

How to Develop CIT in Other Communities

A mental health crisis can occur anywhere. An individual may be in their own town or a neighboring county or an entirely different part of the state when a crisis occurs. It's helpful if that individual can receive an appropriate response, by a first responder or mobile crisis team who understands mental illness, how to help calm the situation through verbal de-escalation when appropriate, and how to connect the individual with appropriate resources.

Once you've developed your CIT program, invite neighboring communities to send officers to your training. If a nearby county has some interest or curiosity about CIT, offer to attend a meeting with their stakeholders to share your experience about CIT. Connect them with NAMI Indiana for technical assistance and support. If they hold a training, CIT officers from your program could attend the training to share their CIT lived experience officer stories. Offer to share resources that you may have to lend.

You may find opportunities for joint trainings and in-services, which can also be great opportunities for partnerships and coordinated outreach efforts. Furthermore, outreach efforts may include assisting with statewide development of CIT, and advocating for statewide funding and activities for CIT.

To discuss how you can help develop CIT in other communities, please contact Marianne Halbert, JD, Criminal Justice Director at NAMI Indiana, mhalbert@namiindiana.org