

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

ARTICLES

REPORTS

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM – OVERDOSE RESPONSE

Application Due Date:  
January 19, 2023

The Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) is a HRSA initiative aimed at reducing the morbidity and mortality of substance use disorder (SUD), including opioid use disorder (OUD), in high-risk rural communities. Over a one-year period of performance, RCORP-Overdose Response recipients will address immediate needs in rural areas by improving access to, capacity for, and sustainability of prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorder (SUD). Applicants must select from a list of allowable activities. Please see Program Requirements and Expectations for additional information.



**Award Information:** Approximately 40 awards, up to \$300,000 per award

**Period of Performance:** September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024 (one year)

[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.

## PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

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### MICHELE STATZ AWARDED THE 2022 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CIVIC PLANNING GRANT

Michele Statz, Ph.D., an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School, has been awarded a 2022 National Science Foundation CIVIC planning grant of \$50,000 to improve access to legal advocacy for rural and Indigenous communities in Alaska. Under-resourced rural infrastructures and professional shortages leave low-income individuals with unmet civil legal needs like debt collection, domestic violence, or eviction with little chance of achieving a just resolution. The Bridging the Rural Justice Gap: Innovating & Scaling Up Civil Access to Justice in Alaska project, a collaboration between the University of Minnesota Medical School, Alaska Legal Services Corporation, the American Bar Foundation, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, explores the Community Justice Worker model as a promising solution to address these gaps in access to justice.

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### FACING SUICIDE VT: RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS FOR RURAL VERMONTERS

Living in a rural setting can contribute to loneliness, isolation, and a lack of connection to others. It can also be harder to find resources and support during challenging times. All these factors can contribute to feelings of depression, sadness, and, in some cases, thoughts of suicide. Facing Suicide VT is a data-driven initiative that builds on existing partnerships and programs, bolsters collective efforts on the integration between healthcare and mental health, and works to ensure all people living in Vermont have access to the support they need.

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### RIDE TO RECOVERY PROGRAM IN RURAL TENNESSEE

Tennessee's Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency's Public Transportation program, Ride to Recovery, helps those in early recovery succeed by providing free transportation to recovery support services, treatment, meetings, mental health or probation appointments, and other recovery-related activities.



## **STORIES FROM SULLIVAN: HOW A RURAL COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC**

To bridge the disconnect between local communities and lawmakers, the Rockefeller Institute of Government is conducting an in-depth study of the opioid crisis in Sullivan County, a rural community 100 miles northwest of New York City. Readers can follow the project as it happens in “real time.” By talking to community members, public officials, medical experts, and activists, researchers seek to better understand the causes and effects of the opioid epidemic in Sullivan County and similar communities across the country.

## **ARTICLES**

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### **NEW COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE UNMET LEGAL NEEDS (KANSAS)**

Chief Justice Marla Luckert signed an order on December 1st creating the Kansas Rural Justice Initiative Committee to examine unmet legal needs in rural Kansas related to a shrinking number of attorneys living and working in rural areas. In Kansas, the ratio of active attorneys to population ranges from two for every 535 residents in urban areas to one for every 808 residents in rural areas. Two counties—Wichita and Hodgeman—have no attorneys. Five counties have one attorney, and 11 others have only two.

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### **TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM RETURNING TO JAIL, MESA COUNTY FOLLOWS OTHER COMMUNITIES' REENTRY ROADMAP**

Officials in Mesa County, Colorado, recognize that many people transitioning from jail or prison struggle with substance abuse, mental illness, or both—compounding other challenges they face when reentering society and often lacking much-needed resources. Mesa County launched a multiagency collaboration aimed at helping people transition from incarceration. The partnership connects people to agencies that can assist with employment, housing, transportation, and other basic needs, as well as access to mental health services or rehabilitation programs to combat drug or alcohol addictions.

## **FOUR WASHINGTON COMMUNITIES TRIED TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS. ONE IS SEEING SUCCESS**

Walla Walla, Washington, is working to end youth and young adult homelessness. Between 2021 and 2022, Walla Walla, a rural county in Southeast Washington, cut its count of homeless young people in half, from 81 to 39. [The Anchor Community Initiative](#) works by revamping communities' youth and young adult homelessness response system with a few key ingredients. The first is better data. The second is funding through a [Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Fund](#), which can pay for rental assistance, costs associated with dorm rooms, beds and mattresses for young people to stay with friends, or transportation for youth who can't sign their lease to stay with family in other parts of the country. The third is a weekly workshop called "House Busters," which brings together case managers, housing specialists, and landlord liaisons to help young adults navigate the rental application process.

## **REPORTS**

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### **RESEARCH BRIEF: REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN RATES OF PARENTAL INCARCERATION AMONG MINNESOTA YOUTH**

A recent study shows 17% of Minnesota youth have had a parent go to jail or prison, with children of color, impoverished households, and rural youth disproportionately impacted. Researchers analyzed data from the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey of more than 110,000 students in Grades 8, 9, and 11. They found 22% of rural and 20% of township youth experienced parental incarceration compared to 16% of the city and 14% of suburban youth. According to researchers, there are several factors behind this rise in rural communities, including:

- Underfunded legal services;
- High caseloads;
- Longer times in custody between arrest and sentencing;
- Lack of diversion program;
- Limited alternatives to incarceration; and
- Biases in decision-making across all phases of the legal system.

To watch a video abstract of their findings, click [here](#).

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### **FINDINGS FROM THE RURAL JAILS RESEARCH AND POLICY NETWORK IN GEORGIA AND WASHINGTON**

In both Georgia and Washington, jail incarceration rates are higher in rural counties than in urban and suburban counties. The briefs, created in partnership with the University of Georgia and Washington State University, demonstrate that jails in these rural counties are primarily holding people for minor charges. To access the Georgia brief, click [here](#). To access the Washington brief, click [here](#).

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