

CERTIFICATE OF RESTORATION OF OPPORTUNITY (CROP) FAQ

Why do we need CROP?

- Occupational licensing and employment laws regulate many professions as well as unskilled and semi-skilled occupations. Individuals with criminal records are often blocked from obtaining these licenses or jobs, regardless of how old their convictions are or how qualified they are for the job.
- CROP would provide greater access to jobs for people with criminal records, which is essential to reintegration into society. This is key to public safety because employment is an important factor in reducing recidivism.

What would CROP do?

- Provide the opportunity for qualified Washington residents with a criminal history to demonstrate rehabilitation and overcome statutory disqualifications to available benefits and opportunities (employment, licensing, etc.).
- Offer reliable evidence of rehabilitation for employers, housing providers or licensing agencies.

Would the criminal history still be accessible to the public?

- CROP would not remove any criminal record from either the court's or the Washington State Patrol's database. This would not seal or vacate the applicant's criminal record.

How would the process work?

- The applicant would apply for a CROP to the court that issued the judgment and sentence, showing evidence of her rehabilitation, such as completion of counseling, letters of recommendation, or educational certificates. The court could grant a CROP based on specific eligibility criteria related to compliance with sentencing and the changed circumstances of the applicant which demonstrate that the person is rehabilitated.

What type of evidence might an applicant present to the court?

- Records demonstrating completion of drug, mental health, veteran's court or similar program.
- Records showing participation in mental health or substance abuse counseling.
- Declarations and records from probation officer, healthcare provider, community leader, employer or applicant.
- Certificates demonstrating completion of training or education.

What other States have a similar process?

- Arizona, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Ohio.