SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

Training Opportunity:

"How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses" Train-the-Trainer (TTT)

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

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE BY January 12, 2026

At the following link: https://pra.typeform.com/to/ANGC8cL2

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

You must complete the application in full online for your work to be saved. It is **not** *possible to complete the application partially, save your work, and sign on later to complete your submission.*

PLEASE CLICK HERE

to download and review a copy of the application questions in advance.

Questions? E-mail: gainstttapply@prainc.com

OVERVIEW

The GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA), is known nationally for its work regarding people with behavioral health needs involved in the criminal justice system. The GAINS Center is soliciting applications from communities interested in receiving the *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* train-the-trainer (TTT) event. The purpose of this solicitation is to offer free technical assistance to communities nationwide that are prepared for and interested in expanding their training efforts to create a trauma-informed system.

THE SOLICITATION IS FOR: Agencies/organizations/jurisdictions seeking to have the GAINS Center conduct a train-the-trainer (TTT) event on *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses*. **This solicitation requires applicants to specifically address and demonstrate their readiness to implement trauma-informed principles/practices within the organization/community/region/state via their responses to the application questions.** The TTT event is 2 days long and accommodates 20 trainees per award.

NOTE: Some TTT events under this solicitation are planned to be held in-person, with the remainder of the events to be held virtually on Zoom. In-person events will be held over two consecutive days. Virtual events permit flexibility, as these events can be hosted over the course of two consecutive days, or on two separate, non-consecutive days, depending on the needs of the jurisdiction. On the application, please indicate your preference for either a virtual or an in-person TTT, including any extenuating circumstances that may impact your preference.

PURPOSE & BACKGROUND

There is growing recognition that trauma can play a significant role in criminal justice involvement. Trauma has been identified as a key issue warranting attention, training, and education by SAMHSA. Although prevalence estimates vary, there is consensus that high percentages of justice-involved women and men have experienced serious trauma throughout their lifetime. The reverberating effects of traumatic experiences can challenge a person's capacity for recovery and pose significant barriers to accessing services, often resulting in an increased risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

As a central component of our efforts to assist communities in moving toward a trauma-informed continuum of services to improve outcomes for individuals who have experienced trauma, the GAINS Center offers the *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* training to agencies, organizations, and jurisdictions that are pursuing this goal. This training program is specifically tailored to assist criminal justice professionals in developing trauma-informed responses to justice-involved adults.

The primary goals of the training are to (1) Increase understanding of trauma, (2) Create an awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior, and (3) Develop trauma-informed responses. Achieving these goals will decrease recidivism, increase safety, and promote and support recovery among people who are justice-involved by linking them to appropriate treatment and support services in the community.

Whether hosted virtually or as an in-person event, the GAINS Center's TTT event is designed to train participants on both in-person and virtual delivery of the training described above, and to equip participants with the skills and resources necessary to effectively deliver the training themselves. The objectives of this TTT event are to:

- Present the *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* four-hour training.
- Discuss and review the design, purpose, objectives, and goals of the *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* four-hour training.
- Introduce, develop, and enhance training, facilitation, and public speaking skills with participants.
- Help familiarize training participants with the available tools and resources available to them, including:
    - The Trainer Tools available through the trainer portal, including resources to support the in person and virtual delivery of the four-hour training program.
    - Noteworthy publications and topical resources on trauma and trauma-informed responses.
- Connect participants with peer trainers for ongoing support, collaboration, and dialogue regarding trauma-informed responses and community-based training opportunities.

SITE SELECTION

The GAINS Center will offer these TTT events free of charge to selected applicants between April and August 2026. There are no fees for registration, tuition, or materials associated with the training. The GAINS Center will pay all costs associated with pre- and post-training coordination, conference calls, technology preparation, and TTT facilitator time. Selected sites must be able to support the virtual meeting technology (Zoom) for all participants (for a virtual event); or provide the meeting space and necessary audiovisual capabilities and connectivity to support an in-person event. While further details will be provided to sites that are selected, if you have questions regarding these requirements prior to applying, please reach out to Kyle Mosack, Training Coordinator (gainstttapply@prainc.com).

TARGET AUDIENCE/TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

Target audiences for this training are community-based adult criminal justice system professionals, including reentry staff, court personnel, community corrections officers (probation, parole, and pre-trial services), law enforcement officers (including local CIT trainers), and mental health and substance use disorder treatment service providers who work with justice-involved adult populations. The training is also appropriate for those who work in the civil justice system and who are involved in civil commitment proceedings or assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) programs. Participants may be assembled from within a county, region, or state, and may also be gathered from outside of the community of the training site. All participants in a virtual event must have access to a computer with camera and microphone, internet access, and access and ability to join the event via Zoom.

Each applicant site that is selected will receive a 2-day training event accommodating 20 participants, each of whom is required to have:

1) **Worked in the criminal justice system or with criminal justice-involved adult populations for a minimum of three years.** *(Some forms of equivalent experience are also accepted. For example, others who may be eligible include professional training providers who routinely provide training to professionals who work in the CJ system or with CJ-involved populations; individuals who have lived experience with the criminal justice system and mental illness or substance use; and people who work in the civil justice system who are involved in civil commitment proceedings or AOT programs).*

2) **At least 40 hours of experience *delivering* professional training**.

3) **The capacity and support to conduct future trainings in their agencies/communities/states**.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is required that the applicant identify leaders within key partner entities who support this project and are dedicated to allocating staff time and technical resources to participate in the training activities. Agencies or jurisdictions that do not have 20 experienced trainers should consider partnering with another smaller entity to meet the 20-participant threshold for both the application and sharing of resources for the training. Support must be illustrated by a written letter of support or commitment from key partners. This may include administrators from the following local agencies:

- Courts (with specific emphasis on demonstrating the inclusion of local treatment courts)
- Reentry programs
- Probation/Parole departments
- Community corrections
- Law enforcement
- Mental health and substance use disorder treatment service provider agencies that will sponsor trainees

Selected applicant sites must agree to:

- 1-2 pre-training planning conference call(s) with GAINS Center staff
- Select up to 20 potential trainers with the required qualifications (minimum of 3 years of experience working in the criminal justice system or with criminal justice-involved adult populations **and** at least 40 hours of experience delivering professional training - refer to "Target Audience/Training Participants" section for additional detail and eligibility)
- Ensure technological capacity for each participant to engage in a virtual TTT, including access to individual computers with internet, camera, microphone, and the ability to participate via Zoom, or provide meeting space and technology to support an in-person event, as noted above.
- Provide follow-up support to trainers post-TTT through infrastructure, resources, and a specific follow-up plan
- Provide details regarding future training dates, locations, and audiences to the GAINS Center through periodic follow up communication
- The condition that all participants are expected to deliver the training within 3 months post-TTT
- The program stipulation that those who complete the TTT are not allowed to create and host their own Train-the-Trainer event (TTT participants will be asked to sign an agreement consenting to these terms)
- The program stipulation that those who complete the TTT are not permitted to charge for future training deliveries (TTT participants will be asked to sign an agreement consenting to these terms)

TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY, YOUR APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE

- **A minimum of 2 letters of support from key partners**
- **All questions on the application form completed in full**

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE BY January 12, 2026

At the following link: https://pra.typeform.com/to/ANGC8cL2

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

You must complete the application in full online for your work to be saved.
It is **not** *possible to complete the application partially, save your work,*
and sign on later to complete your submission.

All applicants will receive notification regarding the status of their application by February 2, 2026. Notification will be distributed via email.

PLEASE CLICK HERE
to download and review a copy of the application questions in advance.

Questions? E-mail: gainstttapply@prainc.com