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## RESOURCES

### A GUIDE TO FUNDING RESOURCES: THE RURAL INFORMATION CENTER

The “Funding Resources” section of *A Guide to Funding Resources* includes links to searchable databases offering funding opportunities from government and/or private sources available to local governments, community organizations, and individuals. It provides links to full-text online guides and tips to assist grant writers prepare successful proposals. The reader may locate links to additional funding programs and information on the [Rural Information Center \(RIC\) website](#).

### ASSOCIATION OF METHAMPHETAMINE AND OPIOID USE WITH NONFATAL OVERDOSE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

Despite the related harms, little is known about the characteristics of methamphetamine use in rural communities and its relationship to the opioid epidemic. The opioid overdose epidemic in rural communities was associated with pervasive methamphetamine use among people using drugs in this cross-sectional study, with approximately 4 of 5 participants reporting past-30-day methamphetamine use. Findings also suggest people using methamphetamine rarely had access to naloxone, suggesting harm reduction and treatment interventions must address both methamphetamine and opioids to decrease rates of overdose in rural communities.



## 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.

## PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES

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### GREEN VALLEY JUSTICE COURT LAUNCHES TRAVELING COURT TO DEAL WITH PANDEMIC-RELATED BACKLOG, REACH RURAL COMMUNITY

[The Green Valley Justice Court](#) serves rural communities from south of Tucson to the Mexico border, including Green Valley, Sahuarita, Corona de Tucson, Arivaca, Amado and Sasabe. During travel court, the judge works with people who have active warrants, need to reestablish a payment plan, or who have general questions for the court. With the program, Green Valley's Justice of the Peace Ray Carroll says he is hoping to be able to both clean out the court's filing cabinets and help people clean up their records.

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### YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IS IN CRISIS. ARE SCHOOLS DOING ENOUGH?

An elementary school in rural Kentucky is one of the thousands across the country using technology to screen students' state of mind and alert teachers to anyone struggling. The school, in a farming community an hour's drive south of Louisville, is using federal money to create "take-a-break" corners in each classroom. Students can rifle through a "self-regulation kit" with tips on deep breathing, squishy stress balls, and acupuncture rings. The school plans to build a "Reset Room" this fall, part of an emerging national trend to create campus sanctuaries where students can go to decompress and speak with a counselor. The online student screener called Closegap helps teachers identify shy, quiet kids who might need to talk and would have otherwise gone unnoticed.

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### YOUNG AND HOMELESS IN RURAL AMERICA

Homeless programs and services are oftentimes not well-equipped to address the types of homelessness experienced by children and families, especially in rural areas. This investigative report explores how the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in rural Ohio used ARPA money to begin a [program to train school staff directly on how to support students experiencing homelessness](#).



## **PROVIDING FREE RIDES COULD HELP PEOPLE IN ADDICTION RECOVERY**

[Studies on barriers to recovery](#) suggest that transportation frequently prevents access to medication assisted treatment in rural communities. The Indiana Recovery Network – a statewide collaboration of recovery organizations – is expanding on the state’s efforts to provide free rides to people in recovery through Lyft. The program is available to anyone actively engaged with one of Indiana Recovery Network’s 20 regional recovery hubs. Rides are free for anything as long as it relates to the four pillars of recovery: home, health, community, and purpose.

[More Information](#)

## **ARTICLES**

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### **HOW VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE IS STRIVING TO BE MORE ACCESSIBLE ACROSS FRANKLIN COUNTY**

At [Voices Against Violence](#) serving Franklin and Grand Isle County, Vermont, staff know that every survivor of trauma or abuse heals in a unique way. “Healing and justice always look different for every survivor,” advocacy coordinator Shannon McMahon said. “Going through that criminal justice or civil court process may not be exactly what they need.” And while some survivors might heal with therapy, meditation, or massage, others might begin the process, for example, by going as a family to the new St. Albans City Pool. “For a family to go and have a swim day? That’s fun. Parents and kids can really do some things other than focusing on what brought them to our program initially,” director Kris Lukens said. Many factors during the pandemic, Lukens said, [spurred an increase in the severity of violence that occurred](#). Rural areas like Franklin County saw more substance abuse and further isolation.

[More Information](#)



## **SOFTBALL GAME HELPS 'SURVIVOR SQUAD' AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BATTLE ADDICTION TOGETHER**

For the second year straight, a local addiction recovery support group has challenged local law enforcement members to a special game of softball. Kristen Kincaid and others assembled the "Survivor Squad" in 2020, and started putting on events to help those fighting addiction. "Not too long ago, we lost my brother's fiancé to an overdose," said Kincaid, who is the president of the group. "Each person in the survivor squad has lost somebody to an overdose," Kincaid said. It takes a toll on those who respond to their calls for help as well. "When we hurt, they hurt," said Kincaid of law enforcement. So, the organization found a way for the two groups to work towards a common goal - a battle on the ball fields between cops and survivors.

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## **RURAL DIGITAL DIVIDE COMPLICATES VIRTUAL COURT PARTICIPATION**

In rural states, virtual proceedings are appealing to those who need to travel great distances. However, an estimated 14.5 million Americans still don't have access to broadband internet, a quarter of adults with incomes below \$30,000 do not own a smartphone, and around four-in-ten low-income individuals report not having a desktop or laptop. Technology kiosks, loaner tablets, and "Justice Buses" are some ways courtrooms and legal aid organizations are working to bridge this digital divide. A short [video](#) produced by Bloomberg Law provides five virtual court tips from judges.

## **RESEARCH**

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### **'IT'S THE SAME THING AS GIVING THEM CPR TRAINING:' RURAL FIRST RESPONDERS' PERSPECTIVES ON NALOXONE**

Interviews with first responders in a frontier and remote (FAR) state were conducted to understand their job responsibilities in relation to overdose response and prevention and their perceptions of training laypersons to administer naloxone. This study includes 22 interviews with law enforcement, EMS and/or fire personnel, and members of harm reduction-focused community organizations. The study finds widespread support for increasing access to naloxone and training laypersons in naloxone administration throughout Montana due to rural first responders' inability to meet the needs of residents and an overall lack of resources to address addiction and the effects of fentanyl.

### **OPIOID TREATMENT PROGRAMS IN DISADVANTAGED RURAL COMMUNITIES SHOULD INCLUDE INTEGRATED CARE, STUDY FINDS**

Mental health disorders, which commonly co-occur with opioid addiction, are rarely addressed in rural methadone clinics. According to [a study](#) led by a Rutgers researcher, to improve recovery rates, opioid treatment programs serving disadvantaged patients in rural communities should include services that screen and care for other mental health disorders.

# REPORTS

RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation  
Journal of the Social Sciences

*State Monetary Sanctions and the Costs of the  
Criminal Legal System: How the System of  
Monetary Sanctions Operates*

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1, JANUARY 2022

## 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 leads to differences in how court actors consider the role of monetary sanctions. Using interviews and ethnographic observations, researchers explore the practical and symbolic nature of monetary sanctions and discuss how interpersonal dynamics influence courtroom considerations, monetary sanctions' relationship to local finances, and actors' positioning toward state-level policy.

## Farmer's Mental Well-Being Project: Statewide Survey Report

June 2022

GEORGIA  
**Rural Health**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
AT MERCER UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



## HOW RESEARCHERS ARE GETTING FARMERS TO TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Little is known about the level of stress that farmers and producers carry on their shoulders and how they cope with it. Researchers at Mercer University School of Medicine reached more than 1,600 farmers and farm workers in almost all of Georgia's counties through [a detailed survey](#) regarding the state of farmers' mental health and the researchers found something they didn't expect: an eagerness within the farming community to talk and seek out mental health treatment.

Watson et al.  
Addiction Science & Clinical Practice | 2022 | 17:41  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13227-022-00224-3>

Addiction Science &  
Clinical Practice

RESEARCH

Open Access

Identifying unique barriers to implementing rural emergency department-based peer services for opioid use disorder through qualitative comparison with urban sites

Dennis P. Watson<sup>1\*</sup>, Monte D. Stator<sup>2</sup> and Nicole Gastala<sup>3</sup>

## IDENTIFYING UNIQUE BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING RURAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT-BASED PEER SERVICES FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER

In an effort to address the opioid epidemic, a number of hospitals across the United States have implemented emergency department-based interventions for engaging patients presenting with opioid use disorder. This study seeks to address gaps in knowledge regarding implementation of a sub-type of such interventions, emergency department-based peer support services, in rural areas by comparing implementation of rural and urban programs that participated in Indiana's Recovery Coach and Peer Support Initiative (RCPSI).

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