

The Massachusetts Bail Fund

The Massachusetts Bail Fund is a new and exciting project of the Criminal Justice Policy Coalition (CJPC). The Bail Fund will be available to poor clients represented by public defenders and court appointed attorneys throughout the state.

For many poor people who get caught up in the criminal justice system bail is one of the most significant issues impacting the outcome of their cases. Defendants who are in jail not only face losing their jobs, children, housing, and public benefits, but also face worse case outcomes than those who spend their pretrial period in the community. What is more, some defendants may plead guilty to crimes they did not commit in order to get out of jail.

The Massachusetts Bail Fund helps these clients meet their bail and fight their case from the outside while also connecting people to valuable human resources. After a referral is made from the representing attorney the Bail Fund uses a screening process to determine a client's eligibility.

There are many inequalities within the criminal justice system, bail is yet another inequality. With little oversight, bail is set for clients without regard for the ramifications for their life should the client not be able to post bail. Often clients are held on what can be called crimes of poverty or addictions and could benefit from access to services over spending time in jail.

Additionally the Bail Fund:

- Research into the inequities of the bail system
- Track data on case outcomes for those who post bail versus those who do not
- Advocate for bail system reforms
- Engage in community education and awareness building

The Massachusetts Bail Fund is in the beginning stages of operations and needs your help to get rolling.

We are inviting those who are concerned with creating a more just and equitable criminal justice system to join us in building a community of support for the bail fund! Here are some things you can do:

- Host a benefit house party
- Ask your friends and family to "Bail Someone Out for the Holidays"
- Organize a benefit through your school group or professional association
- Spread the word about the Bail Fund to your colleagues
- Make a personal donations to the bail fund by check or on-line

The Massachusetts Bail Fund is a project of the Criminal Justice Policy Coalition,
a registered 501.c3 non-profit organization.

Host a House Party to Support the Massachusetts Bail Fund:

House parties can take on different forms. The basic idea is to invite friends over for a fun event and ask for a donation. We can provide you with materials about the Bail Fund to distribute and if wanted, someone to speak about the Bail Fund at the party.

Some house party ideas:

- One idea is to have a large, social house party that you invite your whole community to come to over for a night of music, dancing and hang out with friends. You can put a person at the door with a jar and ask for a small donation from everyone that comes in the door.
- Another idea is to have friends over for dinner. Cook something fabulous (we can give you some great bail themed recipes) and make little menus. Then have your friends pay for dinner by making a donation to the Bail Fund. Alternatively you could put out a tip jar during dinner for people to put in donations.
- Team up with friends or colleagues to share the planning work for a house party, have fun and get creative!

Bail Someone Out for the Holidays:

This holiday season instead of just buying presents for family and friends why not include a stocking stuffer card letting them know that you bail someone out of jail? Or why not ask your friends and family to hold the gifts (or at least some of them) and bail someone out of jail instead? It's a simple way to support the Bail Fund during the holidays and spread the word about our work.

How's it work? Use the attached gift certificate to make your gift/donation.

This Holiday Season give that gift of a new chance! Fill out the information on the back of this card and we will send a holiday note to the person of your choice. Makes a great stocking stuffer!

This donation will go to support the work of the Bail Fund, which helps poor people to meet their bail and connect to valuable resources on the outside. More information on the Bail Fund can be found at www.cjpc.org/bailfund

Just use the top certificate as the gift card to a friend, family member, coworker, etc. and fill it out how you like then send the second certificate to us.

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The Massachusetts Bail Fund helps these clients meet their bail and fight their case from the outside while also connecting people to valuable human resources.



*This Holiday
Season I've
Bailed Someone
Out*

TO: _____

From: _____



Massachusetts Bail Fund

www.cjpc.org/bailfund



Gift Givers Information:

For acknowledgment purposes

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Check Cash Online (www.cjpc.org/bailfund)



In the name of: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Donations can be mailed to:

Massachusetts Bail Fund
C/O Criminal Justice Policy Coalition
15 Barbara Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Organize a benefit through your school group or professional association

Are you a part of a student group or association? Do you go to law school and take part in a student group? Are you a part of a professional association that cares about community justice? Well then consider having your group support the Bail Fund!

- Your student group could host a party, happy hour, forum or event where you ask for donations for the Bail Fund. We would be happy to provide you with materials and speakers to come to your event. Depending on your audience any number of events could work.
- How about a Bail Ball? If you thinking big and fabulous and wanting to have a great party, a bail ball might just be the right thing for you!
- Student groups and professional associations can also host house parties!

Spread the word about the Bail Fund to your colleagues

You can feel free to copy any of the Bail Fund resources or request more from us to distribute to friends and colleagues you think would be supportive of the Bail Fund.

Make a personal donations to the bail fund by check or on-line

And always personal donations in support of the Bail Fund are welcome.

On-line: www.cjcp.org/massbailfund

By check: Payable to Criminal Justice Policy Coalition with Massachusetts Bail Fund in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to: 15 Barbara Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130