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RURAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE

INNOVATION SITES

**Application Deadline
for Round 2:
October 29, 2021**

The Rural Justice Collaborative (RJC) is soliciting nominations for rural justice programs or initiatives that were developed in rural communities or adapted for rural communities that fall into the RJC's seven areas of focus.

[How to Apply](#)

To be considered, a program or initiative must:

- Primarily serve justice-involved individuals or families engaged in the court system or be designed to increase access to legal representation.
- Reflect innovation that is specific to a rural community.
- Have been operational for a least one year.
- Have a written description of the initiative, practice, or program.
- Have interest in serving as a mentor for other rural communities.

Innovation sites will be recognized for their work in rural communities and provided opportunities to share their successes in a variety of ways.



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 crosssector advisory council composed of rural judges along with additional stakeholders in the justice, child welfare, and behavioral health systems. The advisory council will guide the initiative and identify innovative programs and practices.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**Dates:
September 15,
2021**

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE

[Apply Here](#)

As part of its ongoing commitment to rural communities across the country, the Foundation for Rural Service offers aid for communities served by NTCA members through its annual Community Grants Program. These grants are designed to provide support to a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America. Applications for these grants are accepted each spring ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. The grants awarded each December support a variety of projects concentrated in four major categories.

[For More Information](#)

WEBINARS & PODCASTS

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE ACCESS FOR FARMING AND RURAL COMMUNITIES (JUNE 2020)

This three-part series is a partnership between the American Psychological Association (APA), the Great Lakes Mental Health Technology Transfer Center in Region 5 and the Mountain Plains Mental Health Technology Transfer Center in Region 8. The purpose is to collaborate and disseminate information to better address the mental health needs surrounding the farming and American frontier communities, through psychological science and research.

[Register Here](#)

CONVERGENCE, EP5: JOSHUA CRABTREE – CREATIVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE APPROACHES IN RURAL AMERICA (AUGUST 2021)

In episode 5 host Oladeji Tiamiyu speaks with Joshua Crabtree, the Executive Director of Legal Aid of the



Bluegrass, about the role of technology in resolving disputes in the Kentucky communities he serves and considerations for access to justice in rural America when internet access is limited.

[Listen Here](#)

ARTICLES & INITIATIVES

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN RURAL AMERICA (JULY 2021)

While envisioning a rural community, human trafficking may not come to mind for most. However, many factors present vulnerabilities for trafficking survivors in rural communities. Trafficking survivors in rural areas find themselves isolated with little employment opportunities and lack of services.

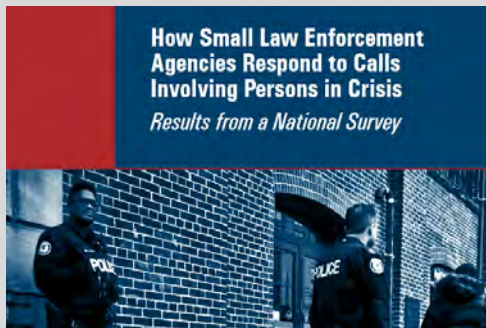
[Read More...](#)

INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION IN PROSECUTION: PROSECUTION BEYOND BIG CITIES (JULY 2021)

Over the last several years, the nation's conversation surrounding changes in prosecution has focused on a handful of urban, well-resourced prosecutor's offices. The IIP has engaged with many of these prosecutors since our inception, and we are proud to continue working with them. But with 2300+ offices across the country, we will need more than just the commitment of big city prosecutors to create sustainable and effective change. It is imperative that we include and uplift prosecutors in smaller jurisdictions who may lack the resources of big city offices but are not lacking in their commitment to justice and equity. everyone knows everyone in a small town, trafficked people are often stigmatized.

[Read More...](#)

Visit the RJC's [Online Resource Center](#), a national clearinghouse of promising and innovative rural justice practices that reflect the RJC's seven areas of focus.



How Small Law Enforcement Agencies Respond to Calls Involving Persons in Crisis Results from a National Survey

[How Small Law Enforcement Agencies Respond to Calls Involving Persons in Crisis Results from a National Survey \(2021\)](#)

This report presents findings from a survey of how small law enforcement agencies respond to incidents involving persons in crisis as a result of mental health or substance abuse issues. It is based on responses of a random sample of 380 municipal police and sheriff offices with between 10 and 75 sworn officers between February and October, 2020.

The survey finds that all but twelve responding agencies had adopted some form of specialized response model for dealing with calls involving persons in crisis.



"They had access, but they didn't get justice": Why Prevailing Access to Justice Initiatives Fail Rural Americans

Athehele Stutz, PhD, Hon. Robert Friday, JD, Jan Bredeson, MA

ABSTRACT

In the U.S., access to justice (A2J) initiatives are developed by people and institutions in urban areas. Accordingly, A2J supports are often premised on technological, professional, and infrastructural capacities that simply do not exist in many rural regions. Until now, no one has empirically examined the consequences of this metrocentric approach. Drawing on over three years of mixed-methods research across the Upper Midwest, this Article offers an urgent response: Not only are A2J "solutions" intrinsically insufficient in rural areas, but they compound existing stress and are even experienced as humiliating by many low-income rural residents. By introducing the role of dignity—and what, or who, best provides it in the rural A2J context—this Article offers a novel and necessary intervention in access to justice scholarship and policies.

Bringing together empirical data with policy analysis, we argue that prevailing A2J initiatives are flawed at three primary levels: (1) A failure to meaningfully recognize the limits of rural infrastructural capacity and the complex barriers low-income rural residents in particular navigate; (2) A presumption that anyone in a crisis situation, let alone someone facing these barriers, can effectively be their own attorney; and (3) A professional understanding of justice that is critically at odds with rural individuals' own expectations. Our response is not to offer one more rural A2J "silver bullet" initiative, though we do discuss what A2J options may offer more locally relevant experiences of justice. Instead, we highlight broader tensions that emerge when dominant narratives around "access" are held against the lived expertise of those who daily experience rural attorney shortages and other structural inequities. As the Article demonstrates, this profound mismatch of expectations is hugely consequential, resulting in forms of "access"

["They had access, but they didn't get justice": Why Prevailing Access to Justice Initiatives Fail Rural Americans \(March 2021\)](#)

Drawing on over three years of mixed-methods research across the Upper Midwest, this Article offers an urgent response: Not only are Access to Justice (A2J) "solutions" intrinsically insufficient in rural areas, but they compound existing stress and are even experienced as humiliating by many low-income rural residents. By introducing the role of dignity—and what, or who, best provides it in the rural A2J context—this Article offers a novel and necessary intervention in access to justice scholarship and policies.

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Original Article | Published: 09 February 2021

Challenges in Risk Assessment with Rural Domestic Violence Victims: Implications for Practice

Nicole Youngson, Michael Saxton, Peter G. Jaffe, Deborah Chiodo, Myma Dawson & Anna-Lee Straatman

Journal of Family Violence 36, 537–550 (2021) | Cite this article

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Abstract

Through interviews the present study examined the perspectives of service providers (n = 14) in the violence against women (VAW) sector regarding risk factors and challenges in assessing risk for women experiencing domestic violence (DV) in rural locations. The present study also examined what promising practices VAW service providers are utilizing when working with women experiencing DV in rural locations. Interviews were coded and analyzed in a qualitative analytic computer program. Analysis indicated several risk factors including the

[Challenges in Risk Assessment with Rural Domestic Violence Victims: Implications for Practice \(March 2021\)](#)

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