



JUSTICE INITIATIVES
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NEWS RELEASE



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Justice Initiatives (JI) Recognized as 2017 Harvard Ash Center Bright Idea in Government

Charlotte, NC – The Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, recognized today JI as part of the 2017 Bright Ideas in Government initiative. JI is part of a cohort that includes programs from all levels of government — school districts, county, city, state, federal agencies, and tribal nations, as well as public-private partnerships — that represent the next horizon in government work to improve services, solve problems, and work on behalf of citizens.

JI was formed in 2004 by a group of civic leaders, lawyers, business owners and concerned citizens in North Carolina who understand the rule of law is the bedrock of our civilized society, that a healthy court system is critical to safeguarding this foundation, and that the effective and efficient administration of justice is essential to a strong, prosperous and vibrant community. JI develops programming to address the deficits in the public's understanding and appreciation for the rule of law and the role of courts in our republican form of government. It demonstrates the interconnectedness between each individual's quality of life and the courts' ability to fairly adjudicate legal rights. JI seeks to ensure that the judicial branch receives the funding it needs to provide timely access to justice for all and defend against policies that undermine the independence, fairness, or integrity of the courts. JI, also, raises money to use as seed funding to initiate smarter and innovative judicial programs and services that build public trust and confidence in our courts and studies new ideas about justice and our courts with academic partners.

This is the fifth cohort recognized through the Bright Ideas program, an initiative of the broader Innovations in American Government Awards program. For consideration as a Bright Idea, programs must currently be in operation or in the process of launching, have sufficient operational resources, and must be administered by one or more governmental entities; nonprofit, private sector, and union initiatives are eligible if operating in partnership with a governmental organization. Bright Ideas are showcased on the Ash Center's Government Innovators Network, an online platform for practitioners and policymakers to share innovative public policy solutions.

Please visit the Government Innovators Network at <http://innovations.harvard.edu> for the full list of Bright Ideas programs, and for more information regarding the Innovations in American Government Awards.

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