SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) GAINS CENTER'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

Implementing Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Principles in Adult Drug Courts and Reentry Programs

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION IN ITS ENTIRETY TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE ACCURATE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON YOUR COMMUNITY AND THAT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS IS DEMONSTRATED.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION VIA <u>EMAIL</u> BY January 12, 2024*:

SAMHSA's GAINS Center
Policy Research Associates, Inc.

<u>Attn</u>: Sam Rogers, Project Assistant

<u>Phone</u>: 800.311.4246 or 518.439.7415 Ext. 5239
Email: srogers@prainc.com

*<u>NOTE</u>: Strong preference is given for applications submitted as <u>one</u> complete PDF document.

SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA), is known nationally for its work regarding justice involved individuals with behavioral health needs. The GAINS Center is currently soliciting applications from jurisdictions interested in collaborating with subject matter experts through Criminal Justice Learning Collaboratives (LCs) designed to explore four topics:

- Integrating Trauma-informed Principles and Practices in Treatment Drug Courts
- Implementing Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Principles in Adult Drug Courts and Reentry Programs
- Creating and Enhancing Community-level Partnerships among First Responders and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)
- Diversion and Support for Transition Age Youth

The Learning Collaborative Model brings together local jurisdiction teams to create coordinated local strategic plans and implementation strategies for the topic of focus. Selected teams for each LC will work intensively to determine optimal ways to implement best practices and define success indicators for their respective LCs. Each topic-specific Learning Collaborative will engage subject matter experts to work with jurisdiction teams during the implementation process and to facilitate peer-to-peer sharing. Through a virtual platform, selected teams will work together to complete their implementation work, while at the same time, have the opportunity to share with other jurisdictions and receive an array of technical assistance from subject matter experts across the country.

NOTE: All 2024 Learning Collaborative events are planned to be delivered virtually.

The Learning Collaboratives are designed to achieve four key objectives:

1. Enhance collective knowledge of key issues and familiarity with the topic.
2. Understand promising and evidence-based practices to address related issues.
3. Develop strategic plans that focus on addressing the issue, with a focus on the implementation of policies, procedures, and best practices to improve treatment, services, and supports.
4. Increase knowledge about challenges and lessons learned through peer-to-peer information sharing.

IMPLEMENTING RISK-NEED-RESPONSIVITY (RNR) PRINCIPLES IN ADULT DRUG COURT AND REENTRY PROGRAMS LEARNING-COLLABORATIVE

Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) principles have applications that help criminal justice programs support individuals with behavioral health disorders across the sequential intercepts, including adult drug courts and adult reentry programs. This LC will offer information on how to incorporate RNR principles and use RNR tools in drug court and reentry programming. Subject matter experts will work with selected teams to learn how to apply RNR principles and tools in addressing the criminal justice, behavioral health, and criminogenic needs of individuals in order to improve client outcomes. As a core feature of the LC, participating teams will learn how to make program-level modifications and improvements using RNR principles and tools. Peer-to-peer learning will be encouraged, with the inclusion of representatives from local jurisdictions serving as "peer" SMEs. The "peer" SMEs will be recruited from "model" programs to share their work on how they have used RNR to effectively assess risk and need factors of their clients and to design programs and policies that achieve positive results.

Teams will be selected to participate in all LC activities described below between February and August 2024. Through this LC, participating teams will work collaboratively to identify systems-level strategies to improve access to resources for people with high levels of behavioral health needs, with the goal of supporting and maintaining people in the community and ultimately, reducing recidivism. Selected sites will be expected to work with both existing and new stakeholders such as other criminal justice system professionals, behavioral health treatment providers, parole/probation, and peer/recovery support providers. Throughout, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in incorporating RNR principles and resources will be available for consultation and technical assistance. Core components will include:

- Virtual kick-off calls with each Site Team Lead (February 2024): A 1-hour call will be held with each Site Team Lead. The agenda for these calls will focus on providing an overview of the LC, setting expectations for site participation in the LC, and identifying preliminary technical assistance needs that could be addressed.

- <u>Virtual opening convening session</u> (March 2024): All teams will be brought together for a half-day session. The primary goals for this session are to:
    - o Introduce teams to the LC Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).
    - o Provide a general overview of the areas of focus of the LC.
    - o Provide information on best practices in the field.
    - o Guide teams in developing a Learning Collaborative Action Plan to map out each site's anticipated work and activities throughout their participation in the LC.

- <u>Virtual "ask the experts" series</u>: Up to six topical TA sessions to provide the opportunity for LC teams to take a "deep dive" into core TA topics with identified LC SMEs. Each topical TA session will consist of a substantive presentation, followed by an opportunity for team members to engage in discussion with the SME for the topic.

- <u>Intensive technical assistance</u>: Each participating team will have the opportunity to request up to 16 hours of intensive technical assistance. Generally, these hours will be devoted to a "one off" type of TA event such as a training workshop, but may be spread out over multiple sessions if circumstances warrant. GAINS Center LC lead(s) will work with each team to assist with the identification and provision of the intensive TA work.

- <u>Virtual closing event</u> (August 2024): The final event of the LC will be a virtual closing event that brings together the LC leads from PRA/GAINS and SAMHSA, the core SMEs, and the participating teams to review accomplishments, discuss goals and plans for continued efforts post LC, and document lessons learned. This final LC event will likely be scheduled over two days, for approximately three hours each day.

The ultimate outcome of the Implementing Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Principles in Adult Drug Court and Reentry Programs Learning Collaborative is for participating teams to develop a strategic plan to address core issues at the program and/or community level. To assist selected teams in developing their strategic plans and accomplishing the desired goals, an array of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will be available to consult with teams on a group and/or one-on-one basis on various subjects related to the overall focus of the LC as described above.

SITE SELECTION

SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation will host all activities related to the Learning Collaborative free of charge to selected jurisdictions.

There are no fees for registration, tuition, or materials associated with participation in the Learning Collaborative. SAMHSA's GAINS Center will pay all costs associated with virtual meeting coordination, conference calls, and GAINS Center staff and/or subject matter expert time.

Jurisdictions selected to participate in this LC must have the ability to convene approximately 8-10 event participants virtually, either as a group or individually. The technology required to participate in the LC activities will consist of commonly used platforms (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.). Further details regarding technology requirements will be provided to jurisdictions selected to participate in the LC.

To be considered, all applications <u>must</u> be received by <u>January12, 2024</u>. Selected jurisdictions will be notified by <u>January 26, 2024.</u>

TARGET TEAM MEMBERS/PARTNERS

A jurisdiction submitting an application <u>must</u> have the buy-in of key criminal justice system, housing, peer, and local or state government leaders to support the development and implementation of systemic-level strategies. Jurisdictions should strive to include representation from a broad array of key stakeholders who would be directly involved or impacted by these activities, including local behavioral health providers, housing providers, peer-run organizations, and other relevant stakeholders. Key leadership might include, but are not limited to:

- Drug Court and/or Reentry Program Director
- Justice systems partner(s) (e.g., sheriff's office, probation, parole, state prison, jail, etc.)
- Case management agency/service provider director or case manager
- Local public behavioral health agency director, Clinical Director, and/or treatment providers for SU and MH treatment
- Peer-based recovery support services representative(s)
- County manager or high-ranking organizational representative
- Program evaluator

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is required that each applicant identify leadership that support this project and are dedicated to allocating staff time to participate in the technical assistance activities. Communities will be expected to demonstrate readiness to work collaboratively with current and new stakeholders as described above.

<u>Commitment must be illustrated by a written letter of support. These letters must acknowledge commitment to participate in all planning and implementation phases of the Learning Collaborative. At minimum, letters of support are required from the following partners:</u>

- Drug Court or Reentry Program Director
- Justice systems partner(s) (e.g., sheriff's office, probation, parole, state prison, etc.)
- Case management agency/treatment service provider director, and/or Clinical Director
- Local public behavioral health agency director
- Peer-based recovery support services representative(s)

Further, it is <u>strongly recommended</u> that letters of support be submitted by the following additional partners:
- County Executive/Manager (if a government funded program}
- Organizational CEO/Director from other relevant agency/organization

Jurisdictions selected must agree to the following:
- Participate in the pre-event planning conference call(s) led by GAINS Center staff, including but not limited to kick-off calls, preparatory activities, and IT calls.
- Participate in the virtual opening convening session and the virtual closing event with up to a total of 30 people (up to 15-20 team participants, observers, and other stakeholders).
- Participate in a virtual series of six "ask the experts" topical technical assistance sessions.
- Participate in the Learning Collaborative check-ins and/or provide periodic brief written updates.
- Participate in one virtual intensive TA opportunity with a Subject Matter Expert(s).

Following the technical assistance delivery, teams will be required to report on outcome measures determined during the Learning Collaborative process. Reports must be submitted to the GAINS Center in August 2024. following the Learning Collaborative. Additional details will be provided to selected participants.

SAMHSA'S GAINS CENTER'S
CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

IMPLEMENTING RISK-NEED-RESPONSIVITY PRINCIPLES IN ADULT DRUG COURTS AND REENTRY PROGRAMS

PLEASE COMPLETE THE APPLICATION BELOW.

ONLY COMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR SITE SELECTION.

APPLICANT JURISDICTION/LOCATION: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT
This should be the person to whom questions about the application can be directed.

Primary Contact Name: _____

Role/Position: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____Email: _____

If your Site Team Lead will be someone other than the Primary Contact for the application, please designate that person below and include a letter of support from them alongside your application.

DESIGNATED SITE TEAM LEAD
This is the person who will lead the team's activities during the Learning Collaborative and regularly coordinate with GAINS Center staff. They <u>must</u> be available to their team members and be willing to work with GAINS Center Staff to organize technical assistance and share information with their team.

Primary Contact Name: _____

Role/Position: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____Email: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE AND ATTACH A <u>SEPARATE STATEMENT TO THIS APPLICATION</u> THAT ADDRESSES THE APPLICANT EVALUATION CRITERIA BELOW. YOUR STATEMENT SHOULD BE A **MAXIMUM OF FIVE SINGLE-SPACED PAGES** IN LENGTH AND SHOULD CLEARLY INDICATE WHY YOUR COMMUNITY SHOULD BE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS LEARNING COLLABORATIVE.

Please address the following in your statement:

1. Provide a <u>brief description</u> of your jurisdiction (including demographics, population, available resources, and any other information that you think gives us a good "picture" of your jurisdiction).

2. Describe the current challenges your jurisdiction faces related to serving individuals who are interfacing with behavioral health and criminal justice services on a frequent basis. In your description:

    a. Provide what data are available on the unmet needs of these people in your jurisdiction.

    b. Name the partners currently involved in efforts to address these challenges.

    c. Name the partners that you feel you have yet to engage to join this important work.

    d. Describe barriers to the work that could hinder implementation of strategies developed through the LC.

3. Provide a brief overview of the involvement of people with lived experience in any current work to address the needs of individuals with behavioral health conditions who are justice-involved.

4. Explain why it's important for your jurisdiction to participate in this Learning Collaborative right now.

5. Describe the collaborations, including any collaborative planning bodies (e.g., Criminal Justice Advisory Group), in place to support participation in this Learning Collaborative, which can be demonstrated through memoranda of understanding or similar agreements. *Provide a description of any formal agreements among partners. Attach copies of these agreements to your application as applicable.*

6. Explain the anticipated ownership of this work, including who might oversee ongoing implementation of the strategic plan developed via this LC and who might conduct ongoing evaluation/quality assurance of the work.

PLEASE IDENTIFY THE LEAD AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS WHO HAVE AGREED TO PARTICIPATE AS PART OF YOUR SITE TEAM. IT IS EXPECTED THAT IDENTIFIED TEAM MEMBERS/ DECISION-MAKERS ARE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN LEARNING COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES.

Team Selection Grid					
#	Agency/Organization	Role	Name	Affiliation	Letter of Commitment/ Support Included? (Y/N)
1	*Drug court and/or Reentry program director(s) [required]*				
2	*Justice systems partner (e.g., sheriff's office, probation, parole, state prison) [required]*				
3	*Case management agency/service provider director [required]*				
4	*Local public behavioral health program/agency directors [required]*				
5	*Peer-based recovery support services agency director or representative [required]*				
6	County Executive/Manager or designee				
7	Organizational CEO/Director from other relevant agency/organization				
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Please attach all <u>required</u> letters of commitment/support to your application, along with additional letters of support from the majority of other <u>recommended</u> stakeholders listed above and on Page 4 of this solicitation. Additional relevant letters of support may be provided to enhance your application. For any letters of support provided that are not on the prefilled list, please add to the list above accordingly.

Thank you! SAMHSA's GAINS Center sincerely appreciates your interest in this initiative.

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION VIA <u>EMAIL</u> BY January 12, 2024*:

SAMHSA's GAINS Center
Policy Research Associates, Inc.

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Questions should be directed to Sam Rogers at the phone number and email address listed above.

Late submissions will not be accepted or reviewed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

All applicants will receive notification via regarding the status of their application by **January 26, 2024**.