



REACHING RURAL: ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

Solicitation Webinar
August 31, 2022



PRESENTER



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Bureau of Justice Assistance



AGENDA FOR TODAY'S WEBINAR

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



FEEDBACK FROM RURAL PRACTITIONERS THAT SHAPED THE REACHING RURAL SOLICITATION

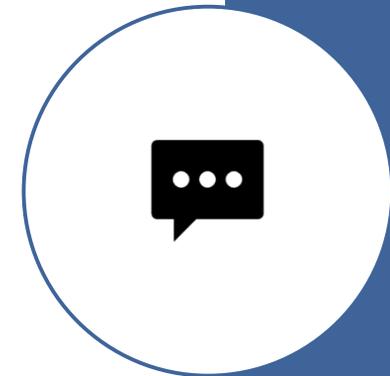
“I feel as if most initiatives spend so much time identifying problems without any time being spent on practical solutions—things that can be done the next day, week, year, etc. While I do love a good, ‘We can change the world and do BIG things’ session, it does not feel like a practical use of time or limited resources.

I need guidance and assistance doing the next five small things—knowing what those things are and what resources are available—so the big, game-changing thing we’re always talking about can actually be achieved in my rural community.”

“We need to have more than one interaction with a trainer so that ongoing relationships can be supported and maintained.”

“There are rarely opportunities to learn from other rural agencies.”

“We need skill-building and practical tools that we can take away and use/adapt to our program needs.”



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



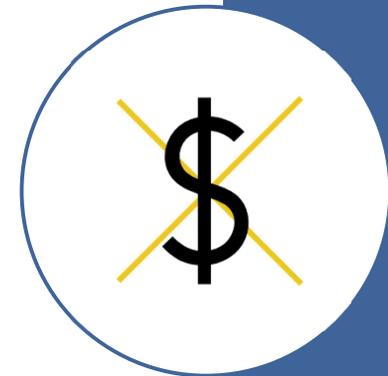
BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITY

The Reaching Rural initiative is not a grant opportunity.

(However, you will be ready to write a competitive grant at the end of the 12 months if that is your goal!)

Participants in the Reaching Rural initiative will be reimbursed for their travel expenses when attending sponsored activities. No additional funding is provided as a result of being selected for the Reaching Rural initiative.



OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITY

- One-year 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



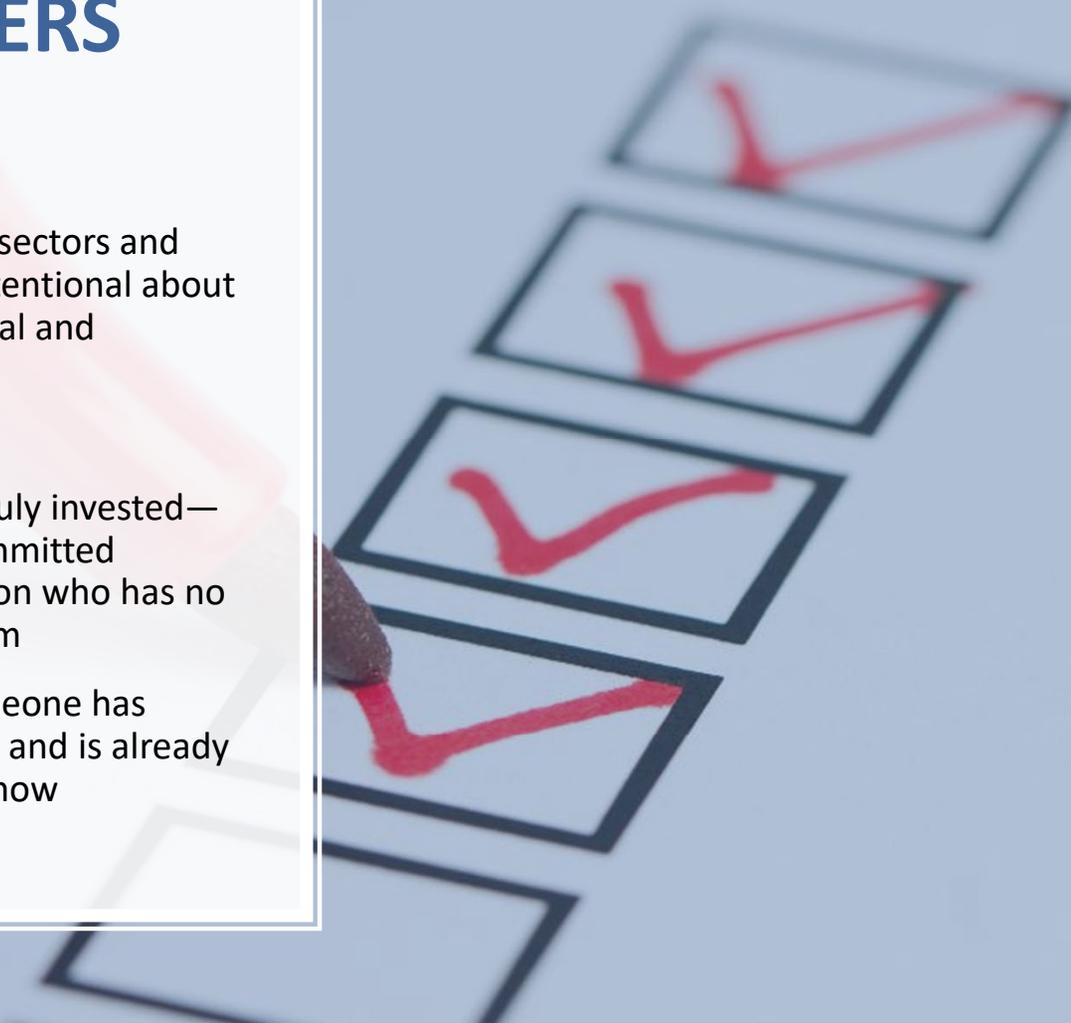
DEFINING “RURAL”

- 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 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



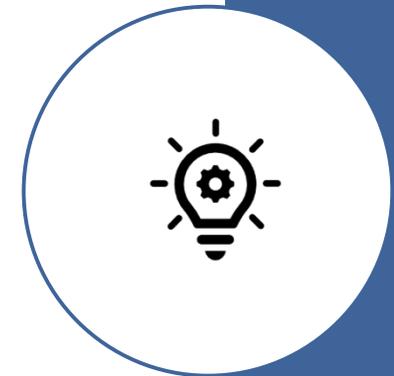
WHAT ARE THE REVIEWERS LOOKING FOR?

- 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
December 2022	Virtual kick-off meeting	1-hour pre-work offline, 2-hour meeting
December 2022/ January 2023	Virtual meeting with site liaison	1.5-hour meeting
January 2023	Pre-work for a face-to-face meeting	3 hours work offline
February 2023	In-person meeting	2.5 days of meetings + travel days
March 2023	Virtual site visit and follow-up work	2-hour meeting/2 hours follow-up work offline
April 2023	Virtual site visit and virtual meeting with site liaison and follow-up work	2-hour meeting/2 hours follow-up work offline and 1-hour meeting/2 hours follow-up work offline
May/June 2023	In-person meeting	2.5 days of meetings + travel days
July 2023	Virtual site visit and follow-up work	2-hour meeting/2 hours follow-up work offline
August 2023	Virtual meeting with site liaison and follow-up work	1-hour meeting/2 hours follow-up work offline
September 2023	Virtual site visit and follow-up work	2-hour meeting/2 hours follow-up work offline
October 2023	Finalize plans/projects	4 hours work offline
November 2023	In-person meeting	2.5 days of meetings + travel days



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 in rural America. We anticipate we will meet in three different geographic locations
- Participants will receive travel and per diem costs to participate in an orientation, a field visit to observe the implementation of evidence-informed practices in a rural setting, and a closing session at the end of the 12 months





SITE LIAISONS AND FACULTY

- Every team or individual will be assigned a liaison who will meet monthly with you (virtually) for an hour to check in, provide resources and support, answer questions, and review next steps
- We will have rural faculty
- Virtual site visits will present a variety of different types of programs that have been implemented in rural settings



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 from four different sectors

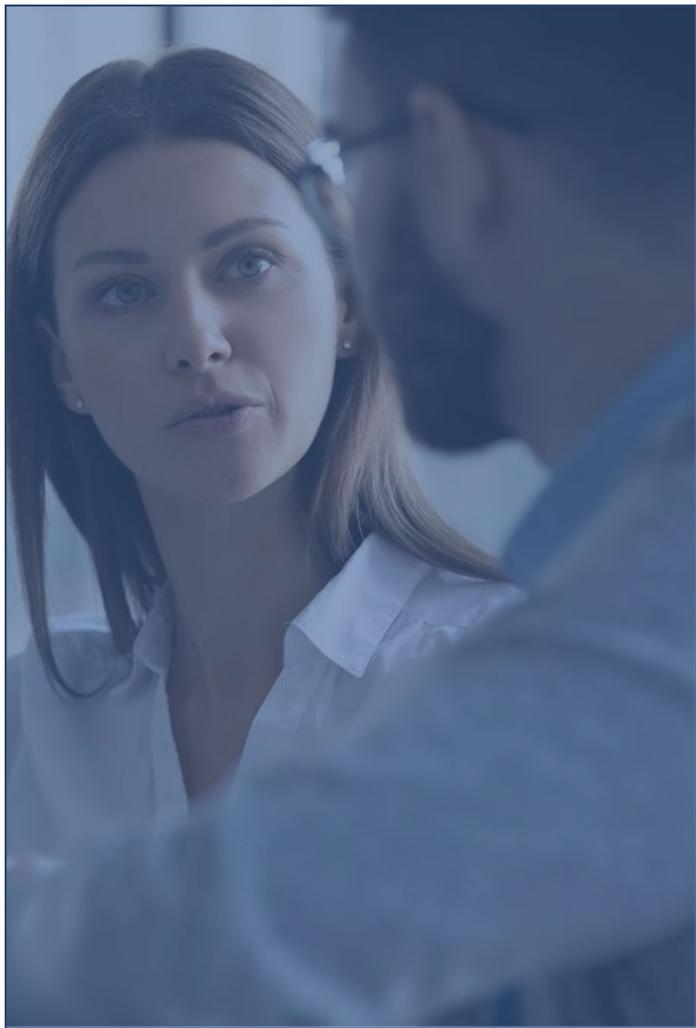
- ✓ **Mandatory Team Member 1:** An elected or appointed local government representative or tribal leader
- ✓ **Mandatory Team Member 2:** A justice or public safety representative (e.g., prosecutor's office, defense organizations/agencies, sheriff's office, police department, community supervision [pretrial or probation], judicial officer)
- ✓ **Mandatory Team Member 3:** A public health official
- ✓ **Mandatory Team Member 4:** A substance use 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





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

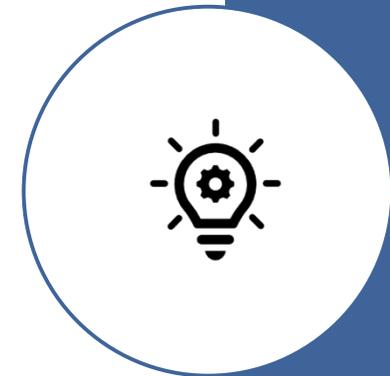
- Commit to a project or individualized learning opportunity that will be developed in collaboration with their assigned site liaison

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.



WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF “PROJECTS?”

- If you are selected, we will spend the first three months working with you to define this (if you do not already have a clear vision)
- The following is an illustrative example (but not an exhaustive list!)
 - ✓ Researching program examples and developing a proposal to present to your leadership
 - ✓ Writing your first federal grant or funding proposal
 - ✓ Revising agency protocol to increase access to treatment or recovery support
 - ✓ Convening others in your community to brainstorm solutions to shared challenges
 - ✓ Conducting a survey to gather data
 - ✓ Developing a training





Applications are due September 30, 2022

- ✓ Submit the appropriate application form (team or individual) electronically to COSSAP@iir.com. Do not forget any additional requirements if they apply to you!
- ✓ If you have questions while applying, please reach out to COSSAP@iir.com.
We are here to help you!
- ✓ The review committee will consist of federal sponsor (BJA, CDC, SJI) representatives, NACo, select rural practitioners, IIR, and the site liaisons





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

We anticipate selecting up to 10 cross-sector teams and no more than 20 individual practitioners. However, the applicant pool will determine the final distribution.

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

You will be notified by email on or around November 1, 2022. We will notify applicants who are not selected, but this may take an additional two weeks.

- **I am a peer recovery support specialist. Am I eligible?**

Your voice is valued, and we would welcome your application! If you work for a nonprofit, you are automatically eligible. If you work for a for-profit organization, see the note on page 4 of the solicitation about obtaining a letter of support.

- **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?