Innovations in Supervision Initiative (ISI)

Increasing community corrections’ capacity

What is the ISI?
The ISI funds community corrections agencies to develop and implement effective and evidence-based probation and parole practices that address individuals’ needs and improve supervision success rates. Improved success rates lead to greater community safety, fewer admissions and returns to prisons and jails, and increased taxpayer savings.

How can the ISI help you?
The ISI provides grants and technical assistance to states, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes under national, competitive solicitations. BJA has awarded $27 million to 44 jurisdictions since FY2012.

Community Supervision Agency
Implement and test evidence-based or innovative strategies to build agency capacity.
- Align operations with Risk, Needs, Responsivity framework and core correctional practices
- Increase collaboration among criminal justice agencies and service providers
- Test approaches to supervise specific groups (e.g., high-risk/high-needs and young adults)
- Enhance information technology and sharing to inform supervision and service delivery

Researcher
ISI awarded agencies work hand-in-hand with research partners to advance the field.
- Examine agency data to understand the nature and extent of supervision challenges
- Translate research literature about possible solutions and monitor implementation fidelity
- Evaluate the results of new strategies and tools tested, and disseminate results

Service provider
Partner with supervision agencies to provide treatment, reentry services, and alternatives to incarceration.
- Train staff about the spectrum of needs and challenges faced by justice-involved clients
- Use a coordinated case plan, with a referral process and feedback loop to the supervision agency
- Assess and improve alignment with principles of effective intervention

Policymaker
Emerging ideals and innovations have led policymakers to revisit old strategies, protocols and procedures.
- Implement legislative reforms
- Conduct a pilot project to obtain proof of concept before state funds full roll out

ISI Success Stories

| CT Judicial Branch & Central CT State University | SC Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services |
| Co-developed scripts to provide officers with a practical approach to restructure clients' criminal thinking. | Multi-part program trained staff, expanded use of assessment tools, and increased access to treatment in order to meet requirements of the state’s Omnibus Crime Reduction and Sentencing Reform Act. |
| Reduced recidivism among medium and high-risk probationers. | Reduced probation revocations. |

Grants and technical assistance for training, partnerships, technology, and other activities

Visit BJA.gov for funding opportunities