



## **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 through grant funding.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training 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 law enforcement, mental health and medical professionals to better prepare them to work with this unique population effectively and safely. Participants from each field get to experience and learn from each other's occupation and how each field's job expectations can work together in responding to crisis situations.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) grant is a State of Montana funded opportunity. In the first year of available funding through MBCC, CIT funding came from a mix of both General Funds and Marijuana tax money the state of Montana received. The two funds made \$225,000 available for grant opportunities including a 10% administrative cost for MBCC to manage the funding to subgrantees. The second funding opportunity for CIT that MBCC released had \$450,000 of funding available (less the 10% administration cost). This funding came from the legislative approvals of House Bill 362 (\$300,000) and HB 701 (\$150,000) from the 2021 Legislative session. Both bills appropriate money from available Marijuana tax revenue to provide this funding amount each year until any legislative changes occur. The CIT grant began as a 1 year (12month) long funding opportunity. It has now become a 2 year (24 month) long funding period as the amount of funding has increased. The longer grant time frame allows awardees a longer project period to expend their funds and complete program goals. Grantees are not required to adhere to a 2-year period if their funding goals are completed earlier.

In its first year, the CIT grant application process started as a non-competitive review with applicants being funded based on the priorities set within the CIT standards. Now out of its first year with the expectations of the grant in place, the CIT application process has changed to the MBCC competitive scoring process to ensure the quality of applications received meet the same standards as other MBCC grant opportunities. The CIT grant requires no match by the applicant, and it is available to city and county local governments, tribal governments, 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 the priorities of funding remain the same. Priority to awarding grant funds will go to the grant applicants who have the biggest impact ability of providing CIT training statewide and demonstrate collaborative partnerships and full community engagement for implementation of CIT programming.

## **AUTHORITY**

Montana Code Annotated 44-7-110

## **CUSTOMERS**

Nonprofit law enforcement organizations, nonprofit organizations, and local governments, including tribal governments, are eligible to receive grant funding. Grant funds must be used to help law enforcement, advocacy, mental health, and community providers 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, including strategies for verbal de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques;
- 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.; and
- c. The board may also contract directly with a nonprofit organization to provide or coordinate statewide and community-based training programs to develop best practices and standards.

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.

MBCC works closely with DPHHS to ensure there is no duplication of funding for the CIT grant. MBCC's legislative mandate for CIT programming is the focus on training for CIT. MBCC will not allow funding that does not specifically adhere to training. MBCC will consider the funding of personnel positions if it is demonstrated that the position is either dedicated to training for CIT or may also allow for a percentage of a FTE that can be shown how the percentage will be dedicated to CIT training.

\*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.

To qualify for awards, CIT applicants are required to agree to using the Memphis Model of CIT. All grantees were either trained in or provided others training in the Memphis Model. All subgrantees are required to complete quarterly program and financial reports to report on the status of or completion of their program goals and budgetary expenditures. Those that attended CIT International training reported their travel and attendance and those that trained others through CIT academies in the State of Montana reported their training numbers.

## **OUTCOMES**

The first year of MBCC CIT funding period of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 resulted in 2 grant subrecipients that showed 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. In its second year of posting a CIT funding opportunity (running June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024), MBCC offered two applicants grants under the same objectives. One applicant accepted the grant funding while the second applicant declined the funding and continued their CIT objectives through DPHHS CIT funding.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The State of Montana currently funds this program through available marijuana tax revenue. The Board can also 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.