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INNOVATIVE NEW FELLOWSHIP FOR RURAL PRACTITIONERS

Advancing Pretrial Policy & Research (APPR) is excited to announce the Rural Pretrial Practitioners Fellowship, designed to support and enhance the skills and knowledge of pretrial professionals working in rural communities.

This nine-month fellowship offers specialized training, resources, and networking opportunities to address the unique challenges of advancing pretrial practices in rural settings.

The APPR Rural Pretrial Practitioners Fellowship will commence in January 2024. The fellowship will culminate with participants attending the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies (NAPSA) annual conference in September 2024.

The topics covered during the fellowship will be tailored to the unique needs and challenges of rural pretrial agencies.

Space is limited to no more than six (6) people. The deadline for [application](#) submission is October 31, 2023.

[Learn more](#)



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.

PROGRAM

PROGRAM CONNECTS LANDLORDS WITH THOSE NEEDING HOMES

Staff at [NeighborWorks® Alaska](#) have been encouraged by the organization's supportive housing effort: More than 800 people, once experiencing homelessness, are now safely housed, and the organization wants to share its strategy with other housing and community development organizations. The organization contacted landlords to see if they would be willing to work with individuals and families who needed shelter, and they agreed. When rent is due, NeighborWorks® Alaska sends rent subsidies directly to landlords. The nonprofit is a buffer and connects clients to food assistance and partners, including mental health counselors and medical providers.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION (KFF) TRACKING POLL: SUBSTANCE USE CRISIS AND ACCESSING TREATMENT

Substance use disorder and addiction issues surged during the COVID-19 pandemic, coming after more than a decade of increased use of alcohol and an opioid crisis that public health officials have labeled "an epidemic." The latest KFF Health Tracking Poll explores the public's concerns and experiences with alcohol and drug addiction and its consequences, as well as access to treatment and ways to prevent opioid use disorder and overdoses.

HEAVY DRINKING, HANDGUN-CARRYING LINKED AMONG RURAL YOUTH

In the rural United States, an adolescent who drinks heavily has a 43% greater probability of carrying a handgun the following year, according to a study published this month in *The Journal of Rural Health*. "While there has been a lot of research on this correlation in urban areas, little is known about the association between alcohol use, particularly heavy drinking, and handgun carrying in rural areas," said lead author Alice Ellyson, an acting assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington School of Medicine and investigator in UW Medicine's Firearm Injury & Policy Research Program.



ARTICLES

EXPERTS: MAINSTREAM ADDICTION TREATMENT ACT REMOVES A ROADBLOCK TO RECOVERY

This past January, the [Mainstream Addiction Treatment](#), or MAT, Act was passed, removing what was known as the X-waiver requirement which required providers to complete training and apply for a waiver from the Drug Enforcement Administration to prescribe buprenorphine. Those with a current DEA registration with Schedule III authority can prescribe it now. While around 130,000 providers across the country were authorized to prescribe buprenorphine, there will now be more than 1.8 million.

THE FACE OF RURAL ADDICTION IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK

While researchers have increasingly recognized opioid use disorder as equal opportunity, rural Black people have represented, at best, a blip on epidemiologists' radar. One study found the steepest increase in overdoses in recent years has been among younger urban Black Americans (178%), followed by younger rural Black Americans (98%) and then younger urban White Americans (93%). While rates of opioid use disorder are generally higher among White people, overdose deaths have increasingly been higher among Black individuals; in short, when Black people overdose, they're more likely to die from it than White people.

NPR: THERE'S A NATIONWIDE SHORTAGE OF FOSTER CARE FAMILIES

There's a shortage of foster care families in the U.S. In 2019, Nevada had about 244 homes in the rural region of Nevada, which represents 15 rural counties. Today, that number is down to 125, representing a 50% decrease. Recruiting foster families in rural areas has become a priority. In this podcast, NPR's Scott Simon speaks with Kevin Quint at the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services about what his agency is doing to train and recruit potential foster parents.

RECOVERY CAFES OFFER SUPPORT, HEALING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

In places across the country, a new idea is gaining traction. Recovery Cafes are no-cost get-togethers in which people can have a meal with a small group of individuals who are in recovery from something, said Mike Rentfro, a fellow at The Reaching Rural Initiative which is working at the intersection of substance use and those engaged with the justice system. “They come in, they connect, they have to do what we call an hour of give back time,” he told the Daily Yonder. “So they volunteer at the cafe to maybe wash dishes after the meal or even help prepare the meal. And they have to participate in one recovery circle a week. So all that recovery circle is is a support group for whatever you’ve identified as what’s keeping you from being your truest self.”

WEBINAR

BUILDING RECOVERY ECOSYSTEMS FOR SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

Robust recovery ecosystems provide an environment where individuals can access substance use treatment and recovery support services such as housing and second-chance employment. This webinar includes an overview of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Recovery-to-Work Ecosystem Model to help individuals access the support services and training they need to recover and obtain gainful employment. The recording from this webinar held in August 2023 highlights successful projects in Appalachia funded through ARC’s INSPIRE Initiative.

RESOURCES

VERA INCARCERATION TRENDS

After decades of growth in incarceration across the United States, the number of people in jail and prison decreased in recent years. However, these national declines mask significant differences in jail and prison trends across counties, states, and regions. The interactive map can be used to explore how your county compares to others along five key incarceration metrics: Jail Admissions, Jail Incarceration, Pretrial Jail Incarceration, Prison Incarceration, and Jail and Prison Incarceration.

RURAL VOICES: RECOVERY IN RURAL AMERICA SUMMER 2023 EDITION

This issue of *Rural Voices* highlights innovative approaches to housing residents in recovery with a cross-sector analysis of successful collaborative approaches to addressing the problems associated with substance use disorders. Through this issue of *Rural Voices*, the Housing Assistance Council (HAC) elevates the experts, practitioners, and organizations across the country, advocating for recovery and finding innovative solutions in rural communities.

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