RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

ROUND 2 RJC INNOVATION SITES SELECTED

The Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC) Advisory Council, composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, behavioral health, and public health systems, has selected ten more of the country’s most innovative rural justice programs to serve as models for other communities.

Learn more about the selected innovation sites.

• Eastern Shore Mobile Care Collaborative at Caroline County Health Department
• For All Seasons, Inc. (FSA)
• The Opioid Response as County Law Enforcement (ORACLE)
• The Gender Violence Initiative
• Texoma Alliance to Stop Abuse, Inc. (TASA)
• Benevolence Farm
• Journey Court
• The Rankin County Youth Court
• The Tennessee Recovery Oriented Compliance Strategy (TN-ROCS)
• The Lyon County Human Services Forensic Assessment Triage Team
RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

Rural communities face unique challenges that impact their ability to deliver fair and equitable justice. Despite these challenges, rural communities rely on their many strengths to address the needs of their residents.

The National Center for State Courts, in partnership with Rulo Strategies, launched the Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC) to showcase the strengths of rural communities and highlight the cross-sector collaboration that is a hallmark of rural justice systems.

The work under the RJC is supported by a crosssector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council guides and identifies innovative programs and practices.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RECOVERY-TO-WORK EFFORTS

Application Deadline: March 24, 2022

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), a federal-state partnership working to strengthen economic growth and community development in 13 Appalachian states, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for its Investments Supporting Partnerships In Recovery Ecosystems (INSPIRE) Initiative. The grant program addresses the region’s substance use disorder crisis with investments of $10 million in the creation and expansion of a recovery ecosystem that helps facilitate workforce entry and re-entry.

Successful INSPIRE grant applications will demonstrate the potential for individuals in recovery to obtain and maintain stable employment, with a focus on contributing to and expanding a strong recovery ecosystem of support services and training opportunities that lead to successful entry and re-entry into the workforce. Proposals may also include expanded community- and partnership-based approaches to establish stronger coordination among recovery and training services, as well as strategies to integrate plans with existing state and regional economic development activities.

Letters of Intent (LOI) for implementation grants up to $500,000 and planning grants up to $50,000 under INSPIRE are due March 3, 2022.

For More Information
PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

RURAL SUMMER LEGAL CORPS
Rural Summer Legal Corps, a partnership between Equal Justice Works and Legal Services Corporation (LSC), supports 40 law students serving rural and isolated communities. Student Fellows take on challenging projects through LSC-funded civil legal aid organizations, addressing legal issues such as affordable housing and evictions, domestic violence, farmworkers’ rights, and family law matters.

For More Information

LEGAL ASSISTANCE PILOT PROGRAM HELPS RURAL VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & ABUSE IN UTAH
A legal pilot project that started earlier this year in Utah is helping victims of domestic violence in rural areas find affordable legal guidance to navigate the maze of protective orders. The project, called the Certified Advocate Partners Program (CAPP), certifies non-attorney victim advocates to file protective orders on behalf of victims. These advocates are often the most intimately familiar with the needs and rights of victims, yet until now, their hands have been tied when it comes to providing valuable legal guidance.

For More Information

COLORADO AGRICULTURE ADDICTION & MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM (CAAMHP)
Organizations from the agriculture and behavioral health industries partnered together to create CAAMHP. The shared goal of all of these organizations was to care for farmers and ranchers who have been most deeply impacted by severe and persistent drought, instability in the commodities market, misinformation targeting consumers and rapidly changing political climates. Depression and anxiety are heavy burdens to carry alone and CAAMHP is designed to come alongside members of our community that are hurting by providing tangible services that offer the necessary tools to combat these realities.

For More Information
Evidence-Based Crime Reduction Strategies for Small, Rural, and Tribal Agencies (2021)

This guide provides evidence-based policing practices (EBPP) for small, rural, and tribal agencies. The information comes from published research studies and working group conversations with command staff from various small, rural, and tribal agencies.

Surry County Uses Transportation Program to Fight Opioid Crisis (December 2021)

The Ride the Road to Recovery program is a free transportation program for substance use recovery patients in Surry County, North Carolina. The program helps individuals in recovery connect to the care they need.

Rural School District Takes on Rural Shortage of Mental Health Care Professionals (October 2021)

Connecting teens to mental health resources can be challenging, especially in rural communities. Gundersen Health Systems might have one solution in Hillsboro, Wisconsin. They've created a school-based behavioral health program.

North Carolina Couple Creates Support Group for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (November 2021)

The ‘Mount Airy Grands’ program provides support for families navigating substance use and adoption challenges in Surry County, North Carolina. The Youngs started the group after the need arose for them to care for their 5-month-old granddaughter as their own daughter struggled with addiction and substance use. They wanted to create a space for grandparents raising their grandchildren to find comfort in each other's shared experiences, and to connect others with resources they were unable to find during their journey. The goal of the group, which meets virtually every month, is to provide a safe space for grandparents to share their stories, connect with other grandparents, and get the support that they and their grandchildren need.
### RESEARCH & REPORTS

#### Offering Buprenorphine Medication to People with Opioid Use Disorder in Jail May Reduce Rearrest and Reconviction

A study conducted in two rural Massachusetts jails found that people with opioid use disorder who were incarcerated and received a medication approved to treat opioid use disorder, known as buprenorphine, were less likely to face rearrest and reconviction after release than those who did not receive the medication.

#### Justice by Geography: The Role of Monetary Sanctions Across Communities

This article examines how differences in court structure and organizational dynamics in communities across the rural-urban continuum lead to differences in how court actors consider the role of monetary sanctions. Using interviews with court actors and ethnographic observations in communities across four states, researchers found the practical and symbolic nature of monetary sanctions varied by the acquaintanceship density of the court and community.

#### Rural Health Quarterly: 2020 U.S. Rural Health Report Card

Each state’s individual report card page includes a complete list of all the indicators that went into that state’s final score, and also includes a detailed discussion of “What’s Good” and “What Needs Work” in the state.

### PODCAST

#### Expanding Access to Justice in Rural Communities

The Rural Assembly’s Whitney Kimball Coe joins experts to discuss how the legal system operates in rural communities and how to expand access to justice in these regions on the latest episode of Talk Justice, a podcast of Legal Service Corporation.