

Funding and Sustaining Your SAVIN Program in Difficult Economic Times

Webinar Q&A

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1. How would a SAVIN program find out if they are a Justice Reinvestment state?

Anne Seymour: Justice Reinvestment is a partnership of a number of groups, including the Pew Charitable Trust Public Safety Performance Project and the Council of State Governments Justice Center. They look every year at different states that express interest. The most important thing is that JRI really requires bipartisan support from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches within a government. Anyone who is interested in knowing if their state is eligible for justice reinvestment, please e-mail Anne Seymour at anneseey@atlantech.net.

2. How would a practitioner find out more about states building systems?

Anne Seymour: The National SAVIN TTA Project Team tries to document this as much as possible and make resources available through the SAVIN Online Community. If you would like more information, you could send an email through the Online SAVIN Community (www.savinonline.org) to the project team. What we do is we link you directly to states that have undertaken this. Again, Alabama and Indiana are well along. New Hampshire is in the nascent stages but they are also moving along. We can put you in touch with some of these states, and they can provide you with information about why they're doing it on their own and their engagement strategies.

3. To whom did you direct the Hawaii survey to gather the information about the importance of SAVIN, and where can people get a copy of that survey?

Pam Ferguson-Brey: Hawaii surveyed all the service providers right before Anne Seymour provided strategic planning assistance through the National SAVIN TTA initiative. Pam will redact the names and make it available to participants and on the SAVIN website. The survey is in more of a narrative format, so it's wonderfully anecdotal for testimony; it really tells a story about why victim notification is important and provides a lot of other good information.

Anne Seymour: It was very helpful during the TTA to be able to have very strong narrative support. I would also say if people are interested in a survey like that, the project team can work with Hawaii to draft a survey that we can send out to all SAVIN programs. That would probably be a really good idea.

4. What are the predictions for future federal funding for SAVIN programs?

Anne Seymour: I don't know that I can speak for BJA. I know there's a lot of activity

going on in terms of, trying to increase the cap on VOCA, which is how some of states fund SAVIN. I say increase it, which would puts them back to the VOCA levels of a couple of years ago. I don't know of any other federal funding streams like what BJA has generously provided in the past. I know it's not in the present budget for this session. I don't know if BJA wants to comment in on that?

Pat McCreary, BJA: For SAVIN specific funding, I'm not aware of any other discussions in that arena. We cannot speak much to pending legislation. I will say that the JRI information that you've shared today, I think it is on target and I think there is bipartisan support for continued funding opportunities in the coming years. So that's going to be something to watch really closely.

Anne Seymour: That's true, in the Congress there is continuing support for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. And I'm happy to, if anyone is interested in being put on a listserv that just puts out information about JRI. You can just email me to get placed on that listserv because I currently work on that project.

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