

From Policy to Practice

Oregon Knowledge Bank

Video Transcript

Chris Asplen: Hi, my name is Chris Asplen. I'm the executive director of the National Center for Justice Planning. This is one in a series of videos where we highlight promising practices that criminal justice planning agencies in the various states are putting together, through their SAAs or their State Administrating Agencies. With me today, I have Mike Schmidt, who is the director of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. He is the SAA for Oregon. Today, Mike is going to talk to us about one of those promising practices, which helped localities identify those programs which reduce recidivism and prevent crime in their state.

Can you tell us how you select the programs, or essentially curate the website?

Mike Schmidt: Sure. We actually crowd source the program. They come to us instead of us chasing them down. We put the website out and we talk to people about it. Then we ask them or elicit program submissions. There's just a button on the website. You click submit. You fill out a form. It gives you just a high level overview. We do a little bit of editing, to make sure format and everything works out. Essentially, the program ideas are all coming to us. Then for our part, we just put them up on the website, so that they're searchable and other people can go and find out what's happening.

Chris Asplen: Who's your target audience for the website?

Mike Schmidt: Yes. We really have targeted policing in Oregon and also the community corrections side of things, so probation and parole. We have two different aims. If you're a police officer, you would click on the policing button and see all different policing programs or vice versa for the corrections.

Chris Asplen: I understand that you also have a micro grant program, that you're using to help facilitate localities get involved in some of these programs that you're highlighting. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Mike Schmidt: Yeah. We're really excited about this. It's a component that's come on after the website. The first part, I guess you could say phase one, would be to get program ideas out there that are working across the state. What we've done is we've coupled that with a micro grant program, where essentially we took some Burn Jag funds and we've made them available, so that when localities or jurisdictions click on the OKB and they see a program that they think is promising and they'd like to do, we essentially allow them to apply for us for just some small seed money grant, like \$10,000 to \$20,000 grant, just to get them off the ground and started. It's our own little incubator of innovation, if you will, so that they can try it out. We, as the state, bear very little risk in terms of success or failure. It allows us to try new innovative things and give them a chance to start and discover something that works really good in Oregon.

Chris Asplen: That's really great how you not only provide the information, but you also provide a

way to facilitate localities actually getting involved in adopting those programs. Thank you, Mike. It's really innovative how you not only provide the information for the particular programs, but then also facilitate a way for the localities to actually participate in what they're learning about.

Well thanks to Mike Schmidt from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. You can find this video and more at our website, at NCJP.org, where you can find videos that show promising practices that really provide data driven programs to various localities that can really help prevent recidivism and help reduce crime in the future. Thank you.