



Center for Social Development

GEORGE WARREN BROWN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

 Washington University in St. Louis



Promote Smart Decarceration

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Introduction



The **Promote Smart Decarceration** grand challenge is a proactive, evidence-driven strategy that can dramatically reduce the number of people who are imprisoned and enable the nation to embrace a more effective, just approach to public safety.

Smart Decarceration Initiative Co-Directors are leading social work's grand challenge – Promote Smart Decarceration.





Promote Smart Decarceration



“Smart” decarceration requires **policy innovations** that simultaneously achieve three outcomes:

- substantially reduce the incarcerated population
- redress existing social disparities in the criminal justice system
- maximize public safety and public well-being



Promote Smart Decarceration



Recommendation 1: Use Incarceration Primarily for Incapacitation of the Most Dangerous

Recommendation 2: Make Reduction of Racial, Economic, and Behavioral Health Disparities a Key Outcome in Decarceration Efforts

Recommendation 3: Remove Legal Exclusions From Civic Participation Prompted by Felony Conviction

Recommendation 4: Reallocate Resources to Community-Based Supports



Grand Challenge Working Groups



Our grand challenge is supported by over 100 social work scholars, practitioners, and advocates organized into **working groups** in three primary areas of social work:

Research

Practice

Education

Working groups are developing & implementing a
Promote Smart Decarceration
Grand Challenge Action Plan



Working Groups Co-leaders



Research Working Group Co-Leaders:

Amy Blank-Wilson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Gina Fedock, University of Chicago

Practice Working Group Co-Leaders:

Melissa Grady, Catholic University of America

Melvin Wilson, National Association of Social Workers

Education Working Group Co-Leaders:

Schnavia Hatcher, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Stephen Tripodi, Florida State University



Grand Challenge Collaborations



Cyclical Relationship Between Promote Smart Decarceration and Other Grand Challenges

- *End Homelessness*
- *Reduce Extreme Economic Inequality*
- *Ensure Healthy Development for All Youth*