COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION*:

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia (EFMNS) is a non-profit organization that engages with vulnerable women and girls across the province to foster personal empowerment and address the root causes of poverty and criminalization. The women and girls we serve are often at a high risk of returning to the cycle of poverty, homelessness and self-destruction that can cause criminalization. EFMNS is devoted to improving the lives Of women in our province through comprehensive housing supports, innovative programming initiatives, justice system reform and through building personal capacity to develop positive relationships with their communities. EFMNS provides the structure for marginalized women and girls to transform their lives from a cycle of poverty and insecurity to one of stability, growth and hope.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
We are interested in supporting a research projects that helps us understand the root causes of women's criminality. In particular, we would like researchers to explore the link between child protection involvement, addiction and future criminality. This research could be done by way of literature review, statistical analysis and interviews. We would be open to supporting researchers to access our clients for the interview portion of the research.

PROJECTED BENEFITS:
This research will allow us to propose non-custodial solutions for women who are accused of crimes in Nova Scotia. It will also support our efforts to get women out on parole and effectively reintegrated into the community.

In particular, this research will help the Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia
• To increase the understanding of women's needs and the subsequent availability of community-based, publicly funded, social service, health and educational resources available for poor, marginalized, victimized, criminalized, and imprisoned women
• To increase public awareness of the issues facing criminalized women and to promote decarceration strategies for women
• To reduce the numbers of women who are imprisoned in Canada.

* [These are excerpts from the Community Partner's original proposal]