



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

The [RJC Resource Center](#) is refreshed with a new look and new resources.

Highlights:

- The Resource Center is now aligned with the [RJC priorities](#): Advance Innovation, Promote Collaboration, and Raise Awareness.
- The [RJC Mission](#) video is a short introduction to the RJC featuring rural practitioners on the Advisory Council and from Innovation Sites. We are very appreciative of each person's contribution.
- Interactive map and descriptions of current [Innovation Sites](#).
- The newly released podcasts series [Rural Justice Redefined](#) featuring Innovation Sites.



Please share this resource with your networks.



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.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

REACHING RURAL

**Application Deadline
September 30, 2022**

The RJC is excited to share a solution-focused leadership opportunity for individual rural practitioners or teams. This opportunity is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, State Justice Institute, and the National Association of Counties.

The [Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions initiative](#) is a 1-year initiative designed for rural justice and public safety practitioners; public health and behavioral health practitioners; city, county, and tribal leaders; and community groups. The 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.

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

When: Monday, Oct. 3 - Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM CST*

Register: www.InstituteCCR.org/Rural-Conference

Genesis Women's Shelter & Support in Dallas, Texas launched the Conference on Crimes Against Women, a national forum to disseminate the highest level of training, information, and strategies to professionals who are responders and advocates to victims of gender-based violence, including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

* Live virtual sessions will also be recorded for on-demand viewing



RESOURCES

URBAN-RURAL DIFFERENCES IN DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH RATES, 2020

Drug overdose death rates, which have been rising over the past decade, differ by urban and rural counties across the United States. A previous report demonstrated higher drug overdose death rates in urban counties by various demographic and geographic characteristics. This report uses the most recent final mortality data from the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) to describe urban and rural differences in drug overdose death rates in 2020 by sex, race, and Hispanic origin, and selected types of opioids and stimulants.

[More Information](#)

DEFLECTION AND PRE-ARREST DIVERSION: SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

Rural communities face unique challenges in establishing programs like Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion (DPAD) due to inaccessibility of treatment, transportation, stable internet, and limited funding and resources. Strong cross-sector partnerships are critical to ensure resources and services are available to participants when they need them. This brief, released by the National Council for Wellbeing, provides information on establishing successful DPAD programs in rural areas.

[More Information](#)

RESTORING ACCESS TO MATERNITY CARE IN RURAL AMERICA

Nearly half of rural U.S. counties are maternity care deserts where lack of access to obstetric care contributes to rising maternal death rates. Across the country, regional partnerships are rebuilding access to maternity care in efforts to improve outcomes for pregnant and parenting people in rural communities. Leaders of the Don't Quit the Quit program run by the University of North Dakota are training tribal and other community members to work as postpartum doulas to support pregnant and parenting women who are in recovery from opioid use disorder.

[More Information](#)

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES' OPIOID SOLUTIONS CENTER

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has launched a new Opioid Solutions Center which offers resources to help counties use opioid settlement funding to implement new solutions or expand solutions already in place. The Opioid Solutions Center is home to featured resources, such as:

- *Planning Principles Toolkit*: a toolkit with guidance on planning, allocating, and managing opioid litigation funds.
- *Approved Strategies*: a series of short-form briefs presenting key information about effective substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery approaches approved by settlement funds.
- *Technical Assistance*: Direct links to technical assistance and other funding and training opportunities to support local implementation of approved strategies.
- *County Examples*: a series of case studies and examples describing how states and counties have leveraged their opioid settlement funds to stand up programs and practices that work.

GRANT HELPS STATE LAUNCH RURAL MENTAL HEALTH PILOT PROGRAM

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services launched a new virtual mental and behavioral health pilot program in partnership with 11 law enforcement agencies. The three-year Virtual Crisis Care program aims to help reduce the burden on law enforcement in rural and frontier counties in the state by connecting people with virtual telehealth experts. The Virtual Crisis Care program will work seamlessly with Nevada's [new 988 crisis care behavioral health care system](#) to help address rural access to mental health care.

MIDWEST INITIATIVE SEEKS TO REDUCE OPIOID USE IN RURAL AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

The University of Minnesota Extension, the outreach and community engagement arm of the University of Minnesota, is partnering with the school's College of Pharmacy, county public health agencies, tribal leadership, and South Dakota State University to improve and sustain an approach to OUD treatment known as recovery capital. That strategy is based on the idea that five types of support—social, physical, cultural, community, and human—can be combined to help people recover. The partners are working to create local solutions to address the opioid crisis, including a focus on harm reduction training and community forums to address stigma.

ARTICLE



DEFINING RURAL AMERICA: THE CONSEQUENCES OF HOW WE COUNT

States are experiencing direct care workforce shortages that are especially pronounced in rural areas. Responding to these challenges, states are increasingly supporting family caregivers to help older adults receive care at home. North Dakota has championed this approach for decades through their longstanding Service Payments for Elderly and Disabled (SPED) program, which provides payments and support to family caregivers of individuals not eligible for Medicaid.

PODCAST



THE IMPACT OF ADVERSE AND POSITIVE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES ON RURAL CHILDREN, WITH ELIZABETH CROUCH

An interview with [Elizabeth Crouch, Ph.D.](#), director of the [Rural and Minority Health Research Center](#), discussing insights on rural adverse and positive childhood experiences based on her research.