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# SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS

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Training Opportunity:

## “How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses” Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Event for Individual Trainers

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

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

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PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE BY **FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

At the following link: <https://pra.typeform.com/to/vFjQNXFv>

### ***IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS***

*You must complete the application in full online in order 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: [gainsttapply@prainc.com](mailto:gainsttapply@prainc.com)*

## BACKGROUND

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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 involved in the criminal justice system. There is growing recognition that trauma can play a significant role in criminal justice involvement. 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 has developed the *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* training. This training program is specifically tailored to assist criminal justice professionals in developing trauma-informed responses to justice-involved adult men and women.

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 justice-involved men and women by linking them to appropriate treatment and support services.

Target audiences for this training program are community-based criminal justice system professionals, including community corrections officers (probation, parole, and pre-trial services), reentry staff, peers, court personnel, law enforcement officers (including local CIT trainers), and human service providers who work with criminal justice-involved adult populations. Participants in training deliveries may be assembled from within a community, county, region, or state, and may also be gathered from outside of the community of the training site.

**NOTE: All TTT events under this solicitation are currently planned to be held virtually on Zoom.**

## PURPOSE OF THIS SOLICITATION

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The GAINS Center is soliciting applications from individuals who have advanced training skills and who are interested in becoming trainers for the GAINS Center's *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* training program. Specifically, the GAINS Center is looking for individuals interested in working with our organization to learn to facilitate the training in local communities across the country – effectively becoming local “experts” in this program – via a Train-The-Trainer (TTT) event.

The objectives of the TTT event are to:

- Present the *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* training to participants
- Discuss and review the design, purpose, objectives, and goals of the *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* training
- Introduce, develop, and enhance training, co-training, facilitation, and public speaking skills
- Help familiarize participants with available tools and resources, including:
  - Trainer Tools available through SAMHSA's GAINS Center website
  - Noteworthy publications and topical resources on trauma and trauma-informed responses
- Connect participants with fellow trainers for ongoing support, collaboration, and dialogue regarding trauma-informed responses and community-based training opportunities

## TTT EVENT COSTS AND LOGISTICS

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SAMHSA's GAINS Center will offer this training **free of charge**. There will be two TTT events, with a possible third date taking place virtually on **April 22&25, May 19&22, and June 9&13, 2025**. All applicants **MUST** indicate which dates they are available to attend the TTT event in this application and **be available for at least two of the three options**. All applicants **MUST** be able to attend for one of these sets of dates and remain for the duration of the two-day training. Once accepted, the specific training dates for your session will be confirmed.

There are **no fees** for registration, tuition, pre- or post-training coordination or materials associated with these trainings. The GAINS Center will pay all costs associated with training coordination, delivery, technology preparation, and TTT facilitator time. Applicants selected for the TTT event must have access to a computer with camera and microphone, internet access, and access and ability to join the event via Zoom. Further details will be provided to selected participants.

Although a virtual event, the GAINS Center's train-the-trainer (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 in either format.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

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### **Applicants for this TTT event are 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, professional training providers who routinely provide training to professionals who work in the CJ system or with CJ-involved populations are eligible; individuals who have lived experience with the criminal justice system and mental illness or substance use are also eligible*)
- 2) At least 40 hours of experience *delivering* professional training** (i.e. training other professionals and/or in an educational setting)
- 3) The capacity and support to conduct future trainings in their local agency/community/region/state**

**Applications will be evaluated on readiness to implement trauma-informed principles/practices within an organization/community/region/state as demonstrated by:**

- Advanced training/facilitation skills
- Systems-level thinking that is informed by knowledge of the criminal justice system and clinical and/or services organization perspectives
- Extensive knowledge of the adult criminal justice system, procedures, and professional roles across the continuum
- Awareness of trauma and trauma-informed care/responses/systems
- Understanding of issues faced by people with trauma histories who are involved with the criminal justice system and who may also be dealing with mental and substance use disorders
- Knowledge of public mental health and substance use treatment systems

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

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**While not a requirement to apply to this opportunity, priority will be given to applicants who provide training to drug courts and/or reentry programs.**

Individuals selected for the TTT must agree to the following aspects of the project:

- Have technological capacity to engage in the TTT, including access to a computer that has internet access, camera, microphone, and the ability to participate via Zoom.
- Participate in the April 22&25, May 19&22, or June 9&13, 2025 *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* TTT event in its entirety. Applicants should note at least two date options for which they are available, but will only attend one of the TTT events. Dates will be assigned following acceptance.
- Deliver the training program within three months post-TTT.
- Provide details regarding future training dates, locations, and audiences to the GAINS Center through periodic follow-up communication.
- Sign a participant agreement agreeing to the program stipulation that those who complete the TTT are not permitted to charge their participants for attending future trainings.
- Sign a participant agreement agreeing to the program stipulation that those who complete the TTT are not allowed to create and host their own Train-the-Trainer event.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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**TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY, YOUR APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:**

- **A minimum of 2 letters of support**
- **CV or resume**
- **All required questions on the application form completed in full**

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