The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) is pleased to invite applicants from state and tribal dependency court(s) to apply to participate in the Implementation Site Project. The NCJFCJ, with funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), has been partnering with courts across the country since 1992 to improve outcomes for abused and neglected children and their families. The NCJFCJ will be selecting six (6) sites to participate in the project. There is no direct funding available to participating sites. However, the six sites that are selected will receive training, technical assistance, and support from NCJFCJ staff. The six courts will join 21 other state and tribal jurisdictions that are currently part of the project.

The NCJFCJ supports courts by providing guidance and technical assistance to assist courts in adopting recommended practices outlined in the Enhanced Resource Guidelines: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases\(^1\). Implementation Sites will utilize the Enhanced Resource Guidelines to guide system reform efforts. The NCJFCJ will work with the new Implementation Sites by helping participants in the project to identify impediments and/or challenges to improving their current court practices and the delivery of services to families and children. The NCJFCJ’s work with the courts is guided by the Key Principles for Permanency Planning for Children.\(^2\) As part of this effort, judicial leadership and effective collaboration are viewed as essential for project success. For information on our current Implementation Sites please visit https://www.ncjfcj.org/Implementation-Sites-Snapshot.

The NCJFCJ recognizes tribal courts as parallel systems of justice that serve sovereign nations. The NCJFCJ has found the best practices outlined in the Enhanced Resource Guidelines are helpful to tribal courts and is committed to working with tribes in a way that is most beneficial to the tribe as they achieve their desired court improvement goals.

The six (6) selected implementation sites will receive individualized assessments, training, and technical assistance as they seek to implement the principles and recommendations set forth in

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the *Enhanced Resource Guidelines* and work toward improving practices and outcomes. As part of this effort, the new Implementation Sites will be expected to be “laboratories for change” as they will be participating in an ongoing assessment of their performance and they will be expected to share their results with the NCJFCJ and other sites in order to inform and sustain a larger system improvement effort.

**Eligibility**

The NCJFCJ will select the six (6) new implementation sites based on the following criteria:

- Tribal or state courts (a combination of tribal and state courts will be selected)
- Region or location (a mix of rural, suburban, and urban courts)
- Size of jurisdiction (a mix of small, medium, and large)
- Readiness for change (ability to assess current court practices and infrastructure; the existence of collaborative efforts and/or a willingness to form collaborative structures; and the readiness and openness of the court and stakeholders to participate in the change process)
- The ability to access and analyze data and/or the willingness to examine current data systems and processes.

**Application Guidelines**

Courts applying to become one of the new Implementation Sites should complete the online application administered by Survey Monkey at: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019-Implementation-Sites-Project](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019-Implementation-Sites-Project). The application is comprehensive and requires current and accurate data on many aspects of court operation. Applicants will be able to re-enter the application at any time until the application deadline or until the application has been finalized. In addition, it is important to note that each site completing an application may need to work in collaboration with team members and stakeholders as there are questions that may require expertise outside of one individual.

The application has an essay component and each court should specifically identify the strengths and the challenges of their site. The essay should discuss why the court should be selected, the outcomes the court expects to obtain from participation in the project, and some specific areas the court would like to focus on and/or address.
Informational Webinar

The NCJFCJ will host two (2) informational webinars before the application deadline. During these calls, the NCJFCJ will review basic information regarding the Implementation Sites project and speak about the general expectations and benefits of becoming a new implementation site. The calls will also allow for a brief question and answer session. Participation in these calls is optional.

The conference calls are scheduled for:

**Monday, February 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. PT and Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. PT.**

1) Click on the link below to join the webinar and/or copy and paste onto your web browser.


2) Type in your first and last name, select Enter as a Guest, and click Enter Room. You will be placed on hold until the meeting room opens at the exact time. *If you are logging on early, you may receive a message that the room is full, please disregard. We recommend that you log on 15 minutes prior.

3) Follow the directions on the screen. Select and enter your phone number (1-xxx-xxx-xxxx) to receive a call from the meeting room. Click Join. The Adobe Connect System will automatically call you for the audio portion of the meeting. If you do not have access to a direct line, click Listen Only.

4) Should you encounter any questions or problems entering the Adobe Connect Meeting Room, please contact Adrea Korthase at akorthase@ncjfcj.org or at (775) 507-4856.

   **NOTE:** You may be asked to download a web browser plugin when you first join the webinar. It should take no longer than two minutes to install. We recommend that you join the webinar early to complete the download before the call begins

Application Deadline and Notification

**Friday, March 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. PDT**

Applicants will be notified of the selected Implementation Sites on or around March 8, 2019.
The NCJFCJ will be hosting a Lead Judges Meeting on May 15, 2019 followed by an All-Sites Meeting on May 16-17, 2019 in Reno, Nev. Selected applicants will be encouraged to attend. The NCJFCJ will cover travel expenses associated with this event.


Contact Information

For more information about the Implementation Sites Project or application process, please contact:

Adrea Korthase, JD
Senior Program Manager, Child Welfare and Juvenile Law
akorthase@ncjfcj.org
775-507-4856
Implementation Sites Project
Frequently Asked Questions

1. If chosen, what do courts and judges receive?
   Implementation Sites receive valuable information and training on a wide range of topics related to court reform efforts based on the Enhanced Resource Guidelines recommended practices.

   Each selected Implementation Site will be assigned a Site Manager who will work directly with the Lead Judge and system stakeholders to develop, prioritize and achieve court improvement goals to help facilitate systems change efforts. Site Managers assist Lead Judges through regular telephone and email correspondence; technical assistance, including publications and other materials; and planning and conducting site visits, meetings, strategic planning, and trainings as appropriate.

2. Does this participation include direct funding to the court?
   No. Implementation Sites do not receive direct funding from the NCJFCJ.

3. What is expected of Implementation Sites Lead Judges?
   Implementation Site Lead Judges are expected to engage in frequent and ongoing communication with their designated Site manager and/or other NCJFCJ staff. Judges are expected to convene a multidisciplinary collaborative to implement court-based strategies to improve the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. Lead Judges will be expected to participate in site visits, cross-site visits, ongoing judicial training, and NCJFCJ’s annual All-Sites Meeting.

4. Does the Implementation Sites Lead Judge need to be the presiding judge of the jurisdiction?
   No. The Lead Judge should be someone who presides over child abuse and neglect cases in the jurisdiction. If the designated Implementation Site Lead Judge is not the presiding judge, the NCJFCJ asks for a letter of support from the jurisdiction’s presiding judge to ensure all those involved are willing and open to participate in the project.
5. **Who participates in the Implementation Sites Collaborative Teams?**
   Typically, Implementation Sites Collaborative Teams consist of agency attorneys, parent attorneys, children’s attorneys, caseworkers, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Guardian ad Litems, service providers, etc.

6. **What is expected of Implementation Sites Collaborative Teams?**
   As with judges, the collaborative teams are expected to attend visits and track court performance. In addition, they are expected to attend regular stakeholder meetings and monitor site goals and action plans. Finally, the teams are expected to demonstrate commitment to leading local system reform efforts through the selection of short-term improvement goals based on the *Enhanced Resource Guidelines* practices, measure implementation of goals, partner with statewide court improvement efforts and share lessons learned nationally.