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REACHING RURAL: ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS SOLICITATION

This one-year planning initiative is designed for rural justice and public safety practitioners; public health and behavioral health practitioners; city, county, and tribal leaders; and community groups. The planning initiative empowers rural practitioners to build deeper networks, particularly across sectors; adopt bold solutions to the persistent challenge of substance use and misuse in rural communities; and reimagine how diverse systems with different missions can engage with one another to more effectively serve justice-involved individuals with substance use or co-occurring disorders.

The link to the application is [here](#).

Register [here](#) for the applicant webinar scheduled on November 14, 2023, at 1:00 pm ET.

Important dates:

Applications due: December 15, 2023

Notification of selection: January 26, 2024

Project kick-off: February 22, 2024



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 cross-sector 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.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

AMBULANCE DESERTS: GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES IN THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE SERVICES

Access to timely ambulance service is essential to the emergency medical system. Yet ambulance access varies widely, with significant gaps across the country. This study documents coverage gaps in the provision of ambulance services across the United States and its impact, particularly in remote rural areas.

RURAL/URBAN DIFFERENCES IN RATES AND PREDICTORS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SCREENING AMONG PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM U.S. RESIDENTS

Domestic violence, including intimate partner violence (IPV), is a leading non-obstetric cause of maternal morbidity and mortality. Violence during pregnancy is one of the most common health problems experienced by pregnant people, affecting a similar number of individuals each year as gestational diabetes. This research explores the differences between rural and urban rates and predictors of IPV. The study showed that rural residents were more likely than urban residents to experience physical violence from an intimate partner during pregnancy and childbirth across all sociodemographic and clinical characteristics examined.

IDENTIFYING MULTILEVEL COMMUNITY SUPERVISION CHALLENGES TO INFORM DIVERSION APPROACHES FOR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES

This article reports on findings from qualitative interviews conducted as part of a larger, nationwide study of the perspectives of probation officers regarding their probation supervision approaches for individuals with mental illnesses. Twenty-six probation agency representatives from across the United States were interviewed with 50% (n=13) from mostly urban counties, 27% (n=7) from mostly rural counties, and 23% (n=6) from completely rural counties.



ARTICLES

RECOVERY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACES CAN HELP THOSE ON THE PATH TO HEALING

Rural communities ravaged by substance misuse could benefit from people in recovery being active members of the local workforce, say experts in criminal justice, substance misuse, and labor studies. Recovery-friendly workplaces, also sometimes known as second-chance workplaces, allow people in recovery the opportunity to work. One example is [Black Sheep Brick Oven Bakery and Catering](#) in Jackhorn, Kentucky. [The restaurant](#) hires people who lost employment when coal production waned and folks emerging from incarceration created by the opioid crisis.

‘PLANTING SEEDS OF CHANGE’: IN RURAL COUNTIES, EXPANDING JAIL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IS A COMMUNITY EFFORT

In rural counties, where funding is often limited and community mental health resources may be scarce, providing comprehensive mental healthcare to people in jail and ensuring they can continue to access care after they are released can be incredibly challenging. However, rural communities may also have some unique strengths when assessing and addressing the mental health needs of incarcerated people. This article explores how rural counties use creativity and collaboration to make the most of limited resources.

RESOURCES

IMPLEMENTING PEER SUPPORT SERVICES IN SMALL AND RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), with support from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office, has released a new guidebook detailing how an officer peer support program can be attainable regardless of agency size or location. *Implementing Peer Support Services in Small and Rural Law Enforcement Agencies* explores best practices from the field on policy, structure, and training to encourage officer participation and program sustainability.

JAILS TO JOBS: THESE COMPANIES HAVE CREATED FAIR CHANCE HIRING

There are many ways to operate a second chance hiring program, each as unique as the people who put it together. The Second Chance Employers Network lists second-chance employers, from small to large, how they created second-chance hiring, and what they learned.

WEBINAR

BUILDING RECOVERY ECOSYSTEMS FOR SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

Robust recovery ecosystems provide an environment where individuals can access substance use treatment and recovery support services such as housing and second-chance employment. This webinar includes an overview of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem Model to help individuals access the support services and training they need to recover and obtain gainful employment. The recording from this webinar held in August 2023 highlights successful projects in Appalachia funded through ARC's INSPIRE Initiative.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM TO EXPAND TO RURAL COUNTIES

"Just because some of these towns are smaller doesn't mean they aren't as impacted by violence," said Ashley Hink, M.D., Medical University of South Carolina Health trauma surgeon and medical director of the [Turning the Tide Violence Intervention Program \(TTVIP\)](#). MUSC Health is attempting something a little out of the box – taking a relatively new yet already proven program and expanding it to serve residents of some of the state's smaller counties.

AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION'S ACCESS TO JUSTICE RESEARCHERS JOIN IN \$1 MILLION GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Focused on addressing the growing access to justice crisis in the United States, the project will use evidence-based, community-driven strategies to scale and sustain the Alaska Legal Services Corporation's (ALSC's) non-lawyer Community Justice Worker (CJW) program throughout remote Alaska Native communities. The CJW program's goal is to develop a service delivery model that trains trusted, culturally representative community workers and others already embedded in rural and remote areas across Alaska to provide critical legal advocacy, hoping to replicate the model across the U.S. View a project summary video [here](#).