

# REACHING RURAL: ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

## Solicitation Webinar

November 14, 2023



# PRESENTERS



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# AGENDA FOR TODAY'S WEBINAR

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

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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.”

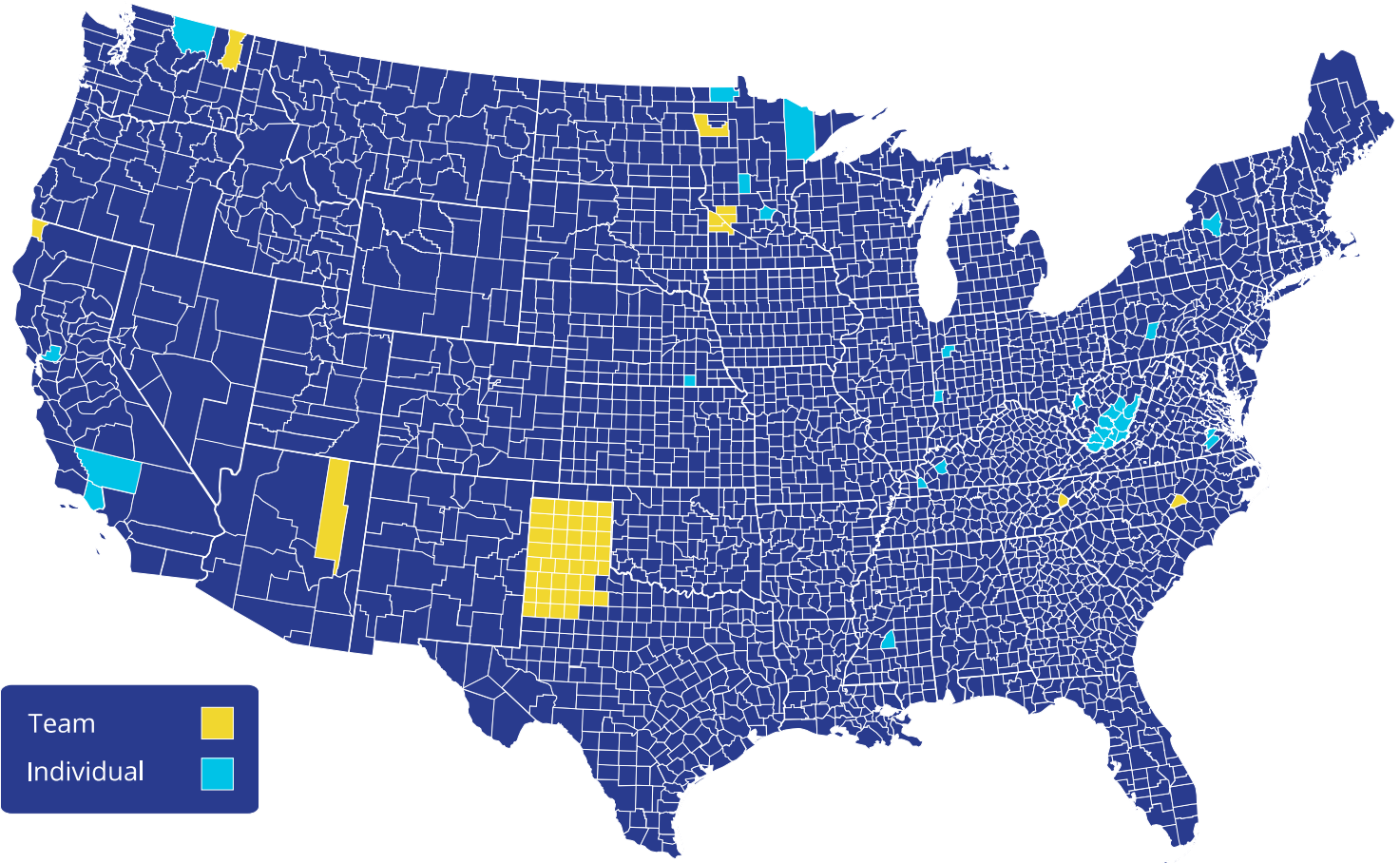
“I think Reaching Rural has challenged our team to think outside the box and to truly dive into the issue(s) we are addressing instead of just the lip service or minimal evaluation that often happens with busy schedules and a lack of resources (personal and financial).”

“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.”



# CURRENT REACHING RURAL FELLOWS



**8 Teams**  
**17 Individuals**

[REACHINGRURAL.COSSAPRESOURCES.ORG](http://REACHINGRURAL.COSSAPRESOURCES.ORG)

# 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

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# OVERVIEW OF 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.**

**Year 1:**  
Planning  
(no grant funding)

**Year 2:**  
Implementation  
Grant opportunity

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?

A red pencil is shown pointing towards a series of black-outlined boxes arranged in a diagonal line. The boxes are on a light blue background. The top four boxes contain a red checkmark, while the bottom two boxes are empty. The pencil is positioned over the bottom-most box.

- 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

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# 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 2024	Virtual kick-off meeting	1.5-hour meeting
March 2024	Pre-work for the face-to-face meeting and meeting with coaches	2 hours of pre-work offline, 1 hour meeting
April 2024	In-person meeting	2.5 days of meetings plus travel days
May 2024	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 2024	Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work	1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline
July/August 2024	Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work or in-person site visits	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
September 2024	Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work	1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline
October 2024	Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work	1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline
November 2024	Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work	1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline
December 2024	Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work	1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline
January 2025	Virtual meeting with coaches and follow-up work	1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline
February 2025	Rehearsal and prep for final presentations	1-hour meeting with coaches 2 hours of follow-up work offline
February 2025	In-person meeting	2.5 days of meetings plus 2 travel days

A group of diverse business professionals, including men and women of various ethnicities, are seated in a meeting room. They are dressed in professional attire like blazers and button-down shirts. Many are holding blue folders or documents, suggesting an active meeting or presentation. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the participants in the foreground.

## 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



## 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 public health official
- ✓ **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

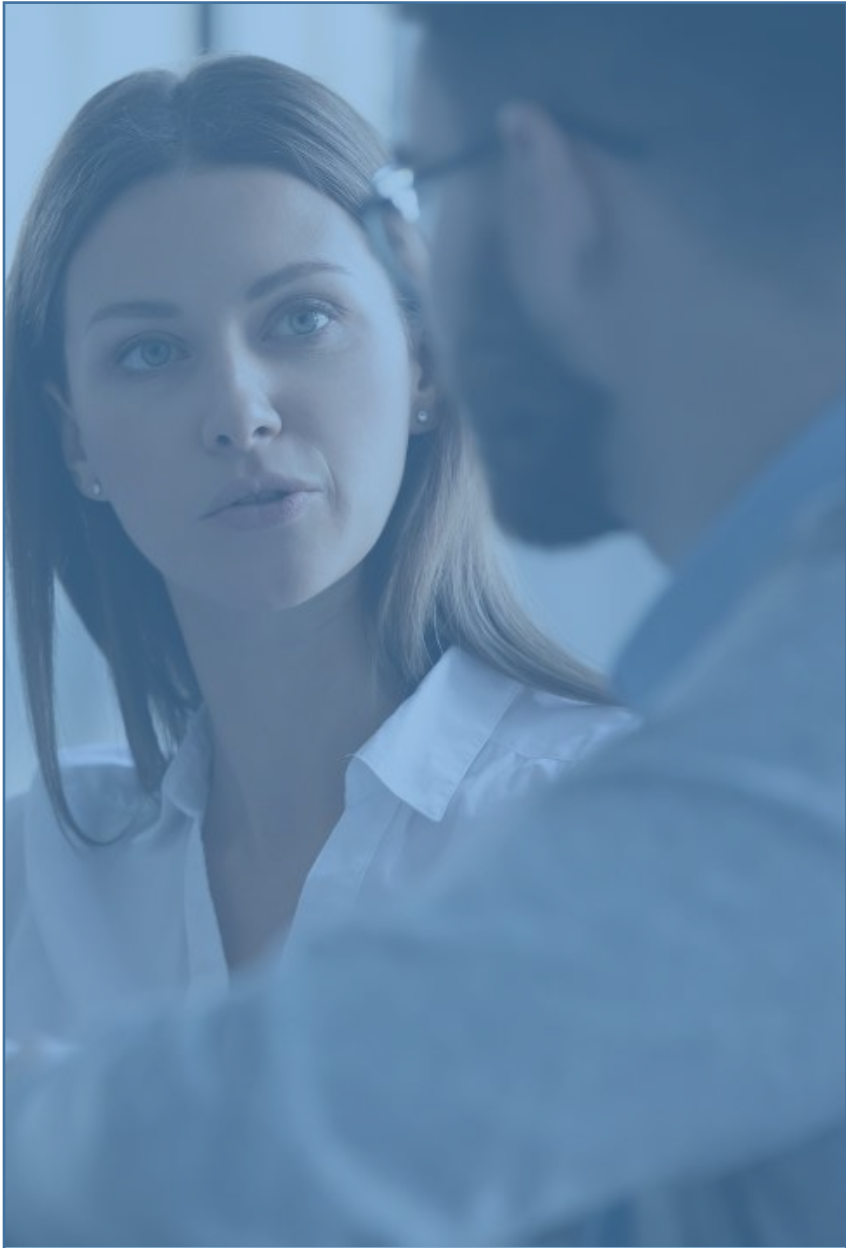


### Priority Consideration:

- If one team member is a judicial officer such as a judge or court administrator
- If one team member is an elected or appointed local government representative or tribal leader

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



## 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.

# 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 current 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
  - ✓ Develop an action plan to implement and fund programs to support acute behavioral health crisis services in a community through a crisis response center
  - ✓ 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 15, 2023

- ✓ 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 [COSSUP@iir.com](mailto:COSSUP@iir.com).  
**We are here to help you!**
- ✓ The review committee will consist of federal sponsor (BJA, CDC, SJI) representatives, select rural practitioners, IIR, and the site coaches



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

We anticipate a similar cohort to the first Reaching Rural opportunity, which has 8 teams and 17 individuals. However, the applicant pool will determine the final distribution.

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

You will be notified by email by January 26, 2024. 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?

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