

FAQs: The GAINS Center’s Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Community Expansion Learning Collaborative: Using AOT as a Tool to Reduce Arrests and Increase Access to Community-Based Services

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

JANUARY 2026

What is the Learning Collaborative commitment?

All 2026 Learning Collaborative (LC) events are planned to be delivered virtually. The LC will start in February 2026 and run through August 2026. The core components will include kickoff calls with each team, an opening convening session, an ask-the-expert series, intensive technical assistance (TA), and a closing event. Selected teams will also participate in coaching sessions to review progress on targeted goals, identify new barriers, and discuss potential technical assistance.

What is the ask-the-expert (ATE) series?

The purpose of the ATE series is to share information and generate discussion among the subject-matter experts (SMEs) and LC team members. The ATE series for this LC will consist of three topical TA sessions to provide the opportunity for LC teams to take a “deep dive” into core TA topics with identified SMEs. Each topical 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. Potential topics include court roles in AOT programs; ensuring communication across all participants; identifying appropriate AOT participants; data collection and quality improvement; and AOT discharge processes.

What community partnerships are required for this LC application?

Local jurisdictions applying may either have an existing AOT program or be in the process of forming an AOT program. They are encouraged to identify a multidisciplinary team that includes representation from agencies directly involved in the referral, coordination, implementation and delivery of AOT services. Suggested team members include the community behavioral health providers who deliver AOT services, judicial partners who grant and oversee AOT orders, local entities authorized to petition for AOT, crisis services, peers or recovery-support providers, and other early-contact agencies (e.g., emergency departments, law enforcement).

Do you anticipate any follow-up funding opportunities for implementation?

Follow-up funding opportunities will not be available as part of the LCs. TA will be made available throughout the duration of the LC through August 2026.

What are some of the TA opportunities?

Each participating team will have the opportunity to request up to 16 hours of intensive TA or its equivalent. Generally, these hours will be devoted to a single TA

event (e.g., workshop, training, SME consultation, court observation, review of intake/assessment forms, etc.) but may be spread out over multiple sessions if circumstances and site TA needs warrant. GAINS Center staff will work with each team throughout the LC to assist with the identification and provision of the intensive TA work. All technical assistance provided as part of the LC will be delivered virtually.

How many awards do you expect to make?

The number of awards varies by Learning Collaborative and is based on the number of applications we receive. We are looking to select approximately six teams for this LC.

If I applied for the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshop or a How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses Train-the-Trainer (TTT) event, am I eligible for these LCs?

Absolutely. You may also apply for additional Learning Collaborative opportunities as those opportunities become available, and you may apply for as many opportunities for which you have an interest. Please note that each LC will require submission of a separate application specific to each opportunity.

How can I sign up for the GAINS Center mailing list?

You can sign up for the [GAINS Center mailing list online](#). This form will sign you up to receive our newsletter and other electronic mailings that include resources and other technical assistance materials.

How can I contact the GAINS Center about this opportunity?

For questions related to this Learning Collaborative, please contact Sam Rogers at srogers@prainc.com.

Links and contact information

- Visit [the GAINS Center](#) to learn more about the LCs.
- Access the [AOT LC application](#).
- Contact [Sam Rogers](#), LC Coordinator, if you have additional questions about the AOT LC application.
- Join the [GAINS email list](#) to receive future solicitation notifications from the GAINS Center.

About

The GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation focuses on expanding access to services for people with mental and/or substance use disorders who come into contact with the justice system.

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