



Pretrial, Prosecution, Defense Counsel, and Courts Mentoring Initiative

Overview/Purpose

The Pretrial, Prosecution, Defense Counsel, and Courts Mentoring Initiative is a mentor-mentee opportunity offered through the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP). This initiative supports programs, practices, organizations, and jurisdictions focused on diverting justice-involved persons with substance use disorders to community-based treatment or connecting individuals to treatment and support services during the pretrial and court adjudication phases of justice processing.

The purposes of the Pretrial, Prosecution, Defense Counsel, and Courts Mentoring Initiative are to:

- ◀ **Promote peer-to-peer learning** among organizations that are implementing programs or practices that support individuals intersecting with the criminal justice system post-arrest.
- ◀ **Disseminate evidence-supported** programming, promising approaches, and best practices.
- ◀ **Support implementation** of pretrial, prosecution, defense counsel, and/or courts practices and programs, in collaboration with community partners.

The Pretrial, Prosecution, Defense Counsel, and Courts Mentoring Initiative provides an opportunity for new or early-stage programs to be matched with and learn from experienced practitioners in a structured way. The mentor sites serve as models for individuals and teams interested in starting a new practice or for established programs interested in learning innovative approaches.

The Office of Justice Programs provides definitions to distinguish between programs and practices, which include:

- ◀ **Practices:** strategies or procedures that share similar characteristics with regard to the issues they address and how they address them
- ◀ **Programs:** a set of activities that are carried out according to guidelines or policies that achieve a defined purpose





Mentor Sites

Who can be a mentor site? Example criteria can include:

- ◀ Having established programs or practices focused on diverting justice-involved persons with substance use disorders to community-based treatment and develop or enhance programming and support services during the pretrial through court adjudication phases of justice processing.
- ◀ Using evidence-supported practices and policies.
- ◀ Focusing on outcomes; use data to assess program efficacy.
- ◀ Demonstrating that programmatic interventions lead to positive outcomes.
- ◀ Cultivating strong collaborations among court actors, community partners, child welfare, substance use treatment agencies, and others.

To learn more about the mentor program, go to <https://cossup.org/Learn/PeerToPeer>.

Mentee Sites

The Pretrial, Prosecution, Defense Counsel, and Courts Mentoring Initiative offers a unique opportunity for jurisdictions or organizations to observe and learn from innovative and experienced programs that have demonstrated success in meeting the treatment needs of individuals with substance use disorders. Mentee sites will be matched with a mentor site for support through direct communication and a site visit to see firsthand how the established program works. BJA will support the travel of up to three individuals from approved communities to participate in an onsite visit of a mentor site.

Expectations of Pretrial, Prosecution, Defense Counsel, and Courts mentees:

- ◀ **Engage a consistent team** of three to five individuals that works with RTI International (RTI) for active participation and on arranging travel plans.
- ◀ **Participate in virtual meetings and learning sessions** with RTI and the mentor that includes at a minimum a 1-hour introductory call at least 1 week before the site visit.
- ◀ **Ensure at least two team members participate in site visits** to the assigned mentor sites.
- ◀ **Develop a brief plan** with the RTI Training and Technical Assistance Team for program development based on lessons learned from the mentorship.
- ◀ **Complete** a survey questionnaire at the end of the mentorship.

Mentee site applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Should you have any questions about the application process or issues with submission, please email info@cossup.org.

Visit the COSSUP Resource Center at www.cossup.org.

To learn more about the mentor program, go to <https://cossup.org/Learn/PeerToPeer>.

About BJA

BJA provides leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support local, state, and tribal law enforcement in achieving safer communities. To learn more about BJA, visit www.bja.gov and follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DOJBJA) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.

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