The Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC) is soliciting nominations for rural justice programs or initiatives that were developed in rural communities or adapted for rural communities that fall into the RJC’s seven areas of focus.

To be considered, a program or initiative must:

- Primarily serve justice-involved individuals or families engaged in the court system or be designed to increase access to legal representation.
- Reflect innovation that is specific to a rural community.
- Have been operational for a least one year.
- Have a written description of the initiative, practice, or program.
- Have interest in serving as a mentor for other rural communities.

Innovation sites will be recognized for their work in rural communities and provided opportunities to share their successes in a variety of ways.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

FOUNDERATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

As part of its ongoing commitment to rural communities across the country, the Foundation for Rural Service offers aid for communities served by NTCA members through its annual Community Grants Program. These grants are designed to provide support to a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America. Applications for these grants are accepted each spring ranging from $250 to $5,000. The grants awarded each December support a variety of projects concentrated in four major categories.

For More Information

WEBINARS & PODCASTS

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE ACCESS FOR FARMING AND RURAL COMMUNITIES (JUNE 2020)

This three-part series is a partnership between the American Psychological Association (APA), the Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center in Region 5 and the Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center in Region 8. The purpose is to collaborate and disseminate information to better address the mental health needs surrounding the farming and American frontier communities, through psychological science and research.

Register Here

CONVERGENCE, EP5: JOSHUA CRABTREE – CREATIVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE APPROACHES IN RURAL AMERICA (AUGUST 2021)

In episode 5 host Oladeji Tiamiyu speaks with Joshua Crabtree, the Executive Director of Legal Aid of the
While envisioning a rural community, human trafficking may not come to mind for most. However, many factors present vulnerabilities for trafficking survivors in rural communities. Trafficking survivors in rural areas find themselves isolated with little employment opportunities and lack of services.

Read More...

Over the last several years, the nation’s conversation surrounding changes in prosecution has focused on a handful of urban, well-resourced prosecutor’s offices. The IIP has engaged with many of these prosecutors since our inception, and we are proud to continue working with them. But with 2300+ offices across the country, we will need more than just the commitment of big city prosecutors to create sustainable and effective change. It is imperative that we include and uplift prosecutors in smaller jurisdictions who may lack the resources of big city offices but are not lacking in their commitment to justice and equity. everyone knows everyone in a small town, trafficked people are often stigmatized.

Read More...

Visit the RJC’s Online Resource Center, a national clearinghouse of promising and innovative rural justice practices that reflect the RJC’s seven areas of focus.
How Small Law Enforcement Agencies Respond to Calls Involving Persons in Crisis Results from a National Survey (2021)

This report presents findings from a survey of how small law enforcement agencies respond to incidents involving persons in crisis as a result of mental health or substance abuse issues. It is based on responses of a random sample of 380 municipal police and sheriff offices with between 10 and 75 sworn officers between February and October, 2020. The survey finds that all but twelve responding agencies had adopted some form of specialized response model for dealing with calls involving persons in crisis.

“They had access, but they didn’t get justice”: Why Prevailing Access to Justice Initiatives Fail Rural Americans (March 2021)

Drawing on over three years of mixed-methods research across the Upper Midwest, this Article offers an urgent response: Not only are Access to Justice (A2J) “solutions” intrinsically insufficient in rural areas, but they compound existing stress and are even experienced as humiliating by many low-income rural residents. By introducing the role of dignity—and what, or who, best provides it in the rural A2J context—this Article offers a novel and necessary intervention in access to justice scholarship and policies.

Challenges in Risk Assessment with Rural Domestic Violence Victims: Implications for Practice (March 2021)

This study examined the perspectives of service providers in the violence against women (VAW) sector regarding risk factors and challenges in assessing risk for women experiencing domestic violence (DV) in rural locations. The present study also examined what promising practices VAW service providers are utilizing when working with women experiencing DV in rural locations.