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OPPORTUNITY

JOIN THE REACHING RURAL INITIATIVE!

We are excited to announce the [Reaching Rural Initiative](#), presented by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State Justice Institute (SJI), and the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR). This initiative is all about empowering rural communities through collaboration and shared learning.

What is the Reaching Rural Initiative?

This one-year program offers selected individuals and teams the chance to engage in skill-building workshops, coaching, and both virtual and in-person learning experiences. Participants will receive support tailored to their local needs, allowing them to implement evidence-informed practices effectively in their communities.

Key Benefits Include:

- Coverage for travel and per diem to attend an orientation, field visit, and closing session.
- Monthly mentorship and assignments to apply core concepts locally.
- Access to a diverse network of peers and technical assistance.
- Formal recognition upon completion of the initiative.
- An opportunity to apply for an implementation grant of up to \$100,000 for projects planned during the initiative.

Is This Initiative Right for You?

We are looking for practitioners or cross-sector teams from rural areas eager to tackle the challenges of substance use and misuse among justice-involved individuals. This initiative is ideal for agency leaders or mid-level professionals from justice, public safety, public health, or behavioral health sectors in rural communities.

If you're ready to adopt bold solutions and make a real impact, we encourage you to apply for the Reaching Rural Initiative. Let's work together to create positive change in our rural communities!

The deadline for applying is December 16, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., ET.

If you want to learn more about this initiative and application process, join us for an informational [webinar](#) on November 6, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., ET.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

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.

EXAMINING USE OF TELEHEALTH IN JAILS: LINKING WOMEN TO COMMUNITY OPIOID USE DISORDER SERVICES

Opioid use disorder (OUD) remains a significant healthcare need for women, particularly those involved in the criminal legal system. There are no studies to date that focus on the utilization of telehealth as a platform for assessment and linkage to medications to treat opioid use disorder (MOUD) at community reentry for women, even though women have unique risk factors that may contribute to opioid relapse in the community. This mixed-methods study provides an overview of the innovative use of telehealth for linking incarcerated women to community MOUD treatment in the Kentucky hub of the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN).

THE RURAL ADDICTION IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK (RAIN) INITIATIVE AND ITS GOALS, IMPLEMENTATION, AND EARLY RESULTS

Rural and frontier communities face high rates of opioid use disorders (OUDs). In 2021, the Rural Addiction Implementation Network (RAIN) sought to establish a rural hospital/clinic-system practice-based research network (RH-PBRN) to facilitate the implementation of evidence-based addiction-related prevention, treatment, and recovery (PTR) services to reduce the morbidity of OUD and substance use disorder (SUD) in rural communities. RAIN utilized an implementation-facilitation approach: facilitators assessed the implementation environment and promoted interventions to overcome barriers to PTR implementation.

ARTICLES

A NEW WAY TO SUPPORT GRANDPARENTS RAISING KIDS AFFECTED BY THE ADDICTION EPIDEMIC

More than 2.5 million children in the U.S. are raised by grandfamilies — grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family members — when their parents are unable to care for them, according to the 2022 [“State of Grandfamilies”](#) report from Generations United, a national advocacy group. In Alabama, grandfamilies don’t have access to certain welfare programs, like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and struggle without the formal support systems available to foster families. This article describes a new pilot program in Alabama using opioid settlement funds to provide one-time payments to grandfamilies in three counties: Madison, Coffee, and Escambia, in the northern, middle, and southern parts of the state.



Keith Lowhorne is the founder of Grandparents as Parents, a support group. Lowhorne and his wife are raising a granddaughter.

A PRISON NEWSPAPER HOPES TO BRIDGE ‘INSIDE’ AND ‘OUTSIDE’ WORLDS IN RURAL CALIFORNIA

Rural prisons tend to have fewer programs for incarcerated residents than urban prisons do. A new media project at the Central California Women’s Facility is bucking that trend. Jesse Vasquez leads the [Pollen Initiative](#), a non-profit organization that supports the development of media centers and newspapers in prisons. When he was incarcerated, he was sent to 12 different prisons before ending up at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, located just north of San Francisco. There, he got involved with the prison’s long-running newspaper, San Quentin News. He served as the paper’s editor-in-chief before he was paroled in 2019. Now, he’s working to bring similar media projects to other prisons in California, especially more rural ones that don’t have the same programming opportunities as San Quentin.



Jesse Vasquez and Kate McQueen lead the Pollen Initiative’s journalism program.

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING SHORTFALLS COMPLICATE ACCESS TO HELP FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

For domestic violence survivors looking to leave an abusive situation, one of the most significant barriers to safety lies in the logistics of getting out. Survivors must figure out where they will go and how they will get there. Providing transportation and shelter is a significant challenge and cost for rural domestic violence agencies. The sparse public transportation and lack of affordable housing in rural communities mean that domestic violence agencies must spend more time and money trying to fill the gaps.

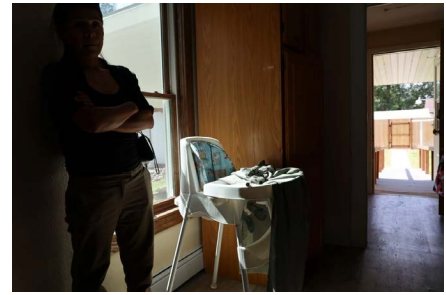


Photo: Carly Rose, Rocky Mountain PBS.

SHARED SERVICES, STRONGER COMMUNITIES: THE FUTURE OF RURAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Rural police departments face unique challenges, such as understaffing and tight budgets. Discover how contracting services with neighboring communities offer a solution to enhance public safety without breaking the bank. This approach not only optimizes resources but also enhances service coverage, allowing small departments to punch above their weight. This article delves into the current state of rural village policing; the benefits and challenges of contracting services; and provides expert insights for those considering such partnerships.



Photo: DALL-E

EVENT

RURAL MASS INCARCERATION AND THE POLITICS OF PUNITIVENESS

Date/Time: Thursday, November 21, 2:30-3:30 PM ET

To Register: Click [HERE](#)

Criticisms of American mass incarceration have generally focused on urban areas, especially large, racially segregated cities. However, rural Americans are now more likely to be incarcerated than urban Americans. This rise in rural incarceration rates creates a puzzle for race-focused explanations of American mass incarceration. Drawing on political science research, Professor Gregory Brazeal proposes a reason for the ongoing rise of rural mass incarceration: Rural incarceration rates are likely higher than urban incarceration rates today primarily because rural Americans have more punitive attitudes toward crime. This event is part of the Deason Center's CJR Workshop series, highlighting recent criminal justice scholarships. Speakers present their research to a small group of academics, practitioners, and stakeholders to solicit feedback about their ongoing work.

PRESENTATION

BUTLER COUNTY OHIO JAIL REENTRY PROGRAM

In 2021, the Butler County Jail began to look at ways to implement jail-specific reentry services due to Butler County's second Sequential Intercept Mapping which identified jail reentry needs as one of its top priorities. Since then, a robust reentry program has been developed and implemented through unique community collaborative partnerships. Presenters: Lindsey Baker, Butler County Jail Manager of Inmate Services, and Lieutenant Dennis Adams, Butler County Sheriff's Office. The presentation was made at the September 10, 2024 quarterly meeting of the Ohio Attorney General's Task Force on Criminal Justice & Mental Illness. Information about their inmate post-classification assessors starts at minute 6:07, and information about their post-release action plan and inmate advocate starts at minute 9:50.

RESOURCES

THE HOUSE THAT TRAUMA BUILT: A BLUEPRINT FOR RURAL FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Over the past few years, first responder mental health has become a hot topic. With the struggles faced during COVID-19, there is a new focus on first-responder mental health and the overall well-being of those on the front lines. A new generation of providers is entering the workforce, bringing new perspectives and a different understanding of the importance of mental health. By prioritizing mental health, rural first responder agencies can strengthen their foundations ensuring the safety and security of responders and the communities they serve. With peer support, fitness, and overall wellness at its core, this blueprint provides EMS agencies with a path forward.



Shutterstock/Natalya Bardushka

THE ROLE OF CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS IN CRISIS SERVICES AND SYSTEMS

This white paper provides information to help multiple audiences maximize the effectiveness of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). CCBHCs are critical contributors to universal access to effective behavioral health crisis services. CCBHCs are well-suited to expand rural crisis access by leveraging their embedded community presence and flexible arrangements with local providers or community-based services. Even small rural CCBHCs can make significant impacts with thoughtful localization. A section of the white paper (Appendix 3) is explicitly dedicated to rural needs.



National Council for Mental Wellbeing