

STATE OF CONNECTICUT**Department of Administrative Services****NASCIO State IT Recognition Awards****Clean Slate Connecticut: Catalyst for Collaborative Success****Cross-Boundary Collaboration • September 2021 to Present****Entry Snapshot**

Project title	CT Clean Slate Automation Project
Award category	Cross-Boundary Collaboration
Submitting agency	State of Connecticut, Department of Administrative Services
Partner agencies	Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
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Primary contact	Mark Raymond, State of Connecticut CIO; Mark.Raymond@ct.gov
Executive sponsor	Ronnell Higgins, Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Submission owner	Mark Raymond

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Connecticut is an early adopter of a justice reform framework currently passed by more than 12 US state legislatures. Clean Slate prescribes automatic records erasure for people who have earned a second chance by remaining crime-free for defined periods.

Community groups and advocates in Connecticut, in concert with the National Clean Slate Initiative, worked with the state legislature to create a law that envisioned automation to deliver equitable rules and policy to guide the process. CT Clean Slate requires erasure of qualified criminal records “by operation of law”. Records that would otherwise be disclosed must be excluded from reporting once a series of complex criteria are met.

Amended by Public Act No. 23-169 in 2023, the law requires erasure of *qualified* criminal justice offense records by statutory “operation of law”. In Connecticut, “erasure” means that records that would continue to be disclosed indefinitely on public criminal background reports must be excluded from all forms of public access and reporting. “Operation of law” means that all agencies that maintain justice data are obligated to perform erasures without intervention by courts and without any special grant. Automation is the key to locking unqualified records from erasure and enables erasure for qualified records. The Connecticut Clean Slate Automation Project implements complex IT processes, at scale, to meet the new justice policies.

Implementing this policy required overcoming significant technical challenges. Criminal justice data was fragmented across decades-old paper records, legacy databases, and disconnected agency systems. Determining eligibility for hundreds of thousands of cases needed policy alignment and modern, interoperable technology infrastructure. Implementing new distributed technology required teamwork spanning all criminal justice agencies.

The CT Clean Slate Automation Project required close collaboration across many key partners including the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), Department of Correction (DOC), the Judicial Branch, the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS-CT), and the Department of Administrative Services’ Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (DAS/BITS). Together, these teams designed secure, interoperable workflows and conducted extensive testing to ensure accuracy, privacy, and compliance. An external advocacy partner, Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut (CONNECT), played a key role in advancing the legislation and ensuring implementation remained focused on community impact and accountability. Connecticut became the first in the country to completely automate the erasures. Some jurisdictions have implemented manual procedures to handle these types of erasures; however, CT moved further and faster through automation.

The Clean Slate Automation Project demonstrates how technology, driven by collaborative multi-agency collaboration, can help government deliver life-altering change. Connecticut is helping thousands of residents move beyond past mistakes and build a stronger future for themselves, their families, and for the State of Connecticut. The state’s method is now regarded as a model for other states evaluating comparable Clean Slate initiatives.

Clean Slate Operations have been running continuously since September 2025, and over 300,000 history offense records have been erased pursuant to Clean Slate law and new eligible records are processed daily.

Real Impact from Clean Slate offense erasures is already realized by communities in Connecticut. Life changing impacts for those receiving full record erasure include access to employment, housing, and educational opportunities previously out of reach.

Looking ahead, Connecticut has been working on a portal to allow those whose records have been processed through Clean Slate to view the status of that process and understand if their records have been completely expunged. This will reduce cost and effort for residents seeking their results.

IDEA

The genesis for Clean Slate Automation in Connecticut stems from its state legislature working collaboratively with state and national advocacy groups to form legislation. Clean Slate policies and rules prescribed in legislation operated as the catalyst for technical innovation.

Translating Clean Slate law and policy rules into operable systems requirements and design options sparked the cross-boundary collaboration that ultimately led to the successful IT system delivery. Ideas are the foundation of solutions and in common with all large IT endeavors the Clean Slate project needed more than its share of both obvious and out of the box thinking.

Clean Slate automation depends on secure and reliable exchanges of structured data. The Connecticut criminal justice system agencies previously developed a message exchange infrastructure that is scalable and extendible for new unforeseen use cases. Message exchange requirements dovetailed well with the existing infrastructure. Familiar integration technology, technically savvy teams, and group rapport accelerated initial design and development of Clean Slate Automation.

A Challenge Discovered, A Gap Closed

A gap was recognized early in the discovery phase of the project. Completion of all sentences ascribed by court is a condition for Clean Slate erasure. No need previously existed for centralized sentence management and no system existed for this purpose. The roadblock was removed through the development of a new Sentence Discharge Database system. Successful delivery of the SDDB system means that Connecticut, for the first time, hosts a system that manages the lifecycle of all court case sentences for all charges with verdicts specified by the court. It also meant that Clean Slate Automation would meet the letter of the law.

Scope, Complexity, and Innovation

Criminal justice records in CT span state agencies and systems in separate branches of government. Millions of records from decades of accumulated criminal justice data must be accurately maintained and synchronized across systems. Before the Clean Slate processes, there was no need to have much

of this data reconciled. The result was that much of the data was not consistent. All CT agencies hosting criminal justice information completed software IT upgrades to manage Clean Slate erasures. Reuse of existing data exchange infrastructure reduced complexity. Innovative extension of existing technology tamed complexity and enabled successful delivery of the components required to complete the Clean Slate Automation project.

IMPLEMENTATION

Clean Slate started with discovery, analysis, and planning happening at the same time. The team reviewed the main requirements and early designs, then broke the work into clear sections. This helped each agency team understand what was in scope, estimate the work, plan next steps, and budget for what they needed.

IT staff, including business analysts and subject matter experts teamed up to elicit and document detailed requirements. Clean Slate Automation development commenced in earnest in Q3 2022 with development underway by agencies to integrate and process erasure notifications. Detailed designs were developed at this time to specify distributed processing responsibilities and application functions.

Designing, coding, and testing the new central sentence tracking system spanned all of 2023 and was operational in Q1 2024. Integration testing proceeded in parallel with application development resulting in successful early milestone completion of outbound message components. Data quality gaps were discovered during this phase, and quality improvements were made to accurately process erasures.

The public safety data under evaluation meant the processing of these outcomes must be completely accurate. Any incorrect processing would have impacts on both the justice involved and victim populations. During the project execution, it became evident that a dedicated testing capability was needed to ensure complete and consistent outcomes before ever running in production. CT identified and quickly contracted with a quality assurance testing company to ensure the required levels of quality were met.

The Clean Slate eligibility rules engine was developed during 2024 through to initial deployment in September 2025. The combined system has transferred, processed, and analyzed millions of criminal justice records to identify hundreds of thousands of qualified history data erasures. Clean Slate processing continues to operate daily to produce hundreds of new qualified erasures per week.

Roadmap Detail Timeline

Phase	Timing	Major activities	Decision or deliverable
Phase 1: Discovery and Initial Planning	Q4 2021 – Q2 2022	Review of legislative requirements and early feedback from SMEs	Initial Plans Reviewed and Approved. Agency budgets
Phase 2: Requirements Analysis / Policy Decisions	Q3 2022 – Q4 2022	Requirements elicitation, analysis, and documentation	Requirements, Policy Decisions, Assumptions, Review & Agreement
Phase 3: Architecture and Iterative Planning	Q3 2022 – Q1 2023	Problem space division and component definition	High-level designs and team and task structure
Phase 4, Stage 1: Application Development	Q1 2023 – Q4 2023	Software development and Quality Validation	SDDB system Delivery & CSE Message Integration
Phase 4, Stage 2: Application Development	Q1 2024 – Q2 2025	Software development and Quality Validation	Eligibility Rules Engine and CSE Notification Messages
Phase 5: Systems Integration and Testing	Q2 2025 – Q3 2025	System Integration Testing Volume Performance Testing	Scenario testing. Volume and Performance Testing
Phase 6: Production Operation	Q3 2025 - Present	System Production / Go Live	Historical records & New eligible records
Phase 7: Deferred Scope and Iterative SDLC	Q1 2026 – Q3 2026	SDLC for deferred scope	Modifications to handle rules for DUI offense erasures

Agency Teams

A total of 9 agencies, departments, and advocacy groups contributed to policy, guidance, governance, and IT system development projects to deliver Clean Slate Automation including:

Clean Slate Project: State agencies, offices, and advocacy groups:

- Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection (DESPP)
- Connecticut Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS-CT)
- Department of Correction (DOC)
- Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ)
- Judicial Branch Superior Court Operations (SCO)
- Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD)
- Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut (CONNECT)
- Clean Slate Initiative (CSI)
- CT Governor's Office (OTG)

Project Governance and Policy Guidance

Governance of the Clean Slate Automation project is provided by senior leadership including the DESPP Commissioner's Office, the Office of the Governor and OPM, DAS/BITS and the CT CIO. Policy guidance was provided by OTG legislative liaisons, agency legal staff, and the CT criminal justice ad hoc legal committee.

IMPACT

Impact to individuals in Connecticut is immediate and direct, opening paths to improved employment, housing, and educational opportunities for many people. Clean Slate has already changed lives for the better. Excitement is rising in individuals, justice advocates, and state leadership in Connecticut.

View the video link to witness the pride of accomplishment of a hard-won goal, personal connections joining communities, and the palpable feelings of relief shown by real people who can move on with a Clean Slate: [Connecticut Celebrates 150,000+ People's Records Erased with Clean Slate](#)

Community impacts from the successful implementation of Clean Slate in Connecticut are exemplified by advocacy group celebrations and proclamations by government officials. Clean Slate represents a rare opportunity for technology to tangibly lift community spirits. By achieving shared goals, the community of CT lawmakers, policy setters, and IT professionals created a new path for justice equity in the state. Technical challenges and roadblocks to success were met with tenacity and know-how. Gaps and setbacks were met with encouragement and resources commensurate with the task at hand.

Significant real impact is already realized by the citizens of Connecticut. The direct impact to those receiving full record erasure includes access to employment, housing, and educational opportunities. More than 150,000 people in Connecticut have received record erasures. More than 315,000 cases have received charge erasures. Cross-boundary teamwork continues to support erasure notification operations. Final eligibility rules processing will be completed in 2026 to yield a total of more than 350,000 cases having received Clean Slate erasure.

State criminal justice agencies continue to extend the use of their reusable secure data exchange infrastructure to deliver solutions for novel use cases. Upgrades to criminal record repositories have improved data quality and new designs have yielded improvements to multi-agency data synchronization. Connecticut agency leadership across all branches of government can build on teamwork for successful delivery of complex technology to bring Clean Slate erasures to the state of Connecticut. Connecticut residents will continue to benefit directly from earned Clean Slate offense erasure. Improved justice equity afforded by the Clean Slate erasures will continue to bring benefits to all communities in the state far into the future.

Quotes and Testimonials

"Clean Slate did not just clear my record, it gave me back my dignity, it gave me back my future."
Miss Smith, CT resident

“Connecticut remains a model for the nation, where communities, advocates and government work together, transformational change is achievable.”

Dr. Sheena Meade, CEO of the Clean Slate Initiative

“Over 150,000 Connecticut Residents have had their records automatically expunged.”

Rev. Dr. Phillippe Andai

“After more than a year of hard work, we’ve not just gotten clean slate right, but we’ve become somewhat of a national model. We have erased criminal records for more than 150,000 Connecticut residents, eliminating low-level convictions in opening the door to real second chances at better housing and better opportunities at their education.”

Commissioner Higgins, DESPP

“Through significant collaboration, the implementation delays transformed into implementation challenges addressing numerous and complex technical issues with concrete deliverables being provided consistently and successfully within projected timeframes.

While the work continues, this unprecedented level of cross-agency and community collaboration has led to an historic milestone in Connecticut directly benefiting more than 150,000 people (and counting) to date by removing obstacles to obtaining better jobs, more secure housing, and greater access to higher education opportunities, which in turn benefits their families, communities, and the state as a whole. Reportedly, more than 300,000 record erasure notices have been issued to connected agency systems since September 2025. Not only does the Clean Slate Automation effort deserve recognition, but it is also serving as a blueprint in other states for how such deep and sustained collaboration on complex problems can work to effect positive and systemic changes to statewide systems and policies that directly impact people’s lives and opportunities”

Philip G. Kent, Esq. Co-chair, CONECT’s Criminal Legal Reform Team

CT DOC’s mainframe indexes offender records by inmate number rather than docket number, creating a major challenge for cross-agency data matching. DESPP and CJIS collaborated to analyze the DOC data and build supplemental reference tables to strengthen weak or inconsistent linkage points. These tables were fully integrated into DOC processes. Through a dedicated API interface, a docket number association table was made accessible in real time, enabling end-to-end automation. The enhancements improved match success rates and significantly reduced manual effort.

David Snyder, Connecticut Dept. of Correction

Link to Clean Slate Initiative website: [The Clean Slate Initiative](#)

Link to Clean Slate CT website: [Clean Slate Connecticut](#)

The link below provides a recent news conference that describes the impact and benefit of the Clean Slate erasure system to the residents of Connecticut.

[Connecticut Celebrates 150,000+ People's Records Erased with Clean Slate](#)