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CHALLENGE OPPORTUNITY

HHS ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST-EVER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RECOVERY INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Application Deadline:
July 15, 2022

 [How to Apply](#)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) is announcing the “[Recovery Innovation Challenge](#).” The goal of this challenge is to identify innovations developed by peer-run or community-based organizations, or entities that partner with them and have advanced recovery in the decade since SAMHSA established its working definition of recovery.

This challenge competition will offer up to **10 awards**. The challenge purse is up to **\$400,000**.

Important Dates:

Deadline for submission: July 15, 2022

Judging period: July 15 to August 5, 2022

Finalists announced: August 6, 2022

Finalists’ presentations to panel of judges: Sept. 2-9, 2022

Awards announced: October 2022

[More Information](#)

For any questions regarding the challenge, email benjamin.chin@samhsa.hhs.gov



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.

RESOURCES

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

Small and rural jurisdictions, which make up the majority of police departments across the country, often face distinct challenges that make it difficult to implement the types of mental health training programs that larger and urban agencies can access. [This brief](#) details strategies for small and rural law enforcement agencies to develop and implement comprehensive, high-quality training that creatively addresses their unique challenges to help officers effectively respond to people who have mental health needs and connect them to necessary services.

[More Information](#)

STATE MEDICAID MANAGED CARE AND ACCESS TO RURAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Most states deliver Medicaid behavioral health services through contracts with managed care organizations (MCO). Federal regulation requires that these contracts include network adequacy standards for specified provider types, including behavioral health providers. [This map](#), with links to available MCO contracts and requests for applications (RFA), demonstrates how Medicaid managed care states are using contractual language to increase access to behavioral health services, improve behavioral health provider networks, and leverage telehealth to support access to care.

TRAINING

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. [This site](#) provides a searchable database to find a course or instructor near you.



WEBINARS & VIDEOS

ADDRESSING THE NATION'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS WITH RECOVERY FUNDS

Date: June 8, 2022, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

The National Association of Counties will be hosting a webinar with Twylla Abrahamson, Director of the Placer County Children's System of Care in Placer County, California; Johanna Contreras, Deputy County Executive in Ulster County, N.Y.; and Mary Rumbaugh, Director of the Behavioral Health Division on Clackamas County, Oregon as they discuss how counties are using ARPA dollars to expand the availability and scope of behavioral health services, invest in local crisis centers and construct rehabilitation centers to strengthen community resources.

[Register here](#)

Note: In order to access the registration form, an email is required to confirm your identity.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A RURAL OPIOID ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAM

Kurt DeVine, MD, and Heather Bell, MD, family and addiction physicians at Stratis Health, CentraCare, review their session from the 2022 Rx and Illicit Drug Summit, explaining how Project ECHO has increased access to care for many people in rural and underserved areas throughout Minnesota, and they identify strategies to help support the Project ECHO footprint and impact in other states. [More Information](#)

CONFERENCE

RURAL MICHIGAN OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SUMMIT

Save the date: July 21, 2022

The Michigan Center for Rural Health at Michigan State University manages a Rural Communities Opioid Response Planning grant funded by HRSA. As part of the project, the MCRH team is hosting a [Rural Michigan Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Summit](#) to bring together rural programs that are addressing Opioid Use Disorder and Substance Use Disorder.

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

RURAL MINDS

Rural Americans are known for having a solid work ethic and willpower. They aim to meet every challenge with the determination to overcome and persevere. Compared to people who live in urban areas, residents of rural communities have higher rates of depression and suicide, but are less likely to access mental healthcare services. Rural Minds™ is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with a mission to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America, and to provide mental health information and resources. [More Information](#)

REENTRY ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PROGRAM (RAMP)

The Northwest Tennessee Workforce Board (NWTNWB) in Northwest TN Workforce Area developed a partnership with the Gibson, Dyer, and Henry Counties' Sheriff's Offices to establish an occupational skills training program for jail inmates who are nearing release. The training program will be supported by other services offered through the American Job Center (AJC). The Re-entry Advanced Manufacturing Program (RAMP) will provide instruction in the Manufacturing Skills Standard Council (MSSC) Certified Production Technician (CPT) program to incarcerated individuals onsite at the jail. The training will be provided by the TN College of Applied Technology (TCAT) at Jackson and Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC), who will award credit toward their respective advanced manufacturing programs and will accept the credit of the other program for future training. [More Information](#)

INDIGENOUS WOMEN WORK TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY, PRISON IN MINNESOTA






While many of the crimes that lead to jail or prison time are relatively small-time offenses — stealing, drug use, failure to show for a court date — the consequences of incarcerating Indigenous women are enormous and cascading: children separated from mothers, metastasizing family poverty, financial and psychological costs that linger for generations. In Bemidji, Kingbird and other Indigenous women are part of a growing effort to help women find their economic footing upon reentry and reconnect to their families' spiritual lives.

[More Information](#)

HEALTH CLINIC TO OPEN IN WEBUTUCK SCHOOL - NEW YORK

In many rural parts of the state, it can be hard for children and families to access health care. But one rural community in Dutchess County, NY is hoping to change that by opening the first school-based health clinic in the Mid-Hudson region. All 640 students of the district will have the opportunity to be seen by a licensed medical provider with parental permission without having to leave their school. School officials say such a clinic is vital in the rural part of Dutchess County, where getting to a doctor's appointment can be difficult, or means a parent would have to take time off from work. Right now, the district has a 20% absentee rate. It hopes the clinic will help keep kids in school. [More Information](#)

ARTICLE

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORTS				
 Supporting Family Caregivers	 Direct Workforce Development	 Incentive Grants	 Rural Differential Rates	 Partner with Tribal Nations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leverage family as part of the direct care workforce• Family Home Care and Family Personal Care• Caregiver assessment• Respite services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct Service Workforce/Family Caregiver Resource and Training Center• Quality improvement efforts• Support for direct care workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to \$30,000 grants to develop or expand in-home and community-based service agencies• Community Conversations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pays a higher rate for services provided in rural and frontier areas of North Dakota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encourage development of tribal-owned in-home and community-based service agencies• Culturally competent case management

[North Dakota Supports Caregivers to Serve Rural Populations](#)

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.



[Is the virtual courtroom the future of the justice system?](#)

The use of remote technology has also highlighted key differences between urban and rural courts. Judge Don Torgerson, who serves in the 7th District Court in Utah, says the Webex process is especially beneficial for rural constituencies, along with the area's many outside visitors. "Someone who gets in trouble in Grand County but might be from California or from Salt Lake doesn't have to travel to attend court the way they used to. Torgerson's district encompasses 22% of the state's land mass but only 5% of its population, which means in addition to higher travel costs, the comparatively smaller population size of rural districts leaves defendants with fewer choices when selecting counsel. Remote court expands the options for representation.

RESEARCH & REPORTS

When Mamaw Becomes Mom: Social Capital and Kinship Family Formation amid the Rural Opioid Crisis

KRISTINA BRANTO

Amid the opioid crisis, the number of kinship families—or children living with relatives—has risen dramatically, particularly in rural communities. Using in-depth interviews with relative caregivers and local legal actors in Appalachian Kentucky, I consider how rural kinship families are formed. I demonstrate how relatives' experiences depend on the social capital they hold with local legal actors who regulate kinship care. Whether a relative possesses positive, negative, or no social capital with those actors affects their ability to secure their ideal legal arrangement and the level of surveillance they must endure. These findings illuminate how seemingly rigid legal processes can reproduce inequalities in rural jurisdictions. In this case, the unequal distribution of legal-specific social capital precipitates different levels of stability and support afforded to rural kinship families.

[When Mamaw Becomes Mom: Social Capital and Kinship Family Formation amid the Rural Opioid Crisis](#)

Amid the opioid crisis, the number of kinship families—or children living with relatives—has risen dramatically, particularly in rural communities. In this report, the author considers how rural kinship families are formed and how relatives' experiences depend on the social capital they hold with local legal actors who regulate kinship care.

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