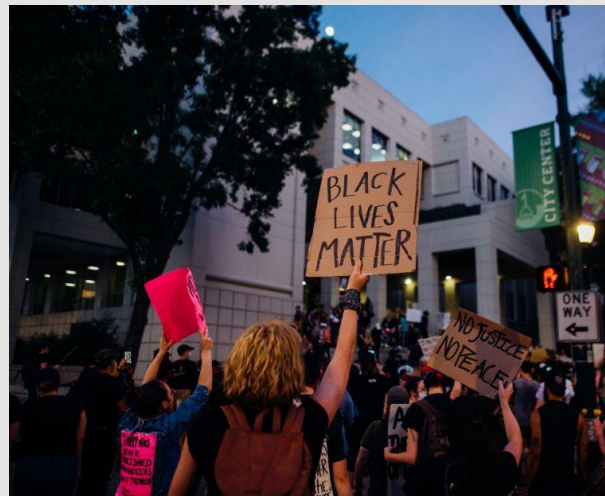


### The Work Continues

Anti-racism and justice for all continues to be at the center of all of our policy, field building, and research work to advance human rights and solutions to poverty. We remain committed to weaving racial equity into all that we do and, every day, we are researching, learning, and implementing ways to create a more inclusive world.

Learn more about our commitment to fight for racial equity in [Heartland Alliance's statement](#) on the murder of George Floyd, and by watching Carlton Mayers, our Criminal Justice Project Manager, [speak on a panel about Race, Equity and Justice with other Heartland Alliance leaders](#)

See [a letter from Heartland Alliance President](#), Evelyn Diaz, on our commitment to racial equity and support of the Black Lives Matter movement.



*“Enough with the racial and economic injustice that creates deep despair within Black communities. Enough with the inexcusable racist rhetoric and incitement to violence by our President. And enough with the systems of racism and oppression that have led to unacceptable over-policing, police brutality, and mass incarceration.”*

- Evelyn Diaz, President of Heartland Alliance

Members of the 116th Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the 116th Congress,

**One more check is not enough.**

Sincerely,

*Everyone*

Congress must take action to help ensure that when the public health crisis is over, that families and communities haven't fallen deeper into poverty, and that people's access to jobs and cash can fuel our economic recovery.

## TAKE ACTION

exacerbated by the pandemic, helps families keep their homes and keep food on the table, and so much more.

We invite you to [view our full list of recommendations](#) and urge you to take action by [sending a letter directly to your elected representative](#) so that they know that we need ongoing support for communities.

This crisis has not ended, so neither should the supports available to communities.

[Take Action](#)

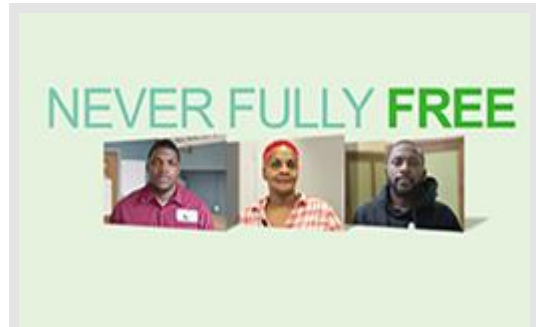
## Dear Congress, One Check & Time-Limited Supports Are Not Enough.

The COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis has continued to deepen the already existing inequities we experience in our country. In this pivotal moment, we are asking Congress to step up and invest in bold solutions that will stem this crisis and lead us toward recovery. We must do more. That is why we implore Congress to put forth legislation that continues crucial unemployment supports, addresses deep racial inequities

## Never Fully Free: A Webinar on the Impact of Permanent Punishments

Earlier this month, we released our special report, [Never Fully Free: The Scale and Impact of Permanent Punishments on People with Criminal Records in Illinois](#). In it, we revealed that there are nearly 1,200 laws and statutes that limit the rights of individuals with criminal records, regardless of how long it's been since their last interaction with the criminal legal system. Since then we have taken part in a number of conversations with leaders throughout the field around our findings, the impact of permanent punishments, and what we hope to see for the future. Take a look at our latest webinar where we convened Heartland Alliance Research Director and report author, Katie Buitrago; Campaign Manager, Quintin Williams; and community leaders and report interviewees, Colette Payne and Anthony Chestnut. This conversation gives another look at the toll permanent punishments takes on communities and people's lives.

[Watch the webinar](#), and when you're done, visit the [Never Fully Free website](#) to see more stories and read the full report.



*"I want stability, you know, I want to be happy. I want to be financially secure. I want my family to be happy. That's what's important to me. I want to live a productive life...Being as honest as I can be, I just want to continue to grow, be happy and be productive."*

– Anthony Chestnut, Report Interviewee

**WATCH TODAY**

## Updates

### New Evaluation Shows the Impact of Care

The Health Neighborhood project was a rich learning opportunity that helped build, inform and shape the internal infrastructure of care coordination at Heartland Alliance Health. Through this, we learned care coordination is a critical service, one that is not appropriately compensated in the current healthcare system.

[Read the evaluation today](#) and then take a look at [the latest blog post](#) from the lead researcher/author and Health Neighborhood Manager. In it, they share their learnings and insights on this project and care coordination.

## **Illinois Clears Parking Ticket License Suspensions from 75,000 Driving Records**

Thousands of Illinoisans who lost driving privileges for non-driving violations like unpaid parking ticket debt join with community advocates to celebrate the License to Work Act, which became law on July 1, 2020. The result of years of advocacy and bipartisan support, the new law ends the practice of suspending driver's licenses for numerous issues such as the inability to pay fines and fees from parking and vehicle compliance tickets. Tens of thousands of Illinoisans will have suspensions cleared from their driving records thanks to the new law. We are so proud to have worked to help make this a reality as a part of the Illinois Transit Table, a coalition of Illinois social service providers, advocates, and other stakeholders working to eliminate transportation barriers that keep people out of work and in poverty.

[Read the full press release](#) to learn more about License to Work and encourage individuals to confirm with the Secretary of State if they are eligible to get their license back.

## **Welcome Sandra Escobar-Schulz as our newest Senior Research Associate**

Sandra has been a fellow with the Social IMPACT Research Center for the past 10 months, leading the qualitative research with the "Never Fully Free" report. Sandra has a Master of Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology from UIC, and a BS in Cell and Molecular Biology from California State University. Prior to that, she spent a year as a research specialist at the UIC Center for Research on Women and Gender doing evaluation work for IDPH, and 3 years as a research specialist at the UIC Department of Emergency Measurement leading components of several research projects.

## **Welcome Our Interns and Assistants**

In the midst of a challenging and unprecedented year, we are excited to introduce an amazing group of interns and assistants who joined the team in June! This talented cohort are located across the US (and one outside of the US), and will be supporting the Research & Policy Division in our mission to bring health and healing, safety and justice, and economic opportunity to all. We are excited for the perspective, experience, and dedication they are bringing to our work. [Meet the newest members of our team!](#)

Heartland Alliance's Research & Policy Division engages in research on social issues and solutions, policy and systems change, and field building nationwide. The division is home to Heartland Alliance's Social IMPACT Research Center, Policy & Advocacy team, and our National Initiatives on Economic Opportunity.

## Stay connected with Heartland Alliance



**Heartland Alliance** 208 S LaSalle Street, Suite 1300, Chicago IL 60604

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