

## APA Official Actions

# Position Statement on Addressing Discriminatory Policies That Prevent Access to Housing and Employment

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2023

Approved by the Assembly, May 2023

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

### Issue:

Housing and employment are critical social determinants of health for persons with mental disorders. Stable housing and employment have been demonstrated to reduce hospitalizations, symptom burden, and criminal recidivism in people with mental disorders. Despite some legal safeguards, individuals with mental disorders, especially those with past criminal behavior related to their mental disorders, are vulnerable to legal and illegal discrimination that prevents access to housing and employment and worsens symptomatology and long-term treatment outcomes.

### APA Position:

#### The American Psychiatric Association:

1. **Opposes and supports the repeal of laws and policies that prevent or impede access to housing and employment for persons with mental disorders, including those with criminal histories, unless there are overriding considerations (e.g., sex offender restrictions, orders of protection) that clearly pose a risk to the housing and workplace communities, respectively.**
2. **Supports laws and policies that provide robust protection for persons with mental disorders, including those with criminal histories, to access housing and employment.**

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