

REPORT: Key insights from FWD.us during the 116th NAACP Convention

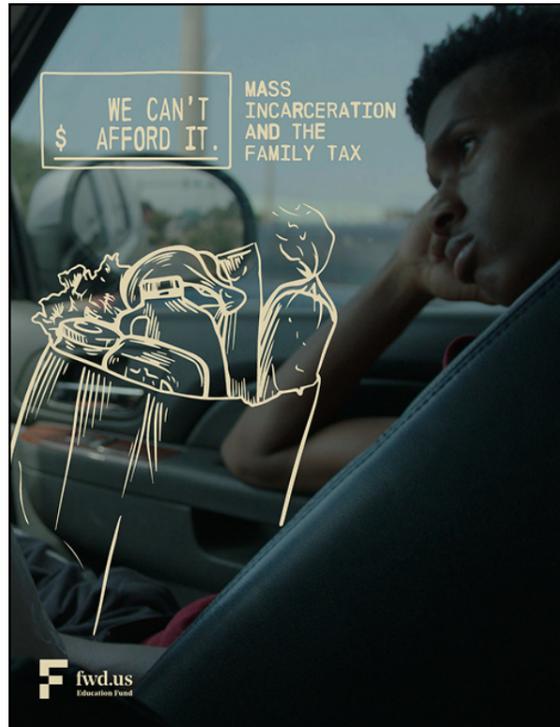


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Friend,

One of the many highlights of our 116th National Convention was being able to share new data that will help us continue the fight for freedom and justice in our communities across the country. We heard from Elissa Johnson, Vice President of Criminal Justice Campaigns at [FWD.us](https://www.fwd.us), who shared their new groundbreaking analysis, [We Can't Afford It: Mass Incarceration and the Family Tax](#), finding that incarceration costs families with loved ones behind bars nearly \$350 billion a year in lost earnings and out-of-pocket spending.



NAACP's Chief Strategy Officer, Yumeka Rushing, was part of the advisory council for this project that also included Academy-Award winner, John Legend.

Watch this [powerful video](#) featuring family members with incarcerated loved ones.

A few of the report's key findings include:

- **Families with incarcerated loved ones spend an average of nearly \$4,200 per year for each family member behind bars.** That is more than 27% of the income for a person living at the federal poverty line. These expenses include everything from paying to stay in touch with and visit family members to caring for minor children of incarcerated parents to paying for commissary items marked up as much as 600% above retail cost.
- **Black family members pay 2.5x more than white family members (\$8,005 vs. \$3,251) annually to support incarcerated loved ones,** reflecting both disproportionate incarceration rates and deeper financial commitments to staying in touch and supporting family members behind bars.
- America's incarceration crisis is a driver of the racial wealth gap. If Black families were able to invest what they spend in one year to support incarcerated loved ones, **they could accumulate more than \$20,000 in savings after 10 years.**

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