



# The Center for Effective Public Policy

Helping Justice Systems Discover Solutions

**For Immediate Release:** The Center for Effective Public Policy (CEPP) is honored to have been named as the technical assistance provider for the three FY18 Bureau of Justice-Assistance (BJA)-sponsored State Maximizing Justice Reinvestment (JRI) sites. CEPP staff look forward to providing assistance over a three-year period beginning in early 2018.

## Idaho

Funding to the State of Idaho will support the pilot of the "60/60 Bridging the Gap" project. Modeled after Georgia's "Prisoner Reentry Initiative", this effort will provide an estimated 660 moderate to high risk reentering citizens per year with suitable housing, employment, access to treatment, and support from mentors. Community Case Managers will connect with soon to be released offenders within the last 60 days prior to release through the first 60 days upon placement in the community. The services provided will help bridge the gap between case managers working with incarcerated offenders in the facility and probation and parole officers in the community.

## Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) was awarded JRI funds to enhance two criminal justice programs- offender screening and mental health courts. This project will target Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties, the top two feeders into the state prison system, by expanding the successful, operational mental health courts to serve an additional 45 felony defendants each (90 total). The project will also hire a JRI Coordinator, whose position will help to reduce redundant system processes, improve communication, and enhance data sharing to provide a more efficient community diversion network throughout the state. The project will serve 90 total mental health court participants per year through program expansion. The project funded JRI coordinator will serve 37 jurisdictions with operational offender screening programs.

## West Virginia

West Virginia is working to assure full implementation of evidence-based programs, providing quality assurance in data collection, and analyzing recidivism information. The overall strategy of this project is to complement broader objectives of the state's justice reinvestment initiative and informing decision makers about the extent to which the investment of JRI funds has translated into reduced recidivism and increased savings in correctional costs. The project will expand substance use treatment to justice-involved individuals through a telehealth initiative, which will offer distance counseling and supervision services by facilitating communication and record keeping. The state will also work to enhance the use of evidence-based practices by its paroling authority.