

# FAQs: The GAINS Center National Solicitations Pre-application Webinar

WEBINAR SUPPORTING DOCUMENT

DECEMBER 2025

## PREPARING YOUR BEST APPLICATION FOR THE 2026 OPPORTUNITIES

### Open Solicitations

- The GAINS Center's Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) Mapping Workshops
- The GAINS Center's *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses Train-The-Trainer* (TTT)

### General Questions

**Q:** Is there a way to determine which jurisdictions or organizations are applying for a SIM or TTT so that if an individual is in that jurisdiction, they could find out who to contact to get involved?

Unfortunately, no. We do not know who is applying until the applications come in.

**Q:** To confirm, for these opportunities \$0 changes hands—just the training or the workshop is delivered?

Correct. If your application is selected, the training or workshop and all coordination costs are waived. Awardees will be responsible for providing the venue and all necessary A/V services for in person events as a condition of the award. Please refer to the solicitation for further information.

**Q:** When will the TTT trainings and SIM Mapping Workshops be held?

We determine training and workshop dates when the applications have been selected. The trainings and

workshops will begin in April and be scheduled through August 2026.

### SIM Opportunity Questions

**Q:** The SIM application is for someone wanting to train others in the mapping, correct?

No. The SIM Mapping Workshops will be facilitated by the GAINS Center and are not designed to train others on how to facilitate the mapping process. The purpose of a SIM Mapping Workshop is to bring together a local, cross-system, multidisciplinary group of key partners from a particular jurisdiction to identify and reduce gaps between the criminal justice and behavioral health systems through the development of integrated local strategic action plans.

**Q:** Can we combine multiple jurisdictions in our application for a SIM Mapping Workshop?

Applications are generally submitted on behalf of a single county jurisdiction. If you are interested in applying on behalf of more than one county (or another multi-jurisdiction effort), you must contact us before applying.

**Q:** It was mentioned that letters of support are included in a SIM application. Would you please guide me to the page in the SIM solicitation application where the list of required letters is included?

Please refer to page 4 of the SIM application. *Note:* Target the high-level decision-makers and leadership when seeking to obtain a letter of support. Additional letters of support may be submitted to strengthen your application.

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**Q: In applying for a SIM Mapping Workshop, can we focus on specific intercept groups (e.g., Intercepts 0-2 or 3-5) or issues (e.g., substance use)?**

Yes, the SIM Mapping Workshops can be tailored to meet the needs of your community. Although the intent of the workshops is to cover all the intercepts of the SIM, you may request that the workshop focus on specific intercepts or priority topics. If you would like your SIM Mapping Workshop to focus on specific intercepts or topics, please provide that information and your rationale for how a more focused SIM Mapping Workshop would better meet the needs of your community as indicated in the solicitation application.

**Q: We currently receive funding from a federal agency. Can we still apply for a SIM Mapping Workshop?**

Current grant funding and the ability to leverage that funding are generally viewed as strengths. You will be asked in the application about any Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) grant funding you are receiving. Feel free to include information about relevant funding you are receiving from other federal agencies as well (e.g., U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance).

**Q: Will the SIM Mapping Workshops be held in person?**

Yes, all of the SIM Mapping Workshops under this solicitation are currently being planned to be held in person.

**Q: Can SIM Mapping Workshops be conducted in languages other than English?**

SIM Mapping Workshops can also be conducted in Spanish.

## **TTT Opportunity Questions**

**Q: Is there any prerequisite of certifications needed prior to applying for a TTT?**

No, there is no requirement for any specific certification. However, sites awarded a TTT will be

asked to select an audience of trainers with at least 3 years of experience working in the adult criminal justice system and a minimum of 40 hours of professional training. Equivalent experience, such as a history of justice involvement, is also accepted.

**Q: Last year, there was a separate solicitation for individuals to attend the TTT. Do you anticipate an individual training opportunity again?**

While no individual TTT solicitation is planned at this time for the coming year, interested individuals are encouraged to sign up for the GAINS Center email list to receive any future announcements regarding potential opportunities as they become available. *Reminder:* The current TTT solicitation is for training a group of approximately 20 individuals who have been identified by the awardee agency or jurisdiction, not individual trainers who aren't affiliated with a successful applicant organization.

**Q: Can we view the 4-hour training prior to submitting a TTT application?**

We cannot provide you with the actual training, but we can provide you with a program description and summaries of each module. For these materials, please email [Kyle Mosack](#), Training Coordinator for the TTT program.

**Q: Can you provide a little background on the TTT curriculum? How can organizations that are already doing a lot of trauma-informed work evaluate how participating might complement what they're already doing?**

This training is for professionals working within the criminal justice system or working with justice-involved people. The training focuses on ways in which individual professionals can become more trauma-informed in their work by understanding what trauma is and how trauma impacts those in the criminal justice system and those who work in the criminal justice system. This training is delivered from the perspective that understanding how

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trauma can impact behavior can help the professional do their work in a more trauma-informed way.

**Q: What if we only have five trainers in our program? Are we automatically disqualified?**

The training is for jurisdictions that can demonstrate the capacity to disseminate the training broadly. If you are from a small organization or agency, you may want to consider partnering with other organizations or agencies in your jurisdiction to join you in the application to demonstrate the minimum number of required trainers. If we see multiple applications from one agency or jurisdiction, especially if they are noted as such, we will consider that when reviewing applications. Alternatively, your trainers may apply for an individual TTT seat when the next solicitation opportunity is announced. Any future announcements regarding an individual TTT solicitation will be communicated through the GAINS Center email list.

**Q: Can an agency with multiple criminal justice-involved entities throughout multiple states apply in one TTT application?**

Yes. If multiple entities that are part of one agency plan to train together, they are welcome to submit one application. If the multiple entities want to have separate trainings, they should submit separate applications.

**Q: Can multiple rural counties combine jurisdictions in a single TTT application?**

We often give awards to states, state agencies, and regions combining multiple counties or jurisdictions. We encourage you to think creatively about partnering with other regional entities. Because there is an option for the TTT to be delivered virtually, some of the geographic challenges typically associated with a multi-jurisdictional training delivery will pose less of a barrier. If we see multiple applications from one agency or jurisdiction, especially if they are noted as such, we will consider that when reviewing applications.

**Q: Have you found having participants from the same county or region participate in a TTT works better? Or can people from different counties or jurisdictions easily attend together and not get bogged down in their own systems?**

It depends on how you are conceptualizing your applications. Applicants with participants from the same county or region may find that some logistics, collaboration, and opportunities for coordinating co-trainings across systems are often simpler. But people from different counties and jurisdictions can absolutely train together. The TTT training does not focus on how local systems in a given group are doing things differently. In the case of a multi-jurisdictional application, be sure to demonstrate how partners are connected. For example, how will the training be coordinated and implemented between the partners involved?

**Q: Is this training opportunity for community-based agencies and organizations only? Are people in private practice or university faculty who are qualified eligible to apply? Can university faculty members apply for the TTT to be hosted/managed by a university institute?**

People working in private practices or as faculty at a university are welcome to apply. Applicants do not need to be a community-based organization and can be a university-based group. University faculty are eligible to apply, particularly when there is an institute or center within the university that has funding and support to provide training to the types of agencies and organizations that are the target audience. In your application, emphasize the infrastructure and its connections with the target audiences, how the training will be rolled out, and how the intended audience will be reached.

**Q: Can juvenile justice professionals apply for the TTT?**

The GAINS Center works primarily with agencies and organizations focused on the adult population. Although much of the content is applicable to those working in the juvenile justice system, the content is

tailored to those working with adults. Juvenile justice agencies and organizations can be included in the application, but the primary focus must be on adults.

### Q: How is professional training experience defined in the TTT application?

Professional training experience is delivering topical training to an audience that relates to your profession or to being a trainer. Examples include training staff members within your organization, providing training as part of a professional organization in which you are a member, teaching a course at a local community college, being a law enforcement officer who provides training at the academy, or being an attorney who delivers continuing legal education courses. You may consult the application for additional information.

### Q: Does the virtual TTT prepare individuals to deliver the training in virtual format only?

Some TTT events are planned to be held in person, with the remainder of the events to be held virtually on Zoom. In both formats, facilitators will briefly review some tips for delivering the 4-hour training both virtually and in person.

### Q: If awarded the TTT opportunity, are there a minimum number of trainings required to be completed or any requirements after being trained as a trainer?

There are recommendations, but not enforced requirements. We recommend that in your application, you include a plan of how trainers will be engaged and how the training will be rolled out in your jurisdiction(s).

## Reminders

- Applications for the SIM Mapping Workshop are due **January 12, 2026**.
- Applications for the TTT opportunity are due **January 12, 2026**.
- If you need to request an extension due to unforeseen circumstances, you must contact us **as soon** as possible prior to the deadline. Extensions

are not guaranteed and are considered on a case-by-case basis.

- Jurisdictions **may** apply for both the TTT and a SIM Mapping Workshop.
- If applying for both a TTT and a SIM Mapping Workshop, please indicate this clearly on both submissions.

## Links and Contact Information

- Visit [the GAINS Center](#) to learn more about the TTT events and the SIM Mapping Workshops.
- Access the [TTT application](#).
- Access the [SIM Mapping Workshop application](#).
- Contact [Kyle Mosack](#), TTT Coordinator, if you have additional questions about the TTT application.
- Contact [Ashley Sabatino](#), SIM Mapping Workshop Coordinator, if you have additional questions about the SIM Mapping Workshop applications.
- 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.

## Contact Us

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