



**Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**



---

## **OVERVIEW**

The Crisis Intervention Training Program was enacted by the Montana legislature in 2017 and directed the Board to increase the number of law enforcement officers, behavioral health providers, and community stakeholders who are trained to respond safely and effectively to incidents that involve an individual who is experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a 40 hour, week-long, in-person training program. Its purpose is to assist law enforcement officers, detention staff, dispatchers and first responders of many community service providers in engaging, assessing, and assisting individuals in crisis with mental and/or co-occurring substance disorders. CIT is an evidence-based training that teaches and/or enhances skills needed to better engage individuals in crisis that present with mental health and/or co-occurring substance disorders. This training exposes the participants to materials and experiences from trained mental health and medical professionals to better prepare them to work with this unique population effectively and safely.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) grant is a State of Montana funded opportunity currently based on two different funding sources provided by the state. Montana Marijuana tax revenues funds \$75,000 dollars of the overall amount and the legislature mandated \$150,000 in general funds will be used for expanding CIT training throughout the state. These combined funds amounted to a \$225,000 12-month long grant opportunity. Should funding sources remain available, CIT grants through MBCC will occur annually.

The CIT grant is non-competitive, no match is required by the applicant, and it is available to local governments, tribal governments, non-profit law enforcement organizations, and non-profit organizations. The funding usage parameters specify that recipients of the grant should adhere to the evidence-based Memphis Model of CIT training and priorities of funding will go to grant applicants who demonstrate collaborative partnerships and full community engagement for implementation of CIT programming.

## **AUTHORITY**

Montana Code Annotated 44-7-110

## **CUSTOMERS**

Local governments, including tribal governments, and nonprofit law enforcement organizations are eligible to receive grant funding to:

(a) provide specialized training to law enforcement officers to help officers recognize and properly respond to individuals with a mental illness or behavioral health problem, with or without



---

possible co-occurring substance abuse issues, including strategies for verbal de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques; and

(b) best utilize or establish collaborative programs that enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to coordinate with community-based service providers to address the behavioral health problems of individuals typically encountered by law enforcement officers in the line of duty.

Nonprofit organizations through direct contracts may be utilized to provide or coordinate community-based training programs to develop best practices and standards.

(c) local government (including tribal) and non-profit personnel/individuals this CIT grant funding can be used to train: Police Department personnel, Sheriff's Office personnel, Game Wardens, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) personnel, state patrol, 911 dispatchers, jail/prison personnel, State Hospital personnel, Probation/Parole personnel, Fire Department personnel (volunteer or paid), EMS, Adult Protective Services personnel, Pre-release personnel, Child Protective Services personnel, all court officers/personnel, homeless outreach/shelter personnel, housing stabilization personnel, victims services personnel, voluntary/involuntary mental health stabilization facility personnel, hospital/clinic staff (psychological, substance abuse, medical and dental) or other non-profit state law enforcement/civil servants/personnel who serve, respond to, investigate or interact with individuals this CIT training is meant to address.

\*Federal law enforcement officers or agencies may not apply for direct grant funding but are allowed to be trained with grant funds by State and local non-profit agencies who have been granted funds if the Federal law enforcement personnel's presence is deemed part of the community-based effort. (Example: FBI, DEA, Federal Probation/Parole, etc.)

## **EFFICIENCY**

Programs are monitored to ensure available training program guidelines and practices follow the standardized Memphis Model of CIT Training. Verification is completed to ensure programs are implementing yearly updates/changes to their training criteria and guarantee those funded have access to and use these criteria in their training programs or attend trainings using these up-to-date practices; or through any evidence-based program deemed effective and appropriate through evidence-based studies for CIT community response.

Efficiency information is not yet available for this grant cycle as this is the first year CIT funding has been managed by MBCC.

## **OUTCOMES**

This MBCC CIT funding opportunity came from State of Montana General Funds and State of Montana Marijuana Tax Funds for the period of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. In this funding

---



---

period, MBCC awarded 3 CIT grants to recipients that have shown their objective of continuing the CIT Memphis Model of training through CIT academies, training their own personnel and in expanding trainings to law enforcement and community members in areas of the state that have not been trained before.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The state of Montana currently funds this program through General Fund and State Special Revenue. The Board can seek federal grant money to continue to support this program.

## **PRIORITIES**

- (a). First grant award priority for CIT funding will be to: Local governments, including tribal governments, and nonprofit law enforcement organizations eligible to receive grant funding who use/agree to use the Memphis Model (or other evidence-based program deemed effective and appropriate for CIT community response) that will have the greatest impact on expanding CIT training and community-based programs throughout the state of Montana. “Impact” refers to the number of individuals that will be trained in CIT and the number of community-based programs to be established who will use the Memphis model (or other evidence-based teaching proven effective for CIT response) to address the community needs in their areas.
- (b) Once first priority grants have been reviewed, the following “Second tier” grant award priorities will be to: Local governments, including tribal governments, and other nonprofit law enforcement organizations and community service providers eligible to receive grant funding to train their employees/community partners in CIT or be trained as a trainer in CIT in the “Customers” section of this document.