

Call for Submissions

Journal for Advancing Justice Volume VI

Implementation Research in the Justice System: Strengthening the Real-World Delivery of Effective Substance Use and Mental Health Recovery Practices

The Journal for Advancing Justice invites submissions for its sixth volume, scheduled to be published in 2026. This publication is funded through a grant awarded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President (Award Number DCT9924C0001-00). Neither the White House nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse the views, opinions, or contents expressed by the articles herein.

Background

Decades of research in treatment courts and other justice programs have identified dozens of best practices shown to protect public safety, improve treatment and justice system outcomes, and conserve scarce public resources. However, many practices identified as effective in controlled studies or specific settings are not implemented widely or reliably in routine operations. Implementation research examines how services are delivered in real-world settings, identifies service barriers and approaches for overcoming those barriers, and evaluates the degree to which the services achieve reliably safe and effective results across a range of programs and contexts.

Volume VI

The Journal for Advancing Justice invites manuscripts for Volume VI reporting on evaluations of real-world efforts to enhance practice implementation in justice programs serving persons with serious and persistent substance use, mental health, and/or trauma disorders and other severe treatment or social service needs, such as unstable housing, traumatic brain injury, or low recovery capital.

All articles must be rooted in scientific evidence and indicate clearly where additional research is needed to reach informed policy, program, or practice recommendations or conclusions.

Priority Topics

The journal's editorial board has identified examples of priority topics, listed below. This list is by no means exhaustive, and other similar topics are welcome. For articles that do not address these topics but may be relevant to this volume, authors are encouraged to contact associate editor Dr. John R. Gallagher at john.gallagher@alvernia.edu to determine if their work is appropriate for this issue.

- Examining how and whether programs modify services based on participants' risk and need levels and the effects of service-matching on outcomes
- Assessing how the quality or model of substance use or mental health treatment affects justice system outcomes, and methods for enhancing service quality and delivery
- Examining effective, safe, and procedurally fair approaches for delivering sanctions for service noncompliance and other infractions

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- Identifying interventions that increase recovery capital and utilization of strengths-based, recovery-support services

Submission Requirements

Authors may submit an abstract or precis of their proposed submission or may submit a full manuscript for consideration by the editorial board. Abstracts and manuscripts must be submitted using the journal's online submission form. This form and other important information can be found at <https://allrise.org/resources/the-journal-for-advancing-justice/>.

Abstract submission deadline: December 1, 2025

Manuscript submission deadline: February 1, 2026

Based on a preliminary review of the manuscript, the editorial board may elect to decline the submission if the topic is not relevant to the call for submissions, may request additional information or revisions if the quality of the paper is unlikely to receive a favorable critique from reviewers, or may send the paper out for anonymous peer review. Note that a request for a full manuscript confirms our interest in the topic and paper but does not guarantee acceptance or publication.

About the Journal

The Journal for Advancing Justice provides justice and public health professionals, policy makers and other thought leaders, academics, scholars, and researchers a forum to share evidence-based and promising practices at the intersection of the justice and public health systems. The journal strives to bridge the gap between what has proven effective and what is often considered business as usual. Although the journal emphasizes scholarship and scientific research, it also provides practitioner-level solutions to many of the issues facing the justice system. To that end, the journal invites scholars and practitioners alike to submit articles on issues of interest impacting global justice systems, particularly where those systems collaborate with public health systems.

About All Rise

The Journal for Advancing Justice was created by experts at All Rise, the training, membership, and advocacy organization for justice system innovation addressing substance use and mental health at every intercept point. We believe every stage of the justice system, from first contact with law enforcement to corrections and reentry, has a role in improving treatment outcomes for justice-involved individuals. Through our four divisions—the Treatment Court Institute, Impaired Driving Solutions, Justice for Vets, and the Center for Advancing Justice—All Rise provides training and technical assistance at the local, state, and national level, advocates for federal and state funding, and collaborates with public and private entities. All Rise works in every U.S. state and territory and in countries throughout the world. All Rise was founded in 1994 as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals and is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.