As of January 20, 2021, 78 individuals have submitted applications to the expedited pardon project. Of the 78, the Project Team formally accepted 35 clients. Another 16 are under review, 5 have been asked to reapply after meeting certain conditions, and 22 applicants did not meet the existing requirements. Applicants not accepted into the program were informed that they can still seek a pardon via the standard pardon process.

- 78 applications received
- 35 applicants accepted into the program
- 9 applicants pardoned

The other 26 clients accepted into the program are in various stages of completing their pardon application.

The program has received applications from across the state of Ohio.

- Ashland – 1
- Ashtabula – 1
- Butler – 1
- Clark – 2
- Clermont – 1
- Cuyahoga – 20
- Erie – 1
- Fairfield – 1
- Franklin – 6
- Hamilton – 4
- Hardin – 1
- Jefferson – 1
- Lake – 1
- Licking – 1
- Lorain – 2
- Madison – 1
- Mahoning – 1
- Medina – 1
- Montgomery – 5
- Portage – 1
- Ross – 2
- Scioto – 1
- Stark – 1
- Summit – 12
- Wayne – 1

Reflects data as of January 20, 2021.
Accepted clients had 1–8 criminal convictions on their record.

Eight accepted clients had 1 conviction. Fifteen clients had 2 convictions. Five clients had 3 or 4 convictions. And another 6 clients had 5 or more convictions.

The top 3 reasons applicants cited for seeking a pardon:

1. Employment and career opportunities
2. Removal of stigma and service barriers
3. Educational and political 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
The typical expedited pardon issued in 2020 took 6–12 months from initial application submission to final decision.

Traditionally, pardon applications can take 18–36 months to process. The expedited pardon project significantly reduces this time frame.

2020 EXPEDITED PARDON TIMELINE

- **INITIAL APPLICATION REVIEW**
  - After receiving an application, the university Project Team reviews it for initial eligibility determination and contacts the client to begin verification of their record.

- **INITIAL APPLICATION WORK-UP**
  - In this stage, the university Project Team works directly with accepted clients to verify, assemble, and forward application materials to the Parole Board for initial investigation.

- **FULL APPLICATION WORK-UP**
  - After initial application is submitted to the Parole Board, the Project Team works with clients to develop a full pardon application. This step is often lengthy as locating and accessing police and court records is difficult and usually requires an in-person visit to the court building. COVID-19 restrictions present additional obstacles.

- **PAROLE BOARD HEARING AND NOTICE PERIOD**
  - Once a full pardon application is completed, it is sent to the Parole Board for processing. The Parole Board then schedules a hearing. This step also includes a mandatory 60-day notice period during which the Parole Board notifies the court and victims about the case and gives them the opportunity to respond.

- **PAROLE BOARD RECOMMENDATION**
  - After a Parole Board hearing, the board has 30 business days to submit their pardon recommendation to the Governor.

- **GOVERNOR’S DECISION**
  - Once the Parole Board issues their recommendation, the Governor makes a decision on whether to grant a pardon.