

COMING SOON...

In the spring of 2025 Richland County will host the first Crisis Intervention Team Academy in northeast Montana.

Trained CIT Coordinator will host a 40-hour Basic Academy. Its purpose is to assist law enforcement officers, detention staff, dispatchers, and other emergency responders in engaging, assessing, and assisting individuals in crisis with mental health and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. Upon graduating from the Academy, each participant receives a CIT Montana pin (silver or gold). This pin helps consumers and family members recognize a CIT trained and certified law enforcement officer of first responder.

What is CIT?

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program are community-based programs that bring together law enforcement, mental health professionals, mental health advocates, emergency medical services, emergency department staff, and other partners to improve community responses to mental health crises.

Based on research to date, CIT has been shown to improve Officers' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors in responding to behavioral health crises; demonstrate cost savings associated with deferred hospital and jail costs; and increase linkages to behavioral health services which contributes to improved individual, organizational and community outcomes.

What are the goals of CIT?

- To improve safety during law enforcement encounters with people experiencing a behavioral health crisis, for everyone involved.
- To increase connections to effective and timely behavioral health services for people in behavioral health crisis.
- To use law enforcement strategically during crisis situations – such as when there is an imminent threat to safety or a criminal concern – and increase the role of mental health professionals, peer support specialists, and other community supports.
- To reduce the trauma that people experience during a behavioral health crisis and thus contribute to their long-term recovery.

Ongoing Elements

- Partnerships: Law Enforcement, Advocacy, Mental Health, First Responders, Etc.
- Community Ownership: Planning, Implementation & Networking
- Policies and Procedures

Operational Elements

- CIT: Officer, Dispatcher, Coordinators
- Curriculum: CIT Training, Mental Health First Aid, Question Persuade and Refer
- Behavioral Health Resources: Access to Emergency Services, No Wrong Door

Sustaining Elements

- Evaluation and Research
- In-Service Training
- Recognition and Honors

- Outreach: Developing CIT in Other Communities