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Grantee Spotlight: Working in Courts - The National Center for State Courts



The [National Center for State Courts](#)' Institute for Court Management is excited to announce the development of a new, innovative e-learning course designed to educate and inspire state and local court employees. This approximately 3-hour online self-study course is tailored primarily for new hires and aims to address a critical gap in understanding the essential role courts play in our civil society. Court leaders nationwide have emphasized that many new employees lack a clear grasp of the significance of their work, which can lead to job dissatisfaction and higher turnover rates... [Read more](#)

In the News

SJI Board Awards FY 2025 Fourth Quarter Grants

The SJI Board met on September 15, 2025, and awarded eight (8) new grant applications totaling \$1,459,951 for the 4th quarter of FY 2025. The Board awarded three (3) Strategic Initiative Grants (SIG) to: National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) to develop of memorandums of understanding between state courts and military installations addressing jurisdictional issues involving military families, especially juveniles; the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and Innovation for Justice to establish and inventory of existing and possible legal desert interventions and assemble a cohort of state courts to implement legal desert solutions; the NCSC, in partnership with the Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators to support state teams committed to behavioral health system improvement; A Project Grant to... [Read more](#)

New Report on Court Structure and Supporting Technologies for Traffic and Misdemeanor Cases

Every year, the equivalent of more than 14% of the U.S. population has a traffic or misdemeanor case. While many consider justice involvement to be a phenomenon that

does not impact their own lives, or the lives of those around them, the reality is that most U.S. adults have either interacted with the justice system at some point in their lives, or know someone who has. Still, navigating even these commonplace offenses creates undue strain on individuals and courts, as in-person appearances must be made to negotiate a case; requiring scheduling court visits around work schedules or childcare, determining transportation for those without consistent access to a car, and... [Read more](#)

RJC Lessons Learned for Rural Communities

The Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC) has released a series of [Lessons Learned](#) for rural communities working toward solutions in their communities. Drawing directly from the experiences of those working on the front lines, this series showcases effective strategies and collaborative approaches aimed at improving outcomes for individuals affected by substance use in rural communities. Through firsthand accounts and practical examples, we are working to inspire and inform justice, health, behavioral health, service, and community stakeholders dedicated to advancing positive outcomes in their rural communities. Funded by the [State Justice Institute](#) and produced for the RJC by Mtn Craft in collaboration with our partner Rulo Strategies, this series highlights insights and lessons learned from rural leaders actively engaged in cross-sector partnerships... [Read more](#)

Announcements



Upcoming Webinar!
The [National Center for State Courts](#) (NCSC) will be hosting: *On the Road to End Human Trafficking on October 9th, 2025, at 1:00PM EST*. This webinar will discuss NCSC's free, self-paced e-learning course designed to educate commercial driver's license (CDL) holders on human trafficking awareness and equip them to act as the eyes and ears on our roadways and report suspicious activities to authorities. Judges, court administrators, prosecutors and other justice partners are invited to learn how their court can encourage human trafficking awareness among CDL holders through traffic case adjudication, online case resolution, outreach efforts, and other touchpoints. Register [here](#).



It's that time of year again! Federal Grant Season has started. The [State Justice Institute](#) has designed a [Funding Toolkit](#) to support local courts, state courts, and their justice system partners as they pursue federal and philanthropic funding opportunities. This toolkit includes resources that encompass the entire grant seeking, writing and management process, such as planning checklists, sample documents, frequently asked questions and fact sheets. Technical assistance is also available to courts to provide support and feedback during the grant writing and development process. Access the toolkit to learn about the current funding opportunities, receive technical assistance, watch virtual learning modules... [Read more](#)

Upcoming Webinar!
The [National Center for State](#)

You've made the plan — now it's time to act!



[Courts](#) (NCSC) will be hosting: Key Considerations for the use of GenAI tools in

Legal Practice & Courts on **October 15th, 2025, at 1:00PM EST**. As generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools increasingly support legal work, legal professionals and courts considering their adoption must ensure these tools serve as intended and do not undermine public trust and confidence. Join the TRI/NCSC AI Policy Consortium for Law & Courts to discuss foundational best practices, emphasizing that the rigor of application for these practices must be proportional to the intended use and the risk level associated with that use. Register [here](#).



In Module 5 of the [Collaboration in Action: A Toolkit for Courts and Counties](#) from the [State](#)

[Justice Institute](#), in partnership with [Praxis Consulting](#) and [Rulo Strategies](#), you'll find everything you need to go from strategy to implementation. Resources include:

- A sample data-sharing agreement
- A reentry program flowchart
- Job descriptions used in real county initiatives
- First-hand advice from county leaders on how to overcome implementation challenges. Get inspired by those who've done it — and start making your plan a reality. Explore Module 5 [here](#). For more information and to access the full Toolkit, please click [here](#).

If you are interested in sharing court related news or announcements in the SJI newsletter, please send all content to contact@sjj.gov by the 10th of the month.

Are you a SJI grantee interested in being featured in our monthly newsletter and on our website? Follow the instructions on our [Grantee Spotlight Submission Instructions page](#).



The next deadline to submit a grant application to SJI is **Nov 1, 2025**.

Learn more about [SJI grants](#) and [apply](#) today!



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