Promote Smart Decarceration

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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.
“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
**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*