

# MOTIVATE MICHIGAN AND BEYOND

" M A K I N G P R I S O N T I M E  
P R O D U C T I V E T I M E "

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE 8

## **Application Submission Resources**

Motivate Michigan is a bi-monthly newsletter that was established in order to follow the progress of the Michigan Prisoner Rehabilitation Credit Act, a people's initiative petition which intended to add the question of repealing TIS laws to the Michigan ballot for the 2020 election. While MPRCA is no longer the focus of SawariMedia, serving people in prison continues to be the main objective.

This issue of Motivate Michigan AND BEYOND is being sent to our national readerbase to circulate critical information about Economic Impact Payments, the 1040 form and stimulus check requirements.

Now SawariMedia is working overtime to make sure that as many people know about the updates to the CARES Act as possible-which now expands stimulus support to include incarcerated citizens. On Friday, SawariMedia hosted a presentation with hundreds of attendees going over where people can find the application, how to set it up and different methods for securely receiving funds. The SawariMedia Discovery & Advocacy facebook page is where you can find the recording, the presentation slides are also included on our website at

[www.sawarimi.org/coronavirus-relief.com](http://www.sawarimi.org/coronavirus-relief.com)

### **PRESENTATION RESOURCES**

Online Application: <https://www.freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd/EconomicImpactPayment>

Banking Alternatives to setup direct deposit:  
[g2.com/products/chime-chime/competitors/alternatives](https://g2.com/products/chime-chime/competitors/alternatives)

Error/ Rejection Code Reasons:  
<https://www.freefilefillableforms.com/#/fd/eip.rejection.faqs>

View the Ruling: <https://www.lieffcabraser.com/cares-act-relief/>

Video Forum from Root & Rebound with Lieff Cabraser:  
<https://vimeo.com/463973415>

### **DEADLINE EXTENSION NOTICE !!!**

Paper applications can be submitted through October 30, 2020  
Online applications can be submitted through November 21, 2020

## **Stimulus Check Support Networks**

### **The Community WI**

PO Box 100392 Milwaukee, WI 53210,  
[thecommunitywis@gmail.com](mailto:thecommunitywis@gmail.com),  
[www.thecommunitynow.us](http://www.thecommunitynow.us).

### **Fighting the Fight for Offenders and Families**

PO Box 191 Sabina, Ohio 45169

### **Luther House Coop**

1520 Hill St. River Rouge, MI 48218  
[akendal3@emich.edu](mailto:akendal3@emich.edu)

### **Phoenix Inmate Companion**

211 Gordon View Dr. Zirconia, NC 28790  
[Phoenixinmatecompanion@gmail.com](mailto:Phoenixinmatecompanion@gmail.com)

### **Enough is Enough**

285 Clarissa St. Rochester, NY 14608  
<http://enoughisenough.rocus.org/>  
[enoughisenoughroc17@gmail.com](mailto:enoughisenoughroc17@gmail.com)

### **Adopt An Inmate**

PO Box 1543 Veneta, OR 97487  
1-971-236-7897  
<https://adoptaninmate.org/>

### **PHONE NUMBERS**

**Lieff Cabraser, at 415-956-1000:** Applicant Assistants on the outside can call the law firm handling the court case

**Root & Rebound, at 510-279-4662:** Incarcerated people can call this number collect with questions

**IRS Economic Impact Payment (EIP) line at 800-919-9835:** The IRS says that many frequently asked questions will be answered on the automated recording, and then you will have an option to speak live with a representative.

# MOVEMENT MOVES

PEOPLE | POSITIONS | POWER

## 2020's MPRCA Campaign Was Not a Complete Loss

by Sincere Crown Olugbala | September 30, 2020 | MDOC

I know there's been a lot of questions, rumors going around and overall concern as to what happened during the campaign and lawsuit as well as where do we go from here. First, MPRCA will not be on the 2020 Ballot in November. And second, we will not be able to use the signatures from this year's canvassing efforts in 2022. Its unfortunate the campaign ended on such harsh terms with the threat of a global pandemic especially when it felt like success was so close. The lawsuit took a drastic turn when teams involved were forced to sign off due to a miscalculation of signatures on top of lack of finances.

Before I begin to explain where we go from here allow me to thank all the teams involved with managing the campaign on both sides of the wall. You all did a wonderful job! Many individuals worked tirelessly to ensure this campaign gained as much traction as possible. Many sacrificed countless hours of their time, energy and resources to make this happen. This was not a loss! We can't thank you enough for the inspiration. Your efforts restored hope to the hopeless, became a medium for the voiceless to speak, and you all put into concrete form dreams that were abandoned. As with anything in life there will always be trial and error, despite that we put up a damn good fight! Experience is the best teacher, are there things we could've done different? Yes, but we learned a lot over the past year. We will succeed in 2022 no doubt! We stood tall against a giant, we did not fall and we will not fail! Our strategy and plan of action is clear and we will prevail.

We need to keep our spirits high, our efforts were not in vain. Although we didn't make the 2020 ballot, look at the positive things we accomplished and all that transpired through this MPRCA campaign and overall good time movement. Since 1998 when TIS was first enacted people have been making efforts to repeal this harsh form of punitive law. After two decades, the movement for good time was completely dead. The talk of getting good time back was so farfetched when we initially began to talk about it, every organization SawariMedia reached out to told us it was a waste of time. We literally had no support whatsoever, but we continued moving forward despite the odds. Our efforts have now revitalized and resuscitated what initially appeared to be a lost cause. Organizations from all over the country are now in full support and now we also have multiple state House and Senate committee members helping us make progress. We have a wide range of possibilities and opportunities ahead of us.

However, one thing we learned the hard way is that finances are a critical factor in succeeding in any form of campaign or movement

By all means this is a peoples movement, therefore anytime we start a peoples movement then we have to claim accountability for sustaining and generating the funds to sustain it. Campaigns are not cheap and depending on the magnitude of such movements it could take hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of dollars to successfully run a campaign. We're not a government paid or corporate ran campaign so all of our funds to sustain the campaign were personal donations. On behalf of all incarcerated citizens we thank all the families, friends and love ones who donated what they could to ensure this campaign stayed alive and funded for as long as it did. As well as all the other organizations who assisted.

To the volunteers who were one of the most important aspects of the movement, we thank you deeply. Although a lot of people showed support by signing petitions, we needed more people willing to help canvass. Our canvassing teams were short because we lacked proper funding to compensate the canvassers. We appreciate the sacrifice of every person who volunteered, collected signatures and informed people of the campaign. We needed more people like those who were willing to show up whenever it's time to work.

I know a lot of people are upset with the end results, I feel the same. To be practical, we can't expect immediate results. Trying to change legislation that's been the fabric of the state system for more than 20 years is not an easy task. For us to come this close our first time around speaks volumes to the power we have as a people to propel the initiative forward in the fight for change. We did a great job and it's not over. The Law Makers of Michigan know they will have their work cut out for them next time around. We will see our desired results, if not in 2020, then 2022 is a definite!

### What we can do now and where we go from here...

There's a Senator named Jeff Irwin who plans to introduce a Bill to repeal TIS by the beginning of 2021. We should follow that bill closely and combine our efforts with supporting him. His Bill has the potential to aid in the process of truly repealing TIS. To support this bill we'll start a letter writing campaign to committee members who would vote on this legislation. That's the most practical next immediate step to keep moving forward.

Last but not least, the most important thing that we can do from the inside is to not lose hope. We must continue to stay informed and keep in contact with outside organizers. Select MPRCA canvassers are reorganizing to launch a nonprofit to host a petition for collecting signatures for the 2022 ballot. Until that's set in place make sure to inform your family, friends and love ones to remain in contact with the Motivate Michigan Facebook page so we can continue building the network for 2022. By preparing for these things now then come 2022 the process of getting our bill on the ballot will be a walk in the park.

We are the movement for the people, so family, friends, love ones and any organizations out there looking to help, the time is now we have to stay ahead of this for future productivity. P.E.A.C.E...

Filing Status: Single, Married filing jointly, Married filing separately (MFS), Head of household (HOH), Qualifying widow(er) (QW). Check only one box. If you checked the MFS box, enter the name of spouse. If you checked the HOH or QW box, enter the child's name if the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent.

FILING STATUS: Please check the box that applies to you.

Your first name and middle initial: John A. Last name: Doe. Your social security number: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9. Spouse's social security number: . . . . .

Please insert your prison identifying number so the mail can be routed appropriately

Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions. Salinas Valley State Prison, P.O. Box 1050, Personally-Identifying Corrections # 12345-2345. City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below (see instructions). Soledad, CA 93960-1050. Foreign country name, Foreign province/state/country, Foreign postal code.

Standard Deduction: Someone can claim: You as a dependent, Your spouse as a dependent, Spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a dual-status alien.

Age/Blindness: You: Were born before January 2, 1955, Are blind, Spouse: Was born before January 2, 1955, Is blind.

Table with 5 columns: (1) First name, Last name, (2) Social security number, (3) Relationship to you, (4) Child tax credit, Credit for other dependents.

Main income table with 11 columns: 1 Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2; 2a Tax-exempt interest; 3a Qualified dividends; 4a IRA distributions; c Pensions and annuities; 5a Social security benefits; 6 Capital gain or (loss). Attach Schedule D if required. If not required, check here; 7a Other income from Schedule 1, line 9; b Add lines 1, 2b, 3b, 4b, 4d, 5b, 6, and 7a. This is your total income; 8a Adjustments to income from Schedule 1, line 22; b Subtract line 8a from line 7b. This is your adjusted gross income; 9 Standard deduction or itemized deductions (from Schedule A); 10 Qualified business income deduction. Attach Form 8995 or Form 8995-A; 11a Add lines 9 and 10; b Taxable income. Subtract line 11a from line 8b. If zero or less, enter -0-

For Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions. Cat. No. 113208 Form 1040 (2019)

Fill in Sections 2b, 7b, 8b, and 11b as instructed above. Do NOT fill in any other line items.

Table with 12 columns: 12a Tax (see inst.) Check if any from Form(s): 1 8814 2 4972 3; b Add Schedule 2, line 3, and line 12a and enter the total; 13a Child tax credit or credit for other dependents; b Add Schedule 3, line 7, and line 13a and enter the total; 14 Subtract line 13b from line 12b. If zero or less, enter -0-; 15 Other taxes, including self-employment tax, from Schedule 2, line 10; 16 Add lines 14 and 15. This is your total tax; 17 Federal income tax withheld from Forms W-2 and 1099; 18 Other payments and refundable credits: a Earned income credit (EIC); b Additional child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812; c American opportunity credit from Form 8863, line 8; d Schedule 3, line 14; e Add lines 18a through 18d. These are your total other payments and refundable credits; 19 Add lines 17 and 18e. These are your total payments; 20 If line 19 is more than line 16, subtract line 16 from line 19. This is the amount you overpaid; 21a Amount of line 20 you want refunded to you. If Form 8888 is attached, check here; b Routing number; c Type: Checking, Savings; d Account number; 22 Amount of line 20 you want applied to your 2020 estimated tax.

Amount You Owe: 23 Amount you owe. Subtract line 19 from line 16. For details on how to pay, see instructions; 24 Estimated tax penalty (see instructions).

Third Party Designee: Do you want to allow another person (other than your paid preparer) to discuss this return with the IRS? See instructions. Yes. Complete below. No.

Sign Here: Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge. Your signature: John A. Doe, Date: 7/27/20, Your occupation: Unemployed.

Paid Preparer Use Only: Preparer's name, Preparer's signature, Date, PTIN, Check if: 3rd Party Designee, Self-employed.

Make sure you submit your paper form as soon as possible to beat the October 30th deadline. This sample EIP 1040 form was developed by Lief Cabraser, the law firm handling the court case, to assist incarcerated citizens with filing the information necessary to the IRS for pandemic stimulus funding. Paper copies of this 1040 form should be available to you at your facility. The highlighted portions are the only parts of the application that need to be completed. Any dependants that you have most likely have already been claimed by your partner or otherwise legal gaurdian. As of right now the IRS' only deduction from stimulus checks are overdue child support payments, no other deductions are made by the IRS from stimulus check money. Make sure to verify with staff at your facility 1. Will any fees be deducted from your stimulus check if it's mailed to you there? 2. Will there be any delays in processing your check into your trust account? Unfortunately, some facilities are holding checks rather than immidately placing them into the prisoners' account. You can avoid this delay or potential deducations by the prison administration if you have an outside bank account to include in section 20, this would allow for your stimulus payment to be deposited directly into that account and avoid your check being mailed to and intercepted by the facility. If you do not have an outside bank account you can have someone setup an online banking account using your SSN and a permanent address, some online banking options that incarcerated citizens have used successfully include Cash App, Venmo and Chime. If you are having trouble setting up an online account then you can have your stimulus check mailed to the permanent address where you'd like to link your bank account while you work on setting it up. The account setup should be completed by the time the check arrives to be deposited. Please be careful with who you share your SSN and other sensative information to, make sure your either working with someone you trust or a trusted organization to assist you with online filing your application.

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# MOTIVATE MICHIGAN AND BEYOND

" MAKING PRISON TIME  
PRODUCTIVE TIME "

# SawariMedia

Amplifying Marginalized Voices

## Protecting Prisoners' Right to be Informed

SawariMedia is focused on amplifying marginalized voices, particularly those impacted by mass incarceration, to promote narratives that positively contribute to improving the conditions of prison to better serve incarcerated citizens and their families. We develop print and digital media that keep supporters informed about our initiatives on both sides of the wall. We know that without voting rights, elected officials have no incentive to keep incarcerated citizens informed about the work they are doing or to improve the conditions of prison to better serve incarcerated citizens.

Our goal is to address this gap in communication between prisoners, as constituents to their elected officials by keeping people in prison informed of how policy changes effect them. Currently SawariMedia does this through publishing two printed newsletters to serve incarcerated subscribers. The quarterly Nationwide Right2Vote Report has over 1,200 subscriptions from people in prion in hundreds of facilities across 30 states. The monthly Motivate Michigan Newsletter has over 600 subscriptions from people in prison in 17 facilities across the state of Michigan.



### Connection

Our printed newsletters build community between people in prison and jails with their families, friends and advocates.



### Promotion

We protect people's right to be informed while incarcerated. We publish reports, opinion articles, poetry and artwork developed by field experts.



### Advocacy

We follow and advocate for new legislation led by impacted people. We follow changes in policy that protect their human rights.

## Get in touch:

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## Subscribe:

Your Name

ID #

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