

5 Years of the Ohio Governor's Expedited Pardon Project

Reflects data as of December 12, 2024

Applicant Status

As of December 12, 2024, 1262 individuals have applied to the project. Of those, the Project Team formally accepted 543 clients. The remaining applicants were either denied, withdrew their applications, sought a different remedy, or are being evaluated for acceptance. The two most common reasons for non-acceptance are: 1) it has been less than 10 years since the person completed their last sentence, and/or 2) they have a disqualifying offense on their record.

- 1262 applications received
- 543 applicants accepted into the program
- **182 applicants pardoned**

The remaining clients accepted into the program are in various stages of completing their pardon application or withdrew their application.

Location

The program has received applications from across the state of Ohio and the U.S. Applications received from:

- 81 Ohio counties
- 31 U.S. states

Engagement

- More than 29,500 people visited the program website
- More than 3,000 views of our training videos on YouTube
- Five service providers assist applicants at no cost
- More than 10 support organizations have helped to spread the word about the program

Applicant Histories and Motivations

Accepted clients had between one and 21 criminal convictions on their record. The majority of accepted clients had between 1 and 3 convictions, though many had 5 or more criminal convictions on their record.

The top three reasons applicants cited for seeking a pardon were:

1. Employment and career opportunities
2. Removal of stigma and housing barriers
3. Educational and volunteer aspirations

“I would like to be granted a pardon so that I will be free of the stigma attached with a felony conviction. Receiving a pardon would increase my career and employment opportunities.”

- Accepted client

“I am hopeful that I will be able to return to a university and complete a PhD in neuropsychology, doing research to help identify how trauma impacts behavior. I want to have positive impact on the world around me and I do not want my record to get in the way of that.”

- Accepted client

Profile of an Applicant

As of December 3, 2024, the project has received nearly 1,300 applications from 81 Ohio counties and 32 states. While applicants have many reasons for pursuing a pardon, the most common are employment and educational opportunities, removal of stigma, restoration of rights, and ability to volunteer in their community. This group is demographically diverse. Approximately 48 percent of the applicants identify as white, 48 percent identify as Black/African American, and the remaining applicants identify as another race/ethnicity, multiple, or it is unknown. Roughly two thirds of the applicants identified as male and about one third identified as female. A little over 50 percent of the applicants have an annual household income of less than \$50,000, about 30 percent have a household income between \$50,000 to \$100,000, and the remainder either have household incomes above \$100,000 or their income is unknown.

Please note: detailed demographic information was not provided by all applicants. Additionally, the data for accepted clients will change as cases currently under review are accepted into the project.

Learn more about the project at ohioexpeditedpardon.org.