

# Justice Innovation Center for Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Criminal Justice Agencies

## Mission Statement

Innovative tactics and new technologies can drive large improvements in the effectiveness of law enforcement, corrections, and courts nationwide. Too often, however, these innovations are not designed for or never reach small, rural, tribal, and border (SRTB) justice systems.

SRTB justice systems account for three quarters of all criminal justice agencies nationwide. However, because they are so widespread and have relatively few employees, they lack a centralized voice to influence the development of technologies and other solutions.

To ensure that *all* criminal justice systems have a place at the table, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has developed the Justice Innovation Center for Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Criminal Justice Agencies (JIC) with the ongoing mission:

*To improve public safety and justice by identifying, evaluating, and disseminating technology solutions to the operational challenges of small, rural, tribal and border justice systems.*

**To achieve this mission, the JIC will bring together researchers and SRTB justice system practitioners to pursue three goals:**

- 1. Identify unmet operational needs that many SRTB justice systems share.** SRTB justice systems face a range of unique challenges or challenges for which the solutions available to large urban departments are impractical. The JIC will work hand-in-hand with practitioners from SRTB agencies to identify common operational requirements for which solutions are likely to contribute to large and widespread improvements in the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of departments and agencies. It will also seek to identify types of barriers that may arise in the practical implementation and application of these technologies.
- 2. Identify and rigorously evaluate new technologies or solutions to assess their effectiveness and cost-effectiveness when used by SRTB agencies.** Field tests by the JIC will consider not just whether innovations deliver needed capabilities to SRTB agencies but also their effect on operations, full life-cycle costs (including acquisition, training, and operations and maintenance), savings in time and other resources, safety issues, and how to measure their performance and demonstrate effectiveness in terms relevant at the level of the individual agency.
- 3. Support the adoption of innovations that meet the operational demands of SRTB law enforcement, courts, corrections, and community corrections agencies.** The JIC will promote the exchange of innovative solutions identified by SRTB agencies spread across the United States to pool their knowledge and experience with new technologies, and will develop research-based guidance on technologies and other solutions that are proving to be effective in SRTB settings.

The RAND Corporation is a research organization that develops solutions to public policy challenges to help make communities throughout the world safer and more secure, healthier and more prosperous. RAND is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and committed to the public interest.

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