Expressions of Interest: Utah’s ODR Platform

Background

The Utah Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) built an ODR platform in house, which went live for small claims cases as a pilot project in September of 2018. During this pilot the platform was available in three Utah jurisdictions for debt collection lawsuits where the amount in controversy was less than $11,000. As of 2020, the platform was made available across the state for all small claims cases. You can access the statewide website with more information, including relevant notices, forms, and rules, here.

Utah’s ODR platform and program has been evaluated twice. First, the National Center for State Courts evaluated the program’s progress toward meeting stated access to justice goals. That report is available here. Second, the University of Arizona’s Innovation for Justice team reviewed the platform itself for usability. That evaluation is available here. The Utah platform was modified in response to those evaluations. Finally, the National Center for State Courts undertook a code review of Utah’s platform for the purpose of informing other jurisdictions that may wish to implement this code in their environment and to document how the code might need to be modified for use in another jurisdiction. You can view the code review here.

Expressions of Interest

Utah’s AOC is willing to share this code with other interested jurisdictions. Utah’s AOC cannot offer technical or ongoing support. The National Center for State Courts is willing to discuss the feasibility of utilizing Utah’s code in your jurisdiction. If you are interested please contact Jim Harris at jharris@ncsc.org.