Solicitation for Applications



SAMHSA'S GAINS CENTER'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEARNING COLLABORATIVES

Family 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 POSTAL MAIL OR E-MAIL BY FEBRUARY 20, 2019:**

SAMHSA’s GAINS Center

Policy Research Associates, Inc.

345 Delaware Avenue

Delmar, NY 12054

Attn: Anthony Fortuna, Program Coordinator

Phone: 800.311.4246 or 518.439.7415 Ext. 5257

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## **Overview**

SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA), is known nationally for its work in regard to people with behavioral health needs who are involved in the criminal justice system. The GAINS Center is currently soliciting applications from communities interested in collaborating with subject matter experts through Criminal Justice Learning Collaboratives designed to explore five topics:

* Risk-Need-Responsivity
* Family Treatment Courts
* Data-Driven Equity and Inclusion
* Competency to Stand Trial/Competency Restoration
* SAMHSA’s Eight Guiding Principles for Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice

The Learning Collaborative Model brings together local community teams in a blend of virtual and onsite events to create coordinated local strategic plans and implementation strategies for the topic of focus. Selected teams will work intensively to determine optimal ways to implement best practices and define success indicators for each topic area noted above. Each topic-specific Learning Collaborative will engage subject-matter experts to work with community teams during the implementation process and to facilitate peer-to-peer sharing. The unique blend of onsite and virtual methods will offer selected teams an individualized and familiar environment in which to learn and complete their implementation work, while providing a virtual forum to share with other communities and receive an array of technical assistance from subject matter experts across the country.

The goal of this particular Learning Collaborative is to improve practice within existing Family Treatment Court programs. The work completed through this opportunity will be designed to improve practice within Family Treatment Courts with an eye toward cross-systems performance measures, relationships, and effective strategies to improve outcomes. To be eligible for this opportunity, **applicants must be existing, Family Treatment Court programs which have been in operation for a minimum of thirty-six months** and have partnerships in place with key stakeholders including at a minimum child welfare services, substance use disorder treatment, attorneys representing parents and children, and judicial officers. This Learning Collaborative will include expertise from both GAINS staff and consultants as well as Children and Family Futures, supporting selected communities with achieving their goals.

**The Learning Collaborative virtual meetings for this topic will take place on May 22 and 23, 2019**

Informational webinars were held on December 5 and December 6, 2018. To learn more about the solicitation, stream a webinar recording: [December 5 Recording](https://praincevents.webex.com/praincevents/lsr.php?RCID=644d431b1ec30f5c20809009763294e9) | [December 6 Recording](https://praincevents.webex.com/praincevents/lsr.php?RCID=6c7547c70d40787cb3a7df59d4299383)

*Please note: If you require an alternative format or captioning, please contact* [*SAMHSA’s GAINS Center*](mailto:gains@prainc.com?subject=Alternate%20Format%20for%20LC%20Webinar%20Recordings%20Needed)*.*

## **Purpose & background**

The Learning Collaboratives are designed to achieve four key objectives:

* Enhance collective knowledge of key issues and familiarity with the topic
* Understand promising, best, and evidence-based practices to address the topic and related issues
* Develop strategic plans that focus on the issue, including defining assignments, deadlines, and measurable outcomes to be reported
* Increase knowledge about the challenges and lessons learned in implementing strategies through peer-to-peer sharing via a virtual convening and monthly collaborative calls

Each Learning Collaborative virtual meeting will be a 1 ½ - 2-day event. Following the virtual event, each participating community will receive follow up technical assistance via monthly calls, including all selected teams; and a 1-day site visit by GAINS staff and/or appropriate subject matter experts to facilitate continued work toward achieving the implementation goals identified in the action plan developed during the topical, virtual event.

## **Family Treatment Courts**

Since the founding of the first Family Treatment Court programs in 1995, the number of operating programs has expanded to approximately 360 courts across the United States. The Family Treatment Court models provide the necessary support systems for families when a parent has a substance use disorder and has come to the attention of the child welfare system. Family Treatment Courts provide a coordinated, multi-system approach which combines the sanctioning power of treatment drug courts with effective treatment services promoting successful family preservation and reunification.

According to the National Drug Court Institute and the Center for Children and Family Futures (2018), the Family Treatment Court’s mission includes ensuring the safety and well-being of children and offering parents a viable option to retain custody or to reunify with their children. This Learning Collaborative will focus on improving practice of existing Family Treatment Courts through building collaborative cross-system strategies, institutionalizing best practices, and bringing the courts to scale. Special attention will be given to the development of a family-centered approach.

Source

National Drug Court Institute & Children and Family Futures. (2018). [*Family treatment court planning guide*](https://www.cffutures.org/files/fdc/18803_NDCI_Planning_v7%20%28003%29.pdf)*.* Alexandria, VA: National Drug Court Institute.

## **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 communities. A Learning Collaborative virtual meeting, in which all LC participant teams must participate, will be held on May 22-23, 2019.**

There are no fees for registration, tuition, or materials associated participation in the Learning Collaborative. The GAINS Center will pay all costs associated with pre- and post-virtual meeting coordination, conference calls, and GAINS Center staff and/or subject matter expert time and travel.

Up to six sites will be selected through this solicitation. Communities selected for these events must be able to provide facilities and A/V resources to comfortably accommodate up to 15-25 event participants. Further details will be provided to communities selected to participate.

**To be considered, all applications must be received by February 20, 2019. Selected communities will be notified on or about February 27, 2019.**

## **target Team members/community partners**

A community submitting an application should strive to include representation from a broad array of key stakeholders. The identification of 15-20 professional and community partners should include, but not be limited to:

* Judge
* Family Treatment Court administrator
* Child protective services administrator
* Prosecutor
* Public defender
* Substance use treatment provider
* Mental health treatment provider
* Children’s development service provider
* County or city council member
* Support services representatives

## **Application Requirements**

It is required that each applicant identify leaders within their community that support this project and are dedicated to allocating staff time to participate in the technical assistance activities. **Support must be illustrated by a written letter of support or commitment from diverse community partners.**

**Letters of support are required from:**

* Family Treatment Court presiding judge(s)
* Child protective services administrator
* Substance use treatment provider director

**To be eligible for this opportunity, Family Treatment Courts must have been in operation for a minimum of thirty-six months. Evidence of the total time that the Family Treatment Court has been in operation must be provided in the application.**

**In addition, communities selected must agree to participate in the following:**

* Pre-event planning conference call(s) with GAINS Center staff, including but not limited to kick-off calls, preparatory activities, and IT calls.
* Local planning committee activities on an as needed basis to determine participants, recruit participants for virtual and on-site meetings, confirm logistical arrangements, etc.
* Provide space to host the Learning Collaborative virtual meeting and site visit – space must be able to comfortably accommodate up to a total of 25 people (up to 15-20 team participants, observers, and 2 GAINS Center representatives).
* Participate in Learning Collaborative virtual meeting and post-event site visit by GAINS staff and/or consultants. Note that the participation of all identified team members/stakeholders in the Learning Collaborative meeting is expected.
* Engage in post-technical assistance activities, including but not limited to reporting and consultation calls

Following the technical assistance delivery, teams will be required to report on outcome measures determined during the Learning Collaborative. Reports must be submitted to the GAINS Center in August 2019 following the Learning Collaborative. Additional details will be provided to selected organizations.

# **SAMHSA’s GAINS CENTER’S CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEARNING COLLABORATIVES**

# **Family Treatment Court SITE Application**

Please complete the application below.

Only complete applications will be considered for site selection.

APPLICANT JURISDICTION/COMMUNITY: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **NAME OF PERSON COMPLETING THIS FORM:** |  |
| **TITLE:** |  |
| **ORGANIZATION:** |  |
| **ADDRESS:** |  |
| **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 THE Family Treatment Court learning collaborative

Please address the following in your statement:

* Provide a brief description of your community (including demographics, population, available resources, and any other information that you think gives us a good “picture” of your community)
* How long has your Family Treatment Court program been in operation? (*Provide evidence of total duration of operation with your application*)
* To what extent has your Family Treatment Court examined opportunities to expand its capacity to meet the needs of the families in the child welfare caseload? Has this been discussed as a goal of your steering committee?
  + What are the outcomes your Family Treatment Court strives to achieve?
  + What data are routinely collected to monitor your Family Treatment Court?
  + How many parents have participated?
    - How many have completed?
    - How many have reunified with their children?
    - If these data are not routinely tracked, describe what it would require for your Family Treatment Court to routinely monitor these data and if you see this monitoring as a priority.
* Describe your Family Treatment Court program, including which evidence-based practices are received by your participants.
  + What is the estimated need for the Family Treatment Court program in your community (i.e., what is the annual number of parents in your jurisdiction who would benefit from participating in the Family Treatment Court compared with the average number of parents who are admitted to the program?).
    - If these data are not known, describe what it would require for your Family Treatment Court to acquire these data to monitor the scale of your program and how you see this monitoring as a priority?
* Does your existing Family Treatment Court have any active grants (e.g., SAMHSA, Bureau of Justice Assistance)? If yes, please complete the grid below.

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| **Grant Grid** | | | |
| **Grant Program**  **(e.g., Offender Reentry Program)** | **Grant Source**  **(e.g., SAMHSA)** | **Award Period**  **(e.g., 10/2015-09/2018)** | **Brief Description**  **(i.e., 2-3 sentence overview)** |
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* Describe 2-3 goals that you have for improving the practice or policies of your Family Treatment Court program. How do you envision sustaining those changes?
* Describe any current plans to improve monitoring outcomes for families participating in the Family Treatment Court program
* Discuss any obstacles or hurdles you anticipate in regards to adhering to the schedule or expectations of this opportunity
* Briefly describe why it is important for your jurisdiction to participate in this learning collaborative right now

**Please identify a primary contact for your jurisdiction, if it is someone different than the applicant. Please ensure the primary contact is someone who will be accessible to the participants and to GAINS Center staff throughout the entire duration of the Learning Collaborative.**

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| **PRIMARY CONTACT FOR THIS APPLICATION**  Primary Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Role/Position: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Agency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Fax: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

Please identify the lead agencies/organizations that have agreed to participate in the Family Treatment CourtS learning collaborative.

Please complete the team selection grid below to indicate key stakeholders who have agreed to participate as part of your community team. AS INDICATED EARLIER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL IDENTIFIED TEAM MEMBERS/STAKEHOLDERS ARE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE Learning Collaborative VIrtual MEETINGS ON THE SPECIFIED DATES.

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| **Team Selection Grid** | | | | | |
| **#** | **Required\*** | **Role** | **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Letter of Commitment/Support Included? (Y/N)** |
| **1** | *Family Treatment Court presiding judge(s)\** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** | *Child protective services administrator\** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** | *Substance use treatment provider director\** |  |  |  |  |
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**Please attach required letters of commitment/support (noted on page 4) to your application.**



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

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E-mail: afortuna@prainc.com

Questions should be directed to Anthony Fortuna 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 regarding the status of their application on or about February 27, 2019. Notification will be distributed via email.