

Problem Solving Courts: Standards + Outcomes

WSADCP 2024 Conference



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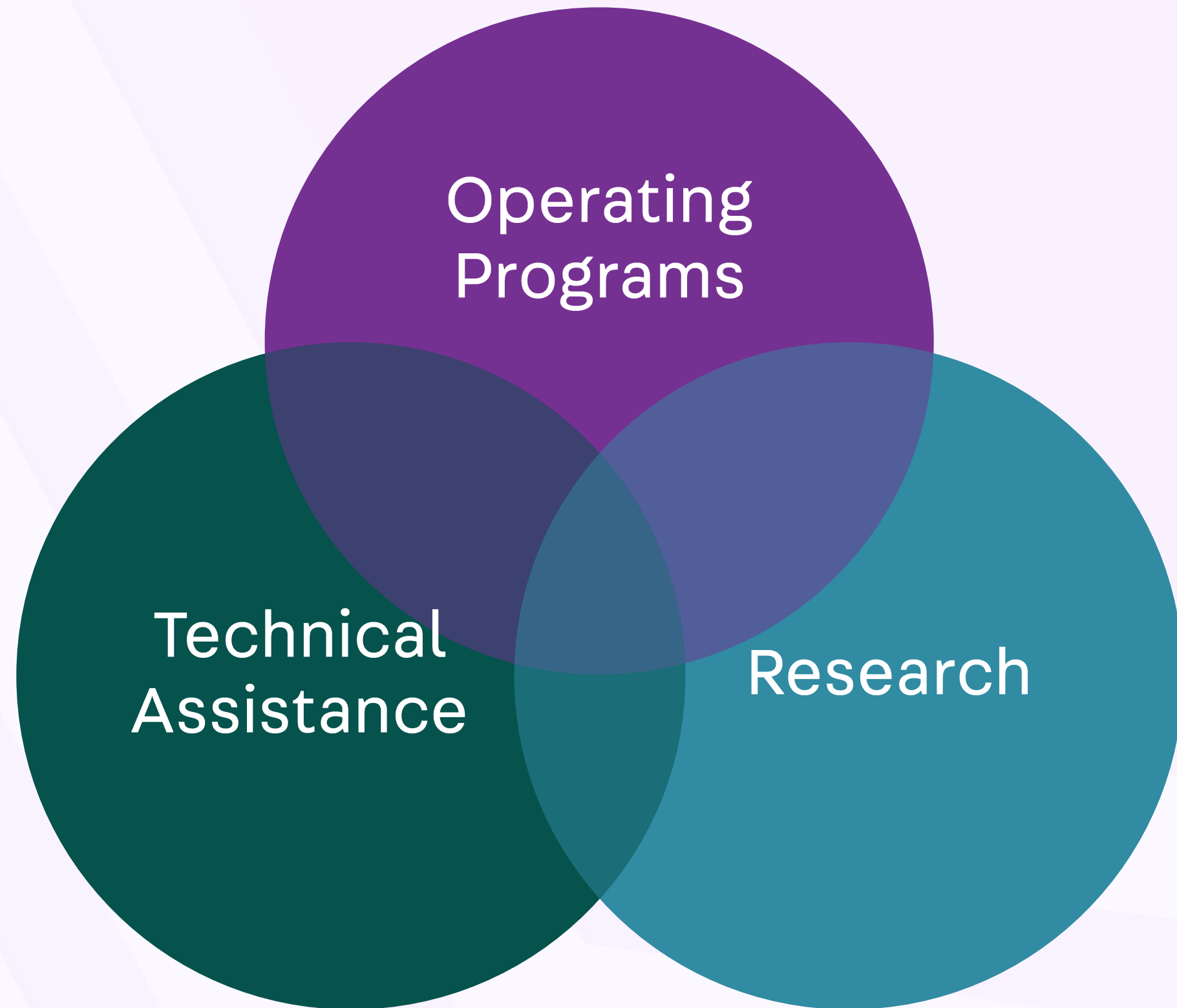
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Agenda

- Introduction
- Community Justice
- Guiding Principles
- What is a Community Court
- Breakout
- Q&A



THE CENTER FOR JUSTICE INNOVATION



- Community justice
- Early diversion
- Gender & family justice
- Jail reduction
- Procedural justice
- Treatment courts
- Tribal justice

WHAT IS TA?

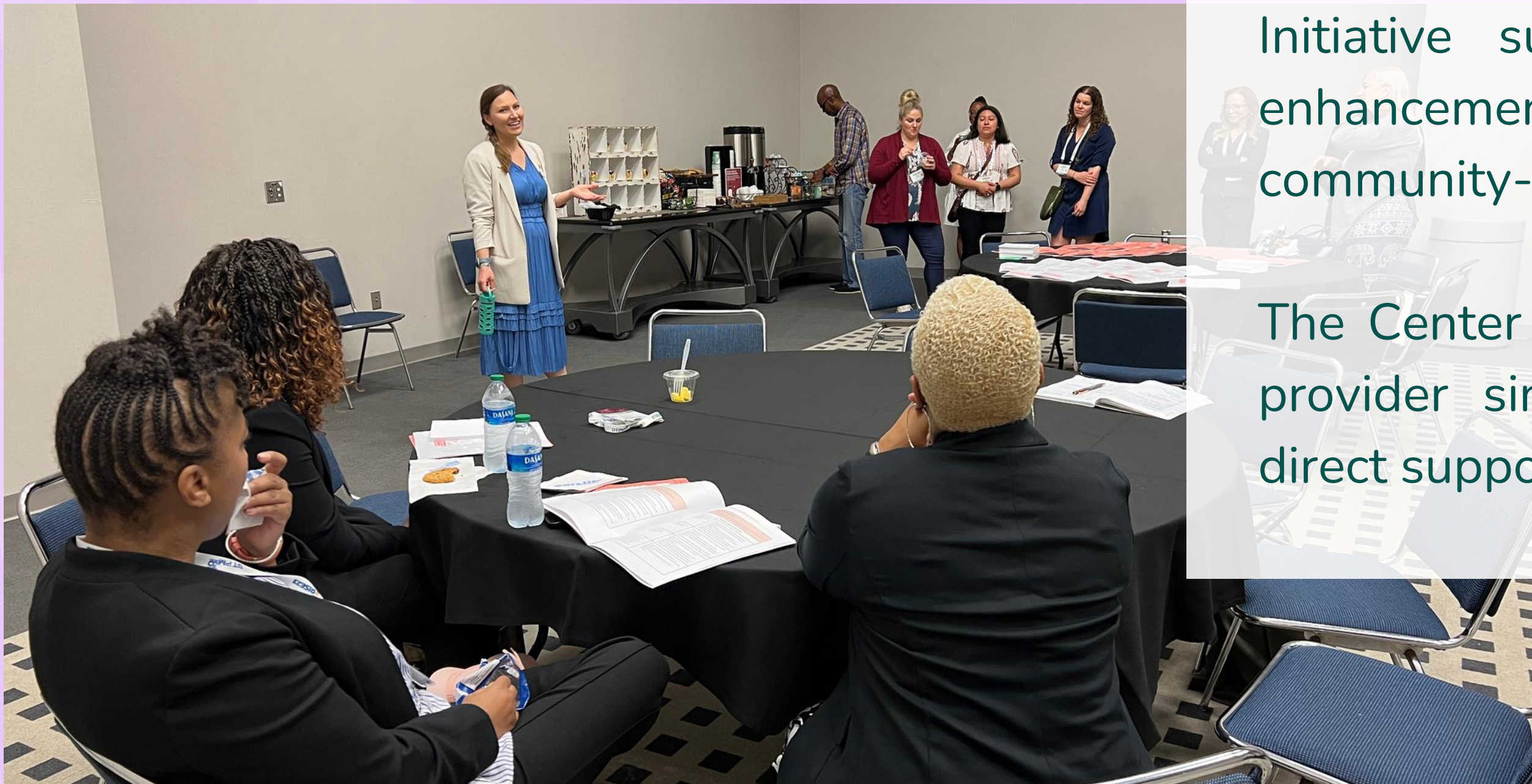
"You can't win alone, so find someone who's a winner and team up, but be a great teammate."



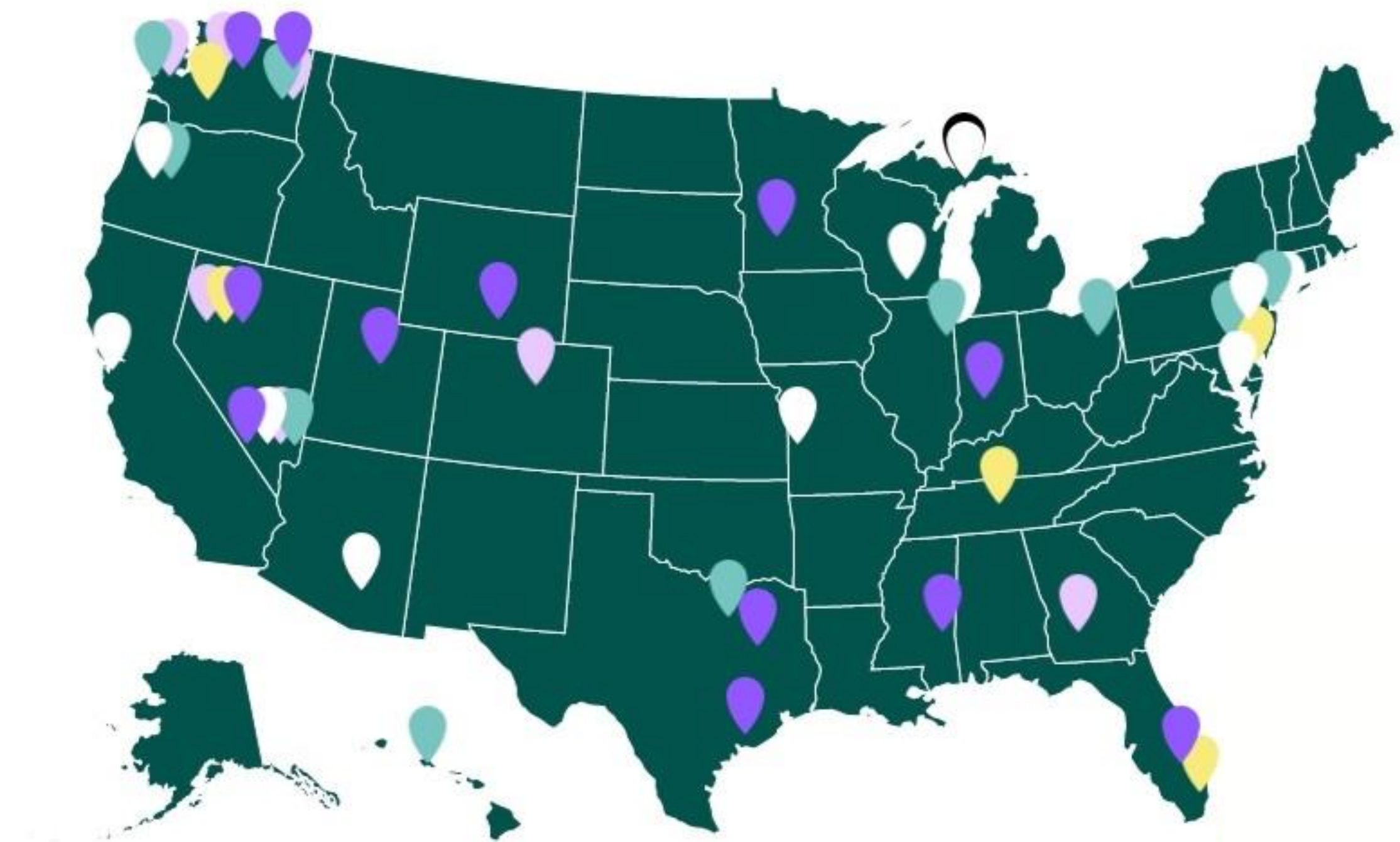
Bureau of Justice Assistance Community Court Initiative

The National Community Court Initiative supports the creation, enhancement, and evaluation of community-focused courts.

The Center has served as the TA provider since 2016 - providing direct support to 32 communities.



BJA Community Court Grant Recipients



Community Court Grant Sites





Spokane Community Court



South Dallas Community Court

Introduction to Community Justice



DEFINITION

Community Justice builds equitable, holistic, community-driven solutions that meet peoples' needs by preventing harm, reducing system involvement, and improving overall community health.



HOW?

Centering local voices to rethink how approaches to public safety can be more restorative, equitable, humane, and effective.

= Community Engagement



Judge Wang at Midtown Community Justice Center

Guiding Principles of Community Justice

1. Co-create
Justice

2. Prioritize
Community-
Based
Solutions

3. Promote
Accountability

4. Advance
Equity

5. Put People
First

6. Model
Innovation

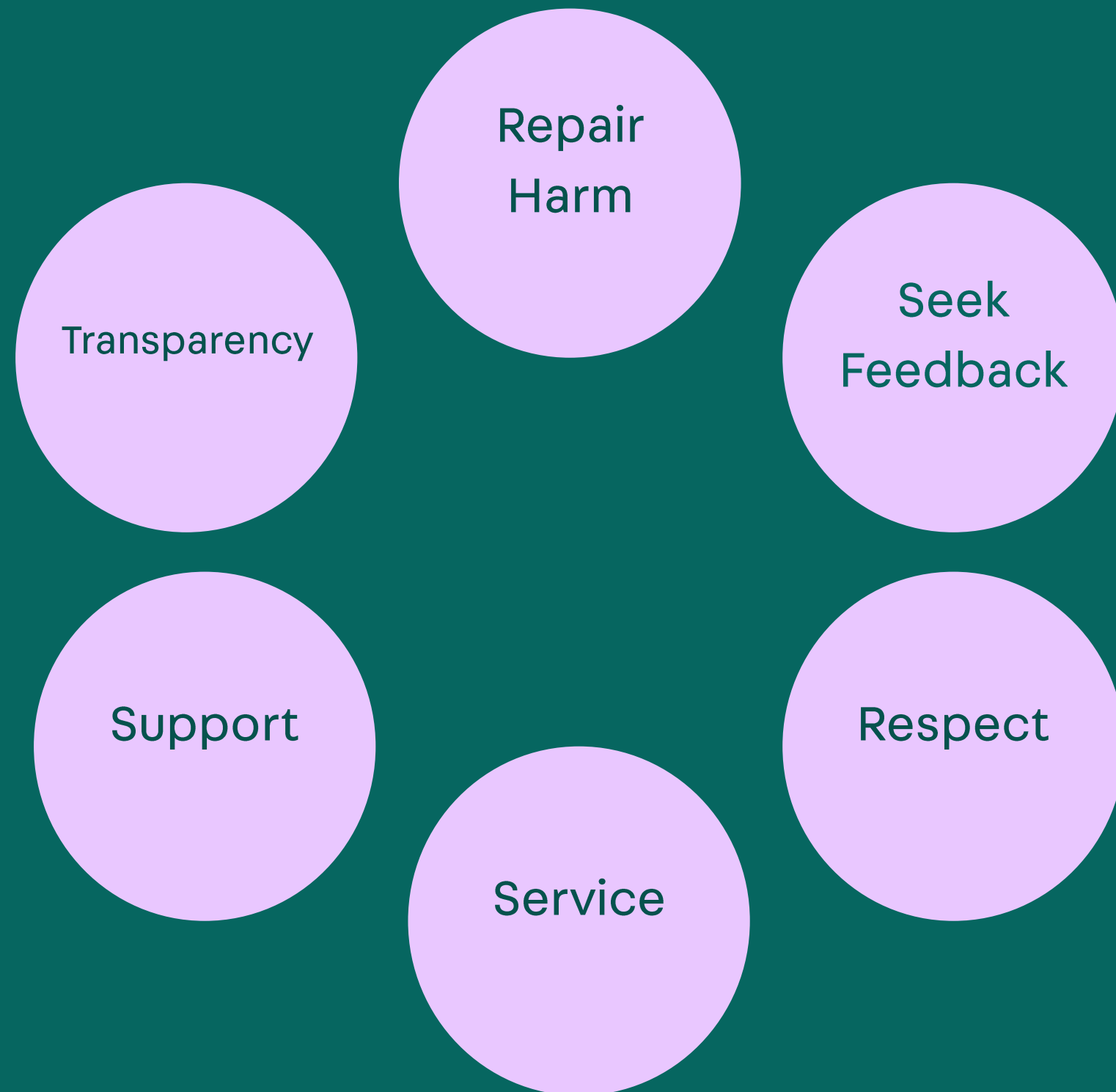
(1) Co-Create Justice



(2) Prioritize Community-Based Solutions

Invite justice partners, decision makers, community members, and impacted individuals into the process to assist in resolving conflicts.

(3) Promote Accountability



Promote mutual accountability, by ensuring everyone has equal access to justice.

(4) Advance Equity



Community justice programs are committed to equity and combating racism, seeking to end the justice system's disproportionate impact on people of color by emphasizing community investment, prevention, "upstream" diversion, and policies and practices that eliminate or reduce collateral consequences of conviction.

(5) Put People First

Community justice programs are successful because they empower their community to lead healthy, fulfilled lives and promote community safety, resiliency, and well-being.

(6) Model Innovation

Community courts stay on the cutting edge of justice system reform by pioneering new ideas that make the system more equitable, accessible, transparent, collaborative, and restorative.

What is a community court?

Community courts are neighborhood or issue focused court programs that combine the power of the community and the justice system to address local problems through community-based services and solutions.



South Dallas Community Court



Community Engagement

We seek to uplift innovations in community engagement to assist court systems and stakeholders to more meaningfully and effectively partner with the communities they serve.



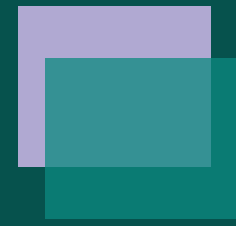
Procedural Justice



Judge Victoria Pratt

We seek to ensure that the justice system treats everybody with dignity and respect—thereby engendering trust—by providing guidance on incorporating voice, respect, understanding, and neutrality in all system interactions.

<https://www.innovatingjustice.org/areas-of-focus/procedural-justice>



Community Service



We seek to move away from traditional labor models of community service and toward restorative models that include community engagement, civic education, and personal growth.

Risk-Need-Responsivity

We provide guidance on building accountability into programs that are grounded in evidence-based practices, person centered, restorative, community-based, and address criminogenic risk factors.

- CCAT
- Needs Assessments
- Response Matrices



Resource Brainstorming



- What resources already exist to help address participants' diverse needs?
- Are they in-person, remote, or mobile?

Implementation Planning Process

Assessment and Planning

- Community engagement
- Needs assessment
- Resource mapping
- Roles / Responsibilities
- Policies & procedures
- Data and evaluation plan

Training

- Procedural justice
- Risk, Need, Responsivity
- Restorative justice
- Transformative listening
- Credible Messengers

Launch

- Implementation of evidence-based strategies
- Data collection
- Site visits

Evaluation

- Performance monitoring
- Independent evaluations
- Feedback loops
- Continuous community input

Break Out

Implementation of problem-solving courts often face numerous challenges. What do you think would be some of the biggest obstacles to effectively implementing problem-solving courts in various communities, and how might these challenges be overcome?



Practitioner Resources



Community Justice Publications



Community Justice Today: Values, Guiding Principles, and Models



Building the Research Base: An Evaluation Blueprint for Community Courts



Mapping Community Resources



Risk-Need-Responsivity: Response Recommendations for Community Courts



Conclusion

- Community justice centers the community
- Approaches to public safety can be more restorative, equitable, humane, and effective
- Invite your community in to assist in developing programming
- Challenges can be resolved through discussion with criminal justice partners and your community

THANK YOU

I N N O V A T I N G J U S T I C E . O R G

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