
SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS



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

Trauma-Informed Treatment Courts

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 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 in implementing strategies through peer-to-peer sharing.

TRAUMA-INFORMED TREATMENT COURTS LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

The primary goal of the **Trauma-Informed Treatment Drug Courts Learning Collaborative (LC)** is for teams to develop strategic plans to advance policies and practices on trauma-informed treatment drug court programs.

This LC will bring together local jurisdiction teams to create coordinated local strategic plans and implementation strategies for integrating the principles of trauma-informed systems and associated practices into the everyday processes of their treatment drug court(s). The teams selected for this LC will work locally and collaboratively to examine their court-specific policies and practices and identify policies and practices that need to be revised to be trauma-informed. Through this LC, participating treatment drug court 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. Selected treatment drug court teams will be expected to work with both existing and new stakeholders across the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) such as other criminal justice system professionals, behavioral health providers, and peer/recovery support providers.

Throughout these components, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in treatment courts and trauma-informed practices will be available for consultation and technical assistance. Core components will include:

- Virtual kick-off calls with each Team Lead (February/March 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 court.

- **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 team meetings 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 duration of 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 Trauma-informed Treatment Court Learning Collaborative is for participating teams to develop a strategic plan to promote and implement trauma-informed court policies and practices. 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

A jurisdiction submitting an application must include the entire treatment court team, including the presiding judge. In addition, jurisdictions should strive to include representation from a broad array of key stakeholders who work directly with the treatment court such as behavioral health providers, housing providers, and others. In addition to the treatment court team, other key stakeholders might include, but are not limited to:

- Substance use treatment provider director
- Community mental health provider director
- Sheriff’s Office/Jail administrator
- Housing agency director or local public housing authority director
- Peer-based recovery support services representative(s)
- Community corrections/community supervision representative/local probation director
- Advocacy groups such as the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is required that each applicant identify leadership that supports 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.

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 supports are required from the following partners:

- Judge
- Prosecutor
- Public Defender
- Court Coordinator

Further, it is strongly recommended that letters of support be submitted by the following additional partners:

- Behavioral Health Provider(s) that work with the court (i.e., Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment Providers]
- Criminal justice system partner(s) (e.g., sheriff's office, jail administrator, probation)

Requirements:

- Applicants must include a treatment court program that meets the following criteria:
 - The program has been in operation for a minimum of 12 months.
 - The primary program target populations are as follows:
 - Adults with substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders participating in a treatment court program,
 - Families engaged in a treatment court program, OR
 - Veterans participating in a treatment court program

In addition, 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 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**

TRAUMA-INFORMED TREATMENT COURTS

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 treatment court 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 collaborations in place to support the treatment court, 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.*
5. Describe the trauma-informed policies and practices currently underway, including whether trauma-specific treatment providers are currently engaged or available to your court participants.
6. Describe any trauma-focused training your team has engaged in to date.

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	Role	Name	Affiliation	Letter of Commitment/Support Included? (Y/N)
1	<i>Treatment Court Judge [required]</i>				
2	<i>Prosecutor [required]</i>				
3	<i>Public Defender [required]</i>				
4	<i>Treatment Court Coordinator [required]</i>				
5	Behavioral Health Services Provider [strongly encouraged]				
6	Sheriff's office or jail administrator [strongly encouraged]				
7	Probation/parole [strongly encouraged]				
8	Peer-based recovery support services representative(s)				
9	Housing agency director or local public housing authority director				
10	Advocacy groups (e.g., National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI))				
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Please attach all **required** letters of commitment/support to your application, along with additional letters of support from the majority of other **recommended** stakeholders listed above and on Pages 3 and 4 of this solicitation.

Additional relevant letters of support may be provided to enhance your application. For any other letters of support provided that are not already 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 EMAIL BY January 12, 2024*:

SAMHSA's GAINS Center
Policy Research Associates, Inc.

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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**.