

WASHINGTON COUNTY PARDON PROJECT
Inaugural Brainstorming Meeting
June 8, 2021 – 11:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82546000318>

Meeting ID: 825 4600 0318

Dial-in: 929 436 2866

RESOURCES:

1. Pardon application and instructions [provided separately]
2. The Economy League 10-year study of economic impact of pardons in PA:
<http://economyleague.org/pardonimpact>
3. PLSE 10-year study of [recidivism of pardon applicants in PA](#)
4. Pardon Project Video Library: <https://www.plsephilly.org/video-library>

AGENDA

1. Call to order and welcomes –
 Brian Gorman, Executive Director, Southwestern PA Legal Aid
 State Senator Camera Bartolotta
2. Self-introductions
3. What's happened to date – Brian Gorman
4. The Problem, The Process, The Potential - Tobey Oxholm, Director, The Pardon Project
5. Discussion: Should we go forward? And who else should be involved?
6. Date/agenda for next meeting (in two weeks?)
 - a. Action Items before then? And inviting others.
 - b. Whom would the Pardon Project serve (eligibility criteria)?
 - c. How do we reach them?
 - i. Pending grant from the American Bar Endowment
 - d. Who can be trained as Pardon Coaches?

****American Rescue Plan:** the [federal guidelines](#) would include the Pardon Project:

- "Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impact of the pandemic.

"The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each government to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest hit by the crisis."

The overlap of the Pardon Project is not just low-income communities: people with criminal records very often have to take jobs in small businesses, and even start small businesses that in turn come to employ more people with records. Moreover, the exclusion from so many parts of society is so great that criminal records have in fact been called a public health crisis!