



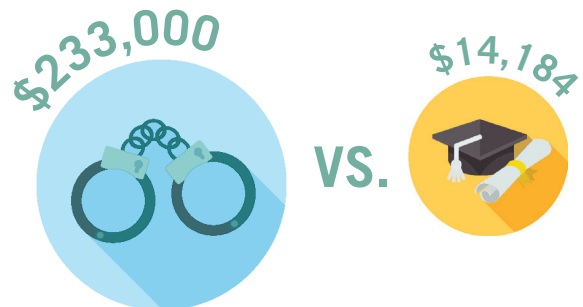
LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SMART JUSTICE REFORM: Smart Investment

Reforms in **prevention**, **incarceration**, and **reentry** can have profound social and economic benefits.

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce's Smart Justice reform efforts aims 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.

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



PREVENTION

The Chamber supports policies and collaborative systems change efforts, such as the L.A. Compact – a bold commitment by cross-sector leaders to transform education in Los Angeles from cradle-to-career. These cross-sector efforts address the connections of crime to poverty, mental health, employment and education.

70%

Children who don't 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 our 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 (OYC) which works to connect transition-age foster youth to education and employment pathways.



CUSTODY

The Chamber aims to expand job and educational opportunities for people with criminal records by building business engagement and supporting in-custody education, life skills and job readiness programs. Education, life skills and job 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

In partnership with the L.A. County Office of Education with support from the L.A. County Probation Department, the Chamber works with adjudicated youth in three probation camp school settings to support career development through connections to business leaders.

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 in probation settings. In 2015, the Chamber took members of our Board to L.A. Men's Central Jail to meet with detainees, listen to their stories and learn about educational opportunities preparing them to reenter society. By de-stigmatizing the inmate population, the Chamber builds support among industry leaders 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 Chamber 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 November 2014, more than 1,300 prisoners 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 (2014). The Chamber, along with key stakeholders, leads the L.A. County Proposition 47 Jobs & Services Taskforce, which will launch 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 who are being released from Pitchess Detention Center. More and more employers – including the Chamber itself – have found that formerly incarcerated candidates can become outstanding employees.

For more information, contact Heather Birdsall, 213.580.7564 or hbirdsall@lachamber.com.