



- TRAINING & CONFERENCES**
- RESOURCES**
- PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES**
- ARTICLE**
- PODCAST**
- REPORT**

## TRAINING & CONFERENCES

### COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

**Virtual Conference:  
October 3-4, 2022**

Coordinated Community Responses (CCRs) have been recognized as a best practice in reducing domestic violence since the Violence Against Women Act was enacted over 20 years ago and can be particularly effective in rural communities, where close-knit relationships and highly engaged community members provide an ideal jumping-off point for collaborative efforts. However, with limited resources that must stretch further than their urban counterparts, it can often be a struggle to implement and sustain this approach.

Recognizing this, the [Institute for Coordinated Community Response](#) and the [Conference on Crimes Against Women](#) are coming together to provide critical training and resources for implementing collaborative, systemic responses to domestic violence in rural communities nationwide. Information about the conference can be found [here](#).

[More Information](#)



## 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.

# TRAINING & CONFERENCES

---

## SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE AND RESOURCE TEAMS

The purpose of this training module is to guide communities in overcoming the unique challenges faced by professionals who respond to sexual assault in rural and remote communities – by improving the coordination of services for victims across disciplines and agencies. This module is part of the End Violence Against Women International’s On-line Training Institute (OLTI). Participants can also download a personalized certificate of completion to use for continuing education or other purposes. For more information, visit [EVAWI website](#).

### [More Information](#)

---

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Mental Health First Aid for Rural Communities teaches people how to notice and respond to signs of mental health and addiction challenges with a specific focus on the cultural and environmental factors related to life in rural areas. Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis. To find a local trainer, please see the National Council for Mental Wellbeing’s [website](#).

### [More Information](#)



## RESOURCES

---

### **MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING: STRATEGIES FOR SMALL AND RURAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

This brief by the Council of State Governments Justice Center details strategies for small and rural law enforcement agencies to develop and implement comprehensive, high-quality training that creatively addresses their unique challenges. These strategies are intended to help officers effectively respond to people who have mental health needs and connect them to necessary services.

[More Information](#)

---

### **TAILORING CRISIS RESPONSE AND PRE-ARREST DIVERSION MODELS FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES**

This action brief provides rural communities recommended strategies for adapting promising or proven interventions to better support crisis response and pre-arrest diversion in their communities. It is the first of three briefs developed from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Pre-Arrest Diversion Expert Panel.

[More Information](#)

---

### **EVIDENCE-BASED CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGIES FOR SMALL, RURAL, AND TRIBAL AGENCIES**

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), and Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (CEBCP) at George Mason University partnered to gather, evaluate, translate, and recommend best and emerging crime reduction practices for small, rural, and tribal law enforcement agencies. This guide presents information on evidence-based policing practices in small, rural, and tribal agencies, which often have different problems and different needs from the large, urban agencies where most law enforcement research is conducted— as well as different strengths.

[More Information](#)



# PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

---

## **RURAL VETERANS AND LOCAL NONPROFITS RECEIVE CRITICAL HOUSING SUPPORT FUNDED BY THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION**

Many veterans and their families face major housing challenges, often exacerbated by issues related to unemployment, age, and service-related disabilities. The Home Depot Foundation and the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) are dedicated to giving back to those who have answered the highest call of service to our nation. As part of its Affordable Housing for Rural Veterans Initiative, HAC works with The Home Depot Foundation to administer grants that bolster and support the work of rural nonprofit housing agencies to deliver critical housing support to veterans. The grants are part of The Home Depot Foundation's mission to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans and invest \$500 million in veteran causes by 2025.

[More Information](#)

---

## **NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OPENS STATEWIDE REENTRY AND TRAINING HUB**

The Reentry, Programs, and Career Pathways facility (RPCP) opened in December 2021 to provide comprehensive supports for individuals reentering the community along with expanded training opportunities. RPCP's newly renovated space—wired for virtual access—enables its reach to extend well beyond its four walls. The Nevada Department of Corrections designed RPCP with accessibility in mind. RPCP provides opportunities for virtual programming to individuals previously unable to attend, including those located in rural facilities and at sites with limited programming staff.

[More Information](#)

---

## **REDUCING SUICIDE ONE MESSAGE AT A TIME: RESEARCHERS WILL USE HUB TO REDUCE INDIGENOUS AMERICAN SUICIDES**

The Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH) and Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine are developing a hub to reduce suicide burden in Native American populations. There are two aims for the hub: the first aim will focus on screening for suicide risk and implementing Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). The second aim will compare SBIRT as a standalone prevention strategy to a model called "caring contacts." Caring contacts, in relation to the hub, will take place in the form of 30 text messages over 12 months. The goal is to increase retention as well as social and cultural connectedness.

[More Information](#)

# ARTICLE

---



## [Tennessee Supreme Court Launches Justice Bus](#)

The Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission publicly launched the Tennessee Justice Bus in June 2022. The TN Justice Bus is a mobile law office that brings technology to rural and underserved communities. The TN Justice Bus is a passenger van outfitted with computers, tablets, a printer, internet access, video displays, Wi-Fi, and other office supplies. Lawyers and other volunteers will be able to provide on-the spot access to legal help and meet Tennesseans where they are. The Commission is joining a small network of other states that have launched justice bus projects in response to natural disasters, to connect with rural citizens, or to bring technology to disadvantaged communities.

# PODCAST

---



## [Podcast: Legal Deserts with Professor Pruitt](#)

In the latest episode of *Justice Defined*, UC Davis Law Professor [Lisa Pruitt](#) discusses her ongoing research into rural lawyer shortages. She identifies the great need for services in the legal deserts of rural communities. Through comprehensive analysis, Professor Pruitt explores how channeling urban resources to rural areas, expanding pipeline programs, bolstering legal education about rural issues and providing financial incentives for attorneys to practice in these areas can help.

# REPORT

---



## [Improving Behavioral Health Services for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness in Rural and Remote Communities](#)

In partnership with SMI Adviser, this guide was developed by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) and the NASMHPD Research Institute based on guidance from convening expert panel meetings, interviewing subject matter experts, and conducting a literature review. It is designed to offer strategies and key lessons for developing, implementing, financing, and sustaining behavioral health services for individuals who have a serious mental illness and live in rural and remote communities.