

## Tasks: Laying the Foundation for CIT

Task	Instructions	Resources	Completed
<b>Learn more about the CIT program model</b>	<p>Use web searches to collect information about the CIT model. Understanding the specifics of the model will help you clarify your goal and purpose. It will also help you see how CIT is different from more traditional approaches.</p> <p>In addition to the web resources listed, consider contacting your state mental health agency, police officer standards and training board and the NAMI State Organization in your state to find out what CIT efforts are underway in your state.</p> <p>As you learn about CIT, do not become discouraged if it seems your community does not have enough community mental health resources. Many CIT programs are creative and learn to use available resources to accommodate specific community needs. Developing and maintaining partnerships helps to initiate creative thinking.</p>	<p>Several organizations provide information about CIT:</p> <p>University of Memphis  <a href="http://cit.memphis.edu">http://cit.memphis.edu</a>            NAMI: <a href="http://www.nami.org/cit">www.nami.org/cit</a>            CIT International:  <a href="http://www.citinternational.org">www.citinternational.org</a>            Bureau of Justice Assistance:  <a href="http://www.ojp.gov/BJA/">http://www.ojp.gov/BJA/</a>            Council of State Governments:  <a href="http://www.justicecenter.cs.g.org/">http://www.justicecenter.cs.g.org/</a>            Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:  <a href="http://www.samhsa.gov/">http://www.samhsa.gov/</a></p>	
<b>Connect with a CIT program near you</b>	<p>Many CIT programs have people who serve as spokespeople for their programs. A CIT champion or coordinator person can provide quick answers to questions needing to be addressed. This individual is also likely to assist in providing an overview of their</p>	<p>The University of Memphis CIT National Directory at:  <a href="http://cit.memphis.edu/CitMap/">http://cit.memphis.edu/CitMap/</a>.</p>	



	<p>program, giving you the confidence that CIT can work for your community as well.</p> <p>If there are no CIT programs in your state, choose a neighboring state or a community similar in size to yours.</p>		
<b>Review the core elements of the CIT Model</b>	<p>The CIT Core Elements document was developed by CIT leaders around the country. It lays out the structure of a CIT program. Refer to it often.</p>	<p>“Crisis Intervention Team Core Elements” available at:  <a href="http://www.cit.memphis.edu/pdf/CoreElements.pdf">http://www.cit.memphis.edu/pdf/CoreElements.pdf</a></p>	
<b>Research funding opportunities</b>	<p>Sometimes federal, state and local grants and foundation funding sources can help with the genesis of CIT. Funding typically falls into one of two categories: planning and implementation.</p> <p>It is well worth your time to recruit people who are experienced in writing grant proposals in your CIT effort. When writing a proposal, it can be helpful to review other successful grants. Funders typically are interested in supporting efforts that are built on strong community partnerships and include a plan for long term sustainability. Finally, before applying for a grant, you need to ensure that you have a commitment to CIT in place that ensures you’ll be able to complete the tasks that you receive funding for. Grant makers can take their money back if you fail to complete a project.</p> <p>Do not become discouraged if funding is hard to come by – it is not a necessity for getting started with CIT. Many proven CIT programs generate the resources needed for the program within their partnerships.</p>	<p>Bureau of Justice Assistance:  <a href="http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/JMHCprogram.html">http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/JMHCprogram.html</a></p> <p>“Grant Writing Tips for CIT Programs” available at:  <a href="http://www.nami.org/cittoolkit">www.nami.org/cittoolkit</a></p> <p>Federal government grants: <a href="http://www.grants.gov">www.grants.gov</a></p> <p>The Foundation Center  <a href="http://foundationcenter.org/">http://foundationcenter.org/</a></p>	



<b>Generate support for CIT</b>	<p>It is essential to bring law enforcement, mental health providers and mental health advocates together. Having a dialogue between partner organizations about the community's response to mental health crises helps to expose common interests and concerns. Discussions may start out informally in an effort to break the ice and reduce barriers to cooperation. It is important to look for areas of agreement, to create a unified force, rather than to focus on grievances. It is also important to be flexible, because the pathway to developing CIT will change and grow depending on the needs of partner organizations. Development of informal relationships helps to promote a unified purpose for the group, and over time, the group should seek to create a formal commitment to CIT as a community program.</p>	<p>"Building Community Partnerships" available at <a href="http://www.nami.org/citforyouth">www.nami.org/citforyouth</a>.</p>	
<b>Share information about CIT</b>	<p>By discussing their research together, partners can stay on the same page and better understand the role of partnerships in CIT. Sharing information is a way for members of the group to understand what CIT is and is not, so that the group can establish clear shared goals. Making sure everyone is on the same page is a critical check and balance throughout this process.</p>	<p>"CIT Talking Points" available online at <a href="http://www.nami.org/cittoolkit">www.nami.org/cittoolkit</a></p>	
<b>Host a meeting about CIT</b>	<p>When and how to host your first meeting will depend on the size of your community and what is prompting the CIT initiative. For example, community leaders sometimes call for CIT after public outcry over a police shooting or jail overcrowding. In these cases, it may be necessary to pull together a large group of diverse stakeholders very quickly. In other communities, the impetus for CIT may be a grassroots effort by a few dedicated individuals. In</p>	<p>"Building Community Partnerships" available at <a href="http://www.nami.org/cittoolkit">www.nami.org/cittoolkit</a></p>	



	<p>these cases, an initial meeting may be small and informal and can occur whenever grassroots leaders need to get together.</p> <p>Regardless, the goal of the meeting should be to open a dialogue between three key partners--law enforcement, mental health services and advocates—about law enforcement response to mental health crises. The long term objective is to engage partners and encourage them to work together in pursuit of CIT as a community project.</p>		
<b>Begin a dialogue that includes individuals with mental illness</b>	<p>Your CIT programs should include the voices of people living with mental illness. Make sure representatives are included in your workgroup and that there are appropriate avenues for everyone's views and concerns to be addressed. Note that not all mental health advocates have a mental illness, so be sure to specifically seek out people representing to have a mental illness.</p>	<p>Your local NAMI Affiliate  <a href="http://www.nami.org/local">www.nami.org/local</a>  Your local Mental Health America affiliate:  <a href="http://www.nmha.org/go/searchMHA">http://www.nmha.org/go/searchMHA</a>  National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery:  <a href="http://ncmhr.org/">http://ncmhr.org/</a></p>	
<b>Identify a leader</b>	<p>Within your group of interested individuals, discuss who would be a good group leader. This individual should have personal skills to engage all members of your group respectfully while nurturing cooperation. He or she should also have practical planning skills to keep group members focused and motivated. Finally, he or she should be familiar with the mental health and criminal justice systems and able to understand the big picture.</p>		
<b>Recruit additional members for</b>	<p>With the group, begin to brainstorm about others who should be included in your partnership. Focus on mental health providers, law enforcement and advocacy, as well</p>		



<b>your group</b>	<p>as influential community leaders like judges and mayors. If you have not already done so, invite other interested parties, or people that your group members feel are important, to participate in the planning and work that lies ahead. At this stage, recruit new members with some care for your core mission. In the future, you will want the buy-in of a very broad stakeholder group, but for now it is important to decide on your mission and plans with those most affected by the CIT program – law enforcement, mental health providers and advocates.</p> <p>It should be noted that political leaders may not align themselves with early grassroots efforts, but are likely to join as your movement progresses and they see that it's in their best interest to be involved.</p>		
-------------------	--	--	--