
SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS



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

Diversion and Support for Transition-Age Youth

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 EMAIL BY January 12, 2024*:

SAMHSA's GAINS Center
Policy Research Associates, Inc.

Attn: Sam Rogers, Project Assistant

Phone: 800.311.4246 or 518.439.7415 Ext. 5239

Email: srogers@prainc.com

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

OVERVIEW

SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA), is known nationally for its work regarding people with behavioral health needs who are involved in the criminal justice system. 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 learn and 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 held 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 in implementing strategies through peer-to-peer sharing.

DIVERSION AND SUPPORT FOR TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

The Transition-Age Youth (TAY) Learning Collaborative (LC) will feature innovative diversion programs and implementation strategies at Intercepts 0 and 1 that support transition-age youth (16-25) who become involved with the criminal justice system. While legally adults, this age group is not considered fully mature cognitively or developmentally and must navigate the transition to adulthood within complex environments and systems, often without adequate support. Furthermore, individuals in this demographic who experience mental and substance use disorders may be even more severely impacted by criminal justice involvement.

This LC will incorporate a comprehensive exploration of the cultural, familial, and community contexts that influence TAY who come in contact with the criminal justice system. Additionally, this LC will provide models of specialized support and diversion options responsive to the developmental stage and the broader social and systemic factors contributing to this population's criminal justice involvement. Working closely with national Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and through peer-to-peer learning opportunities, teams engaged in this LC will develop comprehensive and collaborative strategies to enhance diversion options for TAY and develop and strengthen collaborative relationships to support these efforts.

Teams will be selected to participate in all LC activities described below between February and August 2024. Teams will be expected to collaborate with a range of stakeholders, including mental health professionals, substance abuse specialists, legal advisors, community organizations, and policymakers, to enhance the development and execution of strategic plans addressing key issues. These plans will focus on mobile response and stabilization services, alternative diversion solutions, and upstream prevention and intervention strategies.

Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in will be available for consultation and technical assistance throughout these components. Core components will include:

- Virtual kick-off calls with each Team Lead (February 2024): A 1-2-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, and identifying preliminary technical assistance needs.
- Virtual opening convening session(s) (March 2024): All teams will be brought together for 2-3 half-day sessions. The primary goals for this session are to introduce teams to the LC Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), provide a general overview of the areas of focus of the LC, provide information on best practices in the field, and engage teams in a preliminary strategic planning process to begin developing a strategic plan for the diversion program.
- Virtual “Ask the Experts” series: 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 in the series will consist of a substantive presentation on the topic/issue, followed by an opportunity for team members to engage in a Q&A-style discussion with the SME for the topic.
- Intensive technical assistance: 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 (e.g., workshop, training, etc.), but may be spread out over multiple sessions if circumstances and site TA needs warrant. GAINS Center LC lead(s) will work with each team throughout the LC to assist with the identification and provision of the intensive TA work.
- Virtual site team meetings: These will be specifically focused on continuing the strategic planning progress that teams began during the virtual opening convening session (2-3 per team throughout the LC, as needed).
- Virtual closing event (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 3-4 hours each day.

The ultimate outcome of the Transition Age Youth Learning Collaborative is for participating teams to develop a strategic plan to improve diversion and system support for transition-age youth in their jurisdiction. 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 10-15 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 must be received by January 12, 2024. Selected jurisdictions will be notified by January 26, 2024.

TARGET TEAM MEMBERS/PARTNERS

The application must include the entire team roster. Jurisdictions interested in participating in the Transition-Age Youth Learning Collaborative must convene a multidisciplinary team including mental health and substance abuse treatment professionals, legal system representatives, community organization members, and agency leadership. These teams should have an established initiative or a shared intention to initiate or refine diversion programs for transition-age youth.

Selection will prioritize jurisdictions demonstrating a readiness to implement impactful diversion strategies and a dedication to the collaborative enhancement of services for transition-age youth. A commitment to strategic planning targeting mobile response services, alternative diversion options, and preventative interventions is essential.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is required that each applicant identify leadership that supports this project and is 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.

Key stakeholder commitment must be illustrated by written letters of support. These letters must acknowledge commitment to participate in all planning and implementation phases of the Learning Collaborative.

At a minimum, three letters of support from key stakeholders are required. Applicants must determine which stakeholders are considered necessary to include in their core LC team given the anticipated goal(s) of their participation in the LC. Key stakeholders might include, but are not limited to:

- Diversion Program Director
- Mental and Behavioral Health Services Provider
- Law Enforcement Representative (e.g., the sheriff's office or police department)
- Juvenile Justice Advocate/ Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- Mobile Crisis and Stabilization Services
- Restorative Justice or Peer Mentor Program Coordinator
- Educational Institution Administrator
- Child Welfare
- Housing Agency Director
- Workforce Development/Supported Employment Program Director
- Justice System Partners (e.g., the courts, jail, probation, etc.)

Additionally, selected jurisdictions 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 25 people (up to 15-20 team participants, observers, and other stakeholders)
- Participate in a virtual series of "ask the experts" topical technical assistance sessions
- Participate in the Learning Collaborative virtual quarterly meetings with GAINS staff and/or SMEs
- Engage in virtual post-technical assistance activities, including but not limited to reporting and consultation calls
- 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 conclusion of the Learning Collaborative. Additional details will be provided to selected participants.

**SAMHSA'S GAINS CENTER'S
CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEARNING COLLABORATIVES**

**DIVERSION AND SUPPORTS FOR TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH IN THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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 must 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 SEPARATE STATEMENT TO THIS APPLICATION 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 brief description 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 your program across the dimensions below:
 - a. Program period of operation
 - b. Program target population
 - c. Program focus
 - d. Program services and supervision
 - e. Program documented outcomes
3. Discuss why it is important for your jurisdiction to participate in this Learning Collaborative right now.
4. Describe the existing collaborations serving transition-age youth in the criminal justice system. Interagency collaborations can be demonstrated through memoranda of understanding or similar agreements. *Describe any formal agreements among partners. Attach copies of these agreements to your application as applicable.*
5. Describe the challenges facing diversion programs in providing services and meeting the needs of transition-age youth with mental health or substance use concerns.
6. Describe the goals for serving the transition-age youth population with regard to mobile response and stabilization.
7. Describe the goals for serving the transition-age youth population with regard to alternatives to jail and diversion from the criminal justice system.
8. Describe the goals for serving the transition-age youth population with regard to housing, supported employment, and workforce development.

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

Team Selection Grid					
#	Agency/Organization	Name	Title	Email	Letter of Commitment/Support Included? (Y/N)
1					
2					
3					
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Please attach the required three letters of commitment/support to your application from the key stakeholders listed on page 4 of this solicitation. Additional relevant letters of support may be provided to enhance your application.



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

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION VIA EMAIL BY January 12, 2024*:

SAMHSA's GAINS Center
Policy Research Associates, Inc.

Attn: Sam Rogers, Project Assistant

Phone: 800.311.4246 or 518.439.7415 Ext. 5239

Email: srogers@prainc.com

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

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 email regarding the status of their application by **January 26, 2024**.