

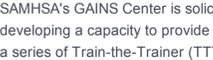


SAMHSA's GAINS Center Accepting Applications for Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshops and Trauma-Informed Training Events

SAMHSA'S GAINS CENTER INVITES COMMUNITIES TO APPLY FOR **TWO** OPPORTUNITIES:

Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshops

Developing Trauma-Informed Training Capacity



APPLICATIONS DUE BY NOVEMBER 10, 2022

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, operated by Policy Research, has open solicitations available for criminal legal and behavioral health professionals. Both opportunities will be provided to selected applicants free of charge. Review the requests for applications and apply for one or both opportunities by **November 10, 2022!**

SAMHSA's GAINS Center Seeks Communities to Develop Trauma-Informed Training Capacity

SAMHSA's GAINS Center is soliciting applications from communities interested in developing a capacity to provide trauma-informed training. The GAINS Center is offering a series of Train-the-Trainer (TTT) events to train local trainers to deliver its [How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses](#) training program.

The target audiences for this training are community-based adult criminal justice system professionals, including reentry staff, drug court personnel, community corrections officers (probation, parole, and pretrial services), and law enforcement officers (including local Crisis Intervention Team trainers), and mental health and substance use disorder treatment service providers and peers who work with justice-involved adult populations.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

SAMHSA's GAINS Center Now Accepting Applications for Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshops

SAMHSA's GAINS Center is soliciting applications from communities interested in Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshops. SIM Mapping Workshops are designed to bring together a local, cross-system, multidisciplinary group of key stakeholders from a particular jurisdiction (typically a county) to facilitate collaboration and to identify and discuss ways in which barriers between the criminal legal and behavioral systems can be reduced through the development of integrated local strategic action plans. SIM Mapping Workshop participants are expected to be drawn, in large part, from local criminal justice and behavioral health agencies and organizations.

The GAINS Center is accepting applications for two types of SIM Workshops:

- **Traditional SIM Mapping Workshops:** These workshops focus broadly on identifying and responding to the needs of adults with mental and substance use disorders who are involved or at risk for involvement in the criminal legal system.
- **SIM Mapping Workshops to Develop Comprehensive, Community-Wide Strategic Plans for Addressing Opioid and Other Substance Use:** These workshops are for communities that are particularly interested in developing comprehensive, community-wide strategic plans for addressing opioid and other substance use, and better identifying and responding to the needs of adults with substance use disorders who are involved or at risk for involvement in the criminal legal system.

[Download the Solicitation and Apply](#)

Brandon Morrissey Co-authors Article Examining Law Enforcement Interactions Among Syringe Service Program Participants

As harm reduction strategies are implemented in communities across the United States, significant education is required among law enforcement, public health, and people who use substances to ensure successful implementation. In a new article published by *Harm Reduction Journal*, Research Assistant Brandon Morrissey, JD, MA, reviews interactions between law enforcement and participants enrolled in a legalized syringe services program (SSP) in North Carolina.



North Carolina legalized SSPs in 2016, providing people using intravenous substances immunity from misdemeanor syringe possession when they provided law enforcement documentation that their syringes were obtained from an SSP. This study examined the experiences of 414 SSP participants across seven North Carolina counties. Study participants were asked about their experiences during law enforcement encounters through structured surveys and semi-structured interviews. Half of the study participants reported experiencing a negative law enforcement interaction in the past year. In the most common negative interaction, the officer was unfamiliar with SSP identification cards or the participant's right to possess a syringe obtained from an SSP. Survey analysis found that Black respondents were more likely to have the ownership of their SSP identification card questioned by law enforcement.

The researchers conclude that further education about the SSP laws for law enforcement and greater attention given to SSP law implementation by state leadership may be merited. "They Don't Go by the Law Around Here: Law Enforcement Interactions After the Legalization of Syringe Services Programs in North Carolina" was co-authored by Tamera Hughes, PharmD, PhD; Bayla Ostrach, PhD, MA; Loftin Wilson; Reid Getty; Tonya L. Combs, LCSW, LCAS; Jesse Bennett, MSW, LCAS; and Jennifer J. Carroll, PhD, MPH. The article is open access and available to read in full.

[Read the Article](#)

Policy Research Featured in Monitor on Psychology

The American Psychological Association's *Monitor on Psychology* released a new article highlighting the power of linking peer support specialists with people reentering the community after incarceration to improve individual and community outcomes. "The Formerly Incarcerated Are Helping Newly Released Prisoners Cope With Life After Prison" features research led by Senior Research Associate Richard Van Dorn, PhD, and co-authored by President Sarah Desmarais, PhD, and shares the work of SAMHSA's GAINS Center and the SAMHSA SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center.



Dr. Desmarais, who was interviewed for the article, highlights how critical the first weeks and months of reentry are to an individual's success and shares how resources from the GAINS and SOAR TA Centers can help communities and individuals support positive outcomes.

Still, such efforts are dwarfed by the massive needs of these vulnerable individuals during the first year following release, particularly the first several months, psychologists say. Despite notable programs and initiatives emerging over the past decade, more investment and focus are required at this critical juncture, said Sarah Desmarais, PhD, president of Policy Research Associates in Delmar, New York, which oversees projects that include operating the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation.

"It is the most significant period of time in a person's involvement in the criminal legal phase," she said. "I really believe we can do a lot of important work and treatment while they're in custody. And it can fall apart if we don't have the right supports and safety nets in place to support their successful reentry."

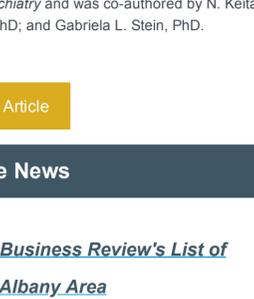
... To help mental health clinicians better understand the issues and logistics involved with reentry, the GAINS Center provides some online resources. In addition, Policy Research Associates also operates SAMHSA's SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) Technical Assistance Center, which among other services, offers free online training to teach clinicians, case managers, and others how to enroll eligible individuals into disability and other programs, Desmarais said.

*Finding ways to pay for behavioral health treatment and medications can pay off significantly, said Desmarais, who has conducted related research. One study she was involved with looked at hospitalized Medicaid recipients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder and found that 31% were arrested at least once after being released from the hospital, mostly for misdemeanor charges. But routine outpatient treatment, including medication and mental health services during the first 90 days after hospitalization, significantly reduced arrests for misdemeanors and felonies (Van Dorn, R. A., et al., *Psychiatric Services*, Vol. 64, No. 9, 2013).*

[Keep Reading](#)

Elan Hope Co-authors Article Examining Factors Contributing to Civic Engagement Among Black College Students

In a recently published article, Research and Evaluation Program Area Director Elan C. Hope, PhD, and co-authors explore factors that contribute to civic engagement among Black college students. In "Critical Civic Engagement in Black College Students: Interplay Between Discrimination, Centrality, and Preparation for Bias," Dr. Hope examines how discrimination, ethnic-racial centrality, and parental preparation for bias affect civic engagement. In their study, the authors examined three types of civic engagement: political, interpersonal, and communal.



Through their analyses, Dr. Hope and her co-authors found that experiencing discrimination was associated with a greater likelihood of participation in political civic engagement. In contrast, ethnic-racial centrality was associated with participation in interpersonal civic engagement. The authors call for universities to support civically engaged Black students in a way that is mindful of sociocultural factors. This article was published in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry* and was co-authored by N. Keita Christophe, PhD; Michelle Y. Martin Romero, PhD; and Gabriela L. Stein, PhD.

[Access the Article](#)

PRA in the News

Policy Research Named in Albany Business Review's List of Women-Owned Businesses in the Albany Area

The *Albany Business Review* has released its annual list of women-owned businesses headquartered in the Albany, New York, area ranked by 2021 local revenue. Policy Research was named number 8 on the 25-firm list. Seventy-eight percent of Policy Research is owned by women—**Sarah Desmarais, Pamela Clark Robbins, Lisa Pellitteri, Terri Hay, and Kristin Lupfer.**

Policy Research is located in Albany County, New York, and has 35 local, full-time employees in addition to over 30 employees located across the country. The survey area includes New York's Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Warren, and Washington counties.

AmeriCorps Awards \$3.7 Million to Universities Researching Civic Life in America

AmeriCorps has announced its 2022 National Service and Civic Engagement Research Grants. Policy Research will be collaborating with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) on an awarded research project: *Examining Today's Young Social Change Agents and Their Opportunities.* Laura Wray-Wake, PhD, will serve as the principal investigator, and Policy Research's Research and Evaluation Area will collaborate with the UCLA team on this project. The National Service and Civic Engagement Research Grants are designed to support research of civic engagement, social cohesion, volunteering, and national service programs.

Policy Research at an Event Near You

24th Annual Supportive Housing Conference

November 4, 2022; Somerset, New Jersey

Headed to the Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey's annual conference? Join Senior Project Associate **Pam Heine, MSW, LSW**, for the session *Using SOAR to Maximize Income, Wellness, and Recovery!*

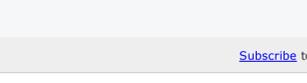
American Society of Criminology—Annual Meeting

November 16–19, 2022; Atlanta, Georgia

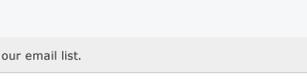
Join Policy Research staff at the following sessions:

- Senior Research Associate **Samantha Zottola, PhD**; President **Sarah Desmarais, PhD**; and Research Associate **Kamiya Stewart, PhD**, will present at the session [Discretion in Pretrial Decision-Making](#). The session will take place November 16, 3:30–4:50 p.m.
- **Sarah Desmarais, PhD**, will present on the panel [DCS's ROCKING Alternative Academic \(AltAc\) Series: Building Bridges Between Traditional Academia and Alternative Academic Spaces](#). The panel will take place on November 17, 2:00–3:20 p.m.
- **Samantha Zottola, PhD**; **Sarah Desmarais, PhD**; and **Kamiya Stewart, PhD**, will present in the session [Attitudes and the Criminal Court System](#). This session will take place November 18, 9:30–10:50 a.m.

Recent Stories From the Policy Research Blog



Writing for Wellness: Therapist Near Me

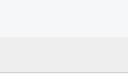


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Finding Wellness for the Unwell

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