals access sustainable employment.

65 MILLION

An estimated 65 million U.S. adults have arrests or convictions that make it hard to find work, resulting in a \$57-65 billion loss of gross domestic output.

Partnering with the California Department of Justice, the Chamber engages the business community in efforts to find meaningful work for individuals released from Pitchess Detention Center. More and more employers – including the Chamber itself – have found formerly incarcerated candidates can be outstanding employees.

For more information, contact Heather Birdsall, 213.580.7564 or [hbirdsall@lachamber.com](mailto:hbirdsall@lachamber.com).