



REACHING RURAL: ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

Solicitation Webinar

November 6, 2024



PRESENTERS



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Senior Policy Advisor

Bureau of Justice
Assistance



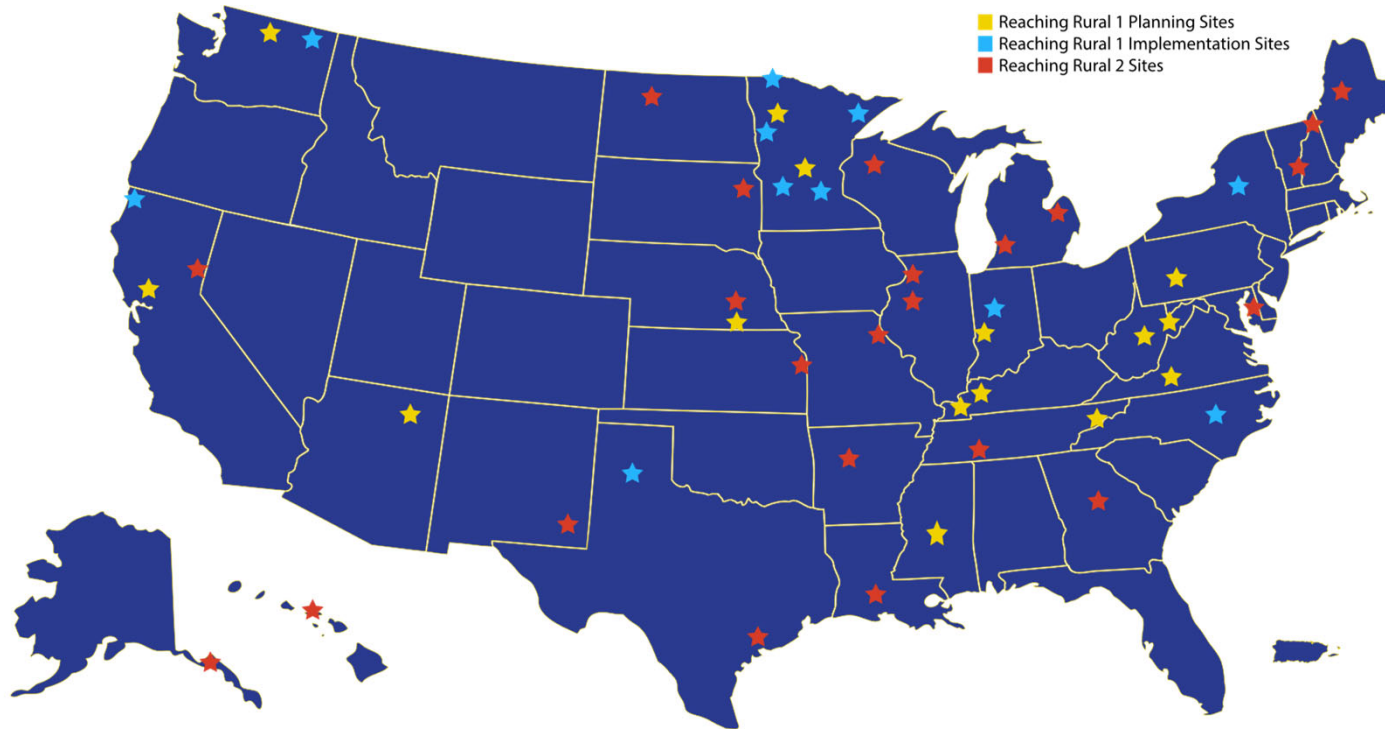
Kathy Rowings,
Manager-Interagency
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AGENDA FOR TODAY'S WEBINAR

- 1 Overview of Opportunity
- 2 Eligibility Criteria
- 3 How to Apply
- 4 Questions and Answers

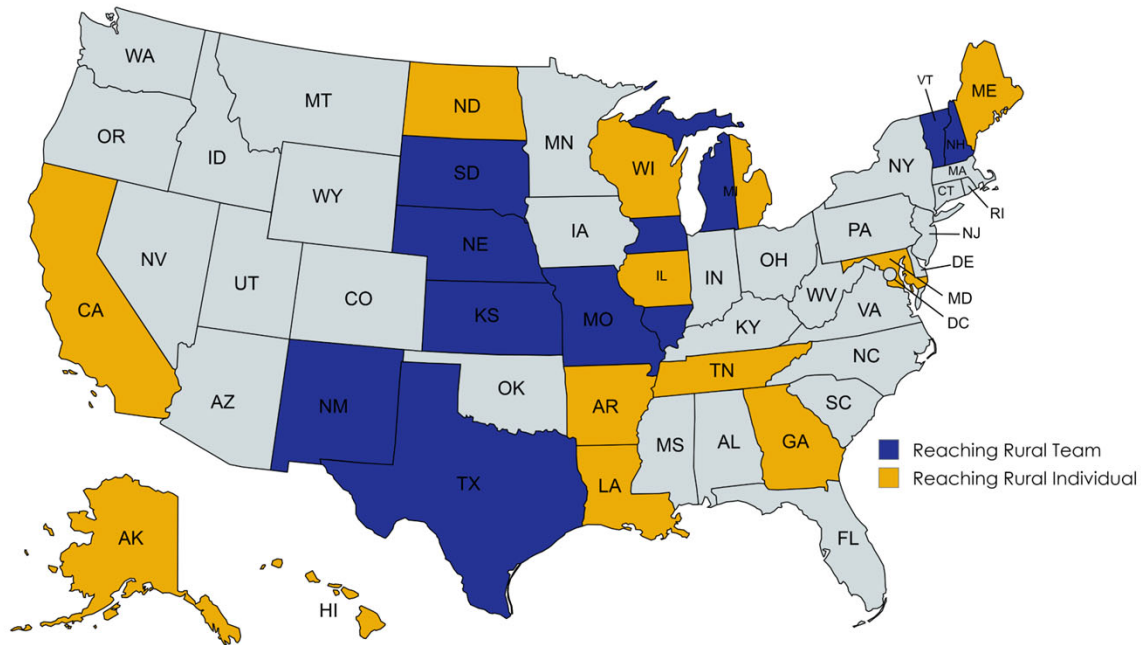
REACHING RURAL FELLOWS PAST & PRESENT



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CURRENT REACHING RURAL FELLOWS



73 Fellows
10 Teams
13 Individuals

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FEEDBACK FROM REACHING RURAL PARTICIPANTS

“I love that Reaching Rural is not just training elements but the practical work on our projects and understanding the funding sources more deeply than just looking at the websites.”

“I think Reaching Rural has challenged our team to think outside the box and to truly dive into the issue(s) we are addressing instead of just the lip service or minimal evaluation that often happens with busy schedules and a lack of resources (personal and financial).”

“This initiative has allowed a diverse group of professionals to come together to work on critical issues and formulate partnerships that will have a lasting impact.”

“I have also learned so much from our in-person convenings and from other fellows. It is so refreshing to be in spaces with like-minded individuals. I have also been exposed to several ideas and initiatives I am unsure I would have encountered otherwise.”

WHAT ARE THE GOALS?

The goal of the Reaching Rural initiative is to

- Empower rural practitioners to build deeper networks, particularly across sectors
- Encourage rural practitioners to reimagine how diverse systems with different missions can engage with one another to more effectively serve justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders (SUD) or co-occurring disorders
- Help rural practitioners adopt bold solutions to the persistent challenge of substance use and misuse in rural communities

OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITY

Year 1:
Planning
(no grant funding)

Year 2:
Implementation
Grant opportunity

The Reaching Rural initiative is a one-year planning initiative with the opportunity to apply for an implementation grant of up to \$100,000 at the end of the planning period.

During the planning period, participants in the Reaching Rural initiative will be reimbursed for their travel expenses when attending sponsored activities.

OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITY

- One-year planning initiative for rural public safety, public health, and behavioral health practitioners; city, county, and tribal leaders; and other community stakeholders
- Focus on more effectively serving justice-involved individuals with SUD or co-occurring disorders
- All proposed activities exclusively target rural populations
- At the conclusion of the planning period Reaching Rural fellows will have the opportunity to apply for an implementation grant of up to \$100,000 for up to 15 months to launch a project planned during the Reaching Rural fellowship

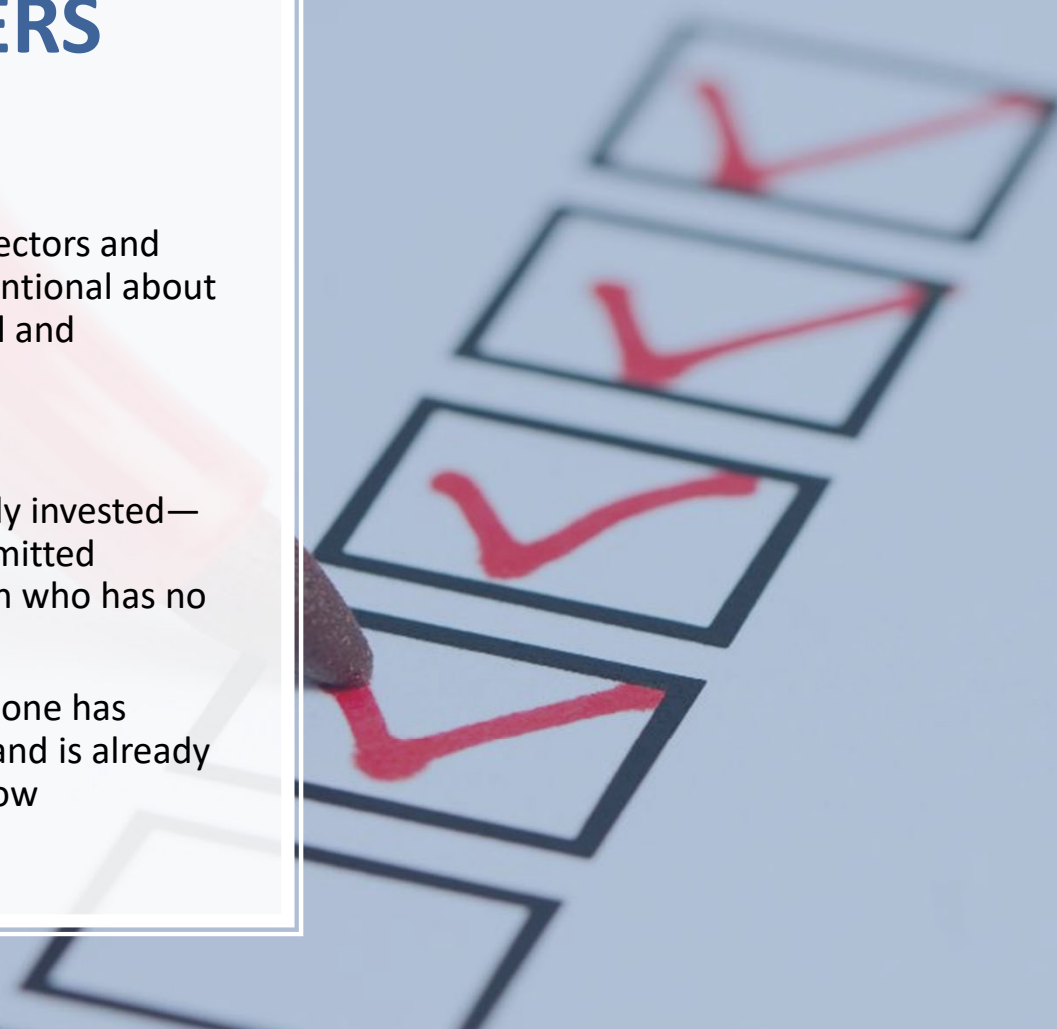


DEFINING “RURAL”

- We completely understand that defining “rural” is complex and that there are multiple federal definitions!
- We have provided a link to the **Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer** in the solicitation on page 2 as a starting point for defining “rural”
- However, if you believe your community is rural but it is not identified as such by the tool above, please provide your best documentation that your community has been designated as rural by an alternative state or federal agency

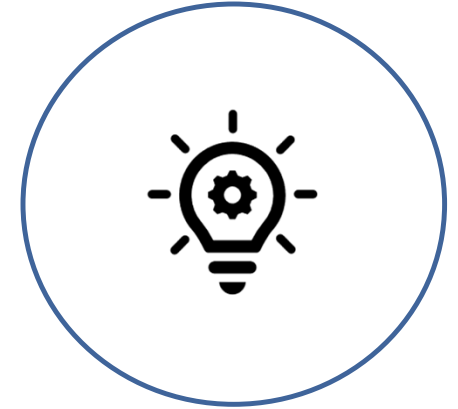
WHAT ARE THE REVIEWERS LOOKING FOR?

- Applicants who genuinely want to work with other sectors and learn from one another—to that end, we will be intentional about selecting people and teams with diverse professional and personal backgrounds
- Geographic diversity
- **Team applications only:** Team members who are truly invested—we would rather you propose the right team of committed members versus putting a person on your application who has no intention of showing up and working with your team
- Ability to commit to the time requirements—if someone has already committed to several big projects next year and is already stretched thin, this is not the right opportunity for now



WHAT ARE “BOLD” SOLUTIONS?

- This effort is about breaking down silos and thinking beyond your agency’s current way of doing business and your agency’s boundaries. To that end, “bold” is relative to where you are starting from
- We look to you to define “bold” for yourself (or your team) and set goals that are achievable within your community



TIME COMMITMENT

| Tentative Month | Description of Activity | Estimated Time Commitment |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| February 24, 2025 | Virtual kick-off meeting | 1.5-hour meeting |
| March 2025 | Pre-work for the face-to-face meeting and meeting with coaches | 2 hours of pre-work offline 1 hour meeting |
| April 8-10, 2025 REQUIRED TRAVEL | In-person meeting | 2.5 days of meetings plus 2 travel days |
| May 2025 | Individuals: Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work Teams: On-site strategic planning with coaches | 1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline 4 hours of pre-work offline 1-day meeting in community with team members |
| June/July 2025 REQUIRED TRAVEL | Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work OR in-person peer-to-peer site visit | 1-hour meeting with coaches and 2 hours of follow-up work offline one month 2.5 days of meetings plus travel days the other month |
| August 2025 | Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work | 1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline |
| September 2025 | Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work | 1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline |
| October 2025 | Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work | 1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline |
| November 2025 | Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work | 1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline |
| December 2025 | Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work | 1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline |
| January 2026 | Rehearsal and prep for final presentations | 1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline |
| February 3-5, 2026 REQUIRED TRAVEL | In-person meeting | 2.5 days of meetings plus 2 travel days |

* Teams will also engage with coaches in on-site strategic planning in their community, to be scheduled in June or July based on need and availability



IN-PERSON MEETINGS

- Our goal is for participants to build a network with their rural peers and be exposed to a variety of rural innovation
- To that end, our goal is to hold three in-person meetings with the Reaching Rural fellows
- Participants will receive travel and per diem costs to participate in an orientation and a closing session at the end of the 12 months



SITE COACHES AND FACULTY

- Every team or individual will be assigned a team of coaches who will meet monthly with you (virtually) for an hour to check in, provide resources and support, answer questions, and review next steps
- Rural practitioners will serve as faculty at the in-person meetings to provide expert guidance and facilitation
- Coaches will provide onsite strategic planning site visits in your community to support your planning process

What are the pathways for applying for Reaching Rural?



OR



AS AN INDIVIDUAL

AS A TEAM



Question: Can I submit two applications—one as a team and one as an individual—to increase my odds of being selected?

Answer: Yes



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: CROSS-SECTOR TEAMS

Each team must, at a minimum, consist of four people

- ✓ **Mandatory Team Member 1:** A justice representative (e.g., prosecutor's office, defense organizations/agencies, sheriff's office, police department, community supervision [pretrial or probation], judicial officer)
- ✓ **Mandatory Team Member 2:** A second justice representative from a different agency than Mandatory Team Member 1
- ✓ **Mandatory Team Member 3:** A health care system representative (e.g., public health department, hospital, emergency medical service, etc.)
- ✓ **Mandatory Team Member 4:** A substance use or co-occurring substance use and mental health treatment professional

Travel funds will be provided for **up to six people** per team, **one person per agency**

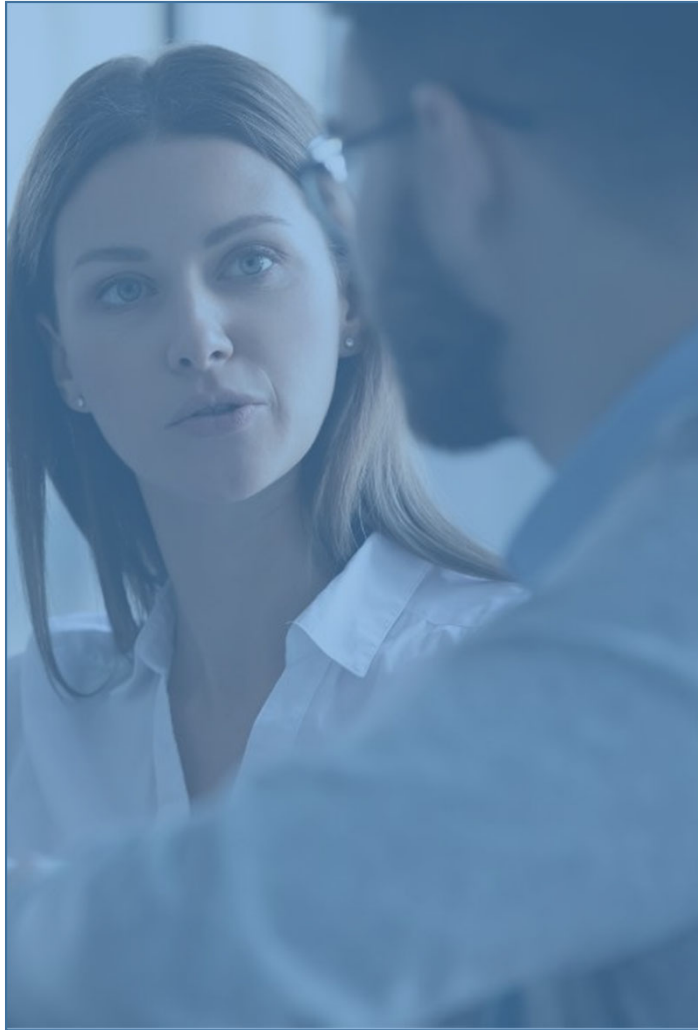
Applicants are encouraged to include optional team members from additional sectors who bring value to the project



Priority Consideration:

- If one team member is a judicial officer such as a judge, magistrate, or court administrator
- If one team member is an individual with lived experience, including Peer Recovery Support Specialists or similar positions

One of the team members must serve as the **local project coordinator** who will serve as the primary point of contact for the initiative, ensuring team members are active and present and deadlines are met



WHAT IS EXPECTED OF TEAMS?

Cross-sector teams will

- Prioritize opportunities and strategies and commit to action
- Build a road map for local implementation
- Identify resources to support the implementation of the road map



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: INDIVIDUAL PRACTITIONERS

Rural practitioners who work for

- ✓ A local unit of government (city, town, county, parish)
OR
- ✓ A federally recognized Indian tribal government (as determined by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior)
OR
- ✓ A nonprofit agency that works with a local unit of government or federally recognized Indian tribal government to respond to substance use or misuse issues and/or individuals with co-occurring disorders



Applicants who work for a for-profit company will be considered on a case-by-case basis but will need a letter of support from the local government or tribal entity they work closely with in their current role



WHAT IS EXPECTED OF INDIVIDUAL PRACTITIONERS?

Individual practitioners will

- Have the capacity to commit to the project for the year and have a working knowledge of how their agency and/or their current role interfaces with individuals with SUDs and the justice system
- Commit to a project or individualized learning opportunity that will be developed in collaboration with their coach

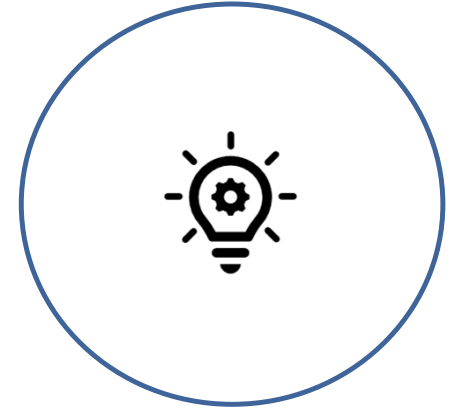
This opportunity will primarily benefit agency leaders and mid-level staff members. If that's not you, that's okay! Apply and tell us why you are a good fit.

A NOTE ABOUT TREATMENT COURT TEAM APPLICANTS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECTS

- Applicants are welcome to apply using members of an existing treatment court team. However, the Reaching Rural experience and access to funds is not intended to plan or expand a treatment court. Therefore, your application should clearly indicate that your team is willing to work on ideas and solutions that extend outside of their existing treatment court and serve a broader group of community members.
- If you are interested in support to plan a new Adult Treatment Court, please visit <https://allrise.org/trainings/adult-drug-court-foundational-training/>.
- Similarly, applicants can include team members who serve the juvenile justice population; however, projects and funds are not intended to support juvenile justice-focused work. If youth and families is an area of interest for your community, applications will need to be clear about the nexus to the adult criminal justice system.

WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF “PROJECTS?”

- If you are selected, we will spend the first 3-6 months working with you to define this (if you do not already have a clear vision)
- The following are examples from previous fellows (but not an exhaustive list!)
 - ✓ Implement a medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) program in the jail
 - ✓ Enhance peer support services for individuals with SUD in jails and through reentry
 - ✓ Convene stakeholders and providers in the community to develop a resource of all community-based support services for justice-involved individuals with SUD
 - ✓ Hire a project coordinator to align and expand community-wide efforts to address SUD
 - ✓ Create a plan to open a recovery café in a community
 - ✓ Enhance transportation options for individuals who need access to SUD treatment





APPLICATIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 16, 2024

- ✓ Submit the appropriate application form (team or individual) via the application link in the solicitation on page 6. Do not forget any additional requirements if they apply to you!
- ✓ If you have questions while applying, please reach out to info@COSSUP.org.
We are here to help you!
- ✓ The review committee will consist of federal sponsor (BJA, CDC, SJI) representatives, IIR, and the site coaches.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How many applications will be selected?**

We anticipate a similar cohort to the current Reaching Rural opportunity, which has 10 teams and 13 individuals. However, the applicant pool will determine the final distribution.

- **When will selected applicants be notified?**

You will be notified by email by January 24, 2025. We will notify applicants who are not selected, but this may take an additional two weeks.

- **How do I know if I'm what you are looking for?**

There is no one thing we are looking for beyond what we have stated. Our best advice: if you are interested and committed to doing the work, apply.

QUESTIONS?