

## CIT Program Resources and Key Contacts

Discovering how to go about your program is a matter of selecting those few things that make your idea possible, practical, and potent. Resources make it possible. Good advice from experienced program stakeholders will make your program doable. Focusing on the particular activities and resources that make your idea an answer to local needs will make it socially transformative.<sup>86</sup>

### *Funding*

Funding is important for the support of dedicated CIT officers and coordinators, either full or part-time. The best funding is a mix of funding sources: both soft (grants, donations, and giving) and hard (a budget line item).

A lucrative, though not easy route, is to develop a plan that extends from small donations to large corporate gifts and even estate bequests.

Development is the work of years. The more requests for funding you make the easier it becomes and the more successes you have. The first application is the toughest, but it's the basic template for the next application, which will be better than its predecessor.

Following are sources to consider.

**<https://www.bja.gov/default.aspx>** – **The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)** in Washington, DC, is a source for funding for local service programs. It supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology, and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. Just be aware that any grant, especially from the feds is highly competitive, fraught with rules, regulations, and oversight—and terminal. Grants usually expire just when a program gets established. The BJA also provides information on allowable program activities and funding cycles for the Byrne Memorial Grant, which is amenable to CIT ideas. <https://www.bja.gov/jag/>

**BJA** provides leadership, services, and funding to America's communities by:

- Emphasizing local control.
- Building relationships in the field.
- Providing training and technical assistance in support of efforts to prevent crime, drug abuse, and violence at the national, state, and local levels.

- Developing collaborations and partnerships.
- Promoting capacity building through planning.
- Streamlining the administration of grants.
- Increasing training and technical assistance.
- Creating accountability of programs.
- Encouraging innovation.
- Communicating the value of justice efforts to decision makers at every level.

**<https://ojp.gov/funding/index.htm>** – The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs has a Funding Resource Center where you can explore funding opportunities and receive technical assistance.

**<https://www.ncjrs.gov/>** – The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) is the clearinghouse for BJA. It offers a range of services and resources, balancing the information needs of the field with the technological means to receive and access support.

Also refer to the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center for questions and concerns: 1-800-458-0786 or 202-305-9988.

*[https://ojp.gov/about/offices/customer\\_service.htm](https://ojp.gov/about/offices/customer_service.htm)*

Most agencies have relevant solicitations, while the competition is stiff. Some agencies you may not have thought to consider are: [**<https://www.>**]

- **[cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov/)** – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- **[hhs.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/)** – The Department of Health and Human Services
- **[hud.gov](https://www.hud.gov/)** – The Department of Housing and Urban Development
- **[samhsa.gov](https://www.samhsa.gov/)** – The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- **[ssa.gov](https://www.ssa.gov/)** – The Social Security Administration
- **[va.gov](https://www.va.gov/)** – The Department of Veterans Affairs

**<https://www.samhsa.gov/gains-center>** – The GAINS Center focuses on expanding access to services for people with mental and/or substance use disorders who come

into contact with the justice system. SAMHSA makes grant funds available through the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, and the Center for Mental Health Services. Find funding opportunities that support programs for substance use disorders and mental illness, and learn about the grant application, review, and management process. <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants>

**<http://foundationcenter.org>** – This site is a comprehensive set of resources for locating and approaching foundations.

Consider public, private, private nonprofit sectors, and donations for funding. It's wise when developing any local service idea to develop contacts and expertise at all three levels of government as well as private and nonprofit sources.

- *Federal* – At the Federal level, investigate <https://www.grants.gov>. This might be a source for further funding of an existing CIT program. For example, an existing program may seek a federal grant source for an enhanced CIT program. Realistically, it's a tough source to pursue, but funding is a game of numbers; the more attempts the more the successes.
- *State* – At the state level, you'll have a single point of contact, usually at the governor's office or a state administrative agency (SAA, responsible for block grant administration), which is charged with distributing grant funds. Perhaps develop a CIT-relevant, one-page proposal/concept to present to these agencies for sub-granting.
- *Local* – At the local level, a good tactic is to justify a hard-line item in the budget for your program.
- *Private* – In the private sector, businesses usually support community programs as part of their mission. You need to present a good business proposal that justifies giving to your program.
- *Nonprofit* – Foundations are also eager to hear a good proposal for giving. However, they usually require a highly detailed application and may take months before they announce awards. The Duke Endowment (<https://dukeendowment.org/>), which supports issues of community partnership, and the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust ([www.KBR.org](http://www.KBR.org)) have proven useful sources for mental illness community programs in the Carolinas.

## ***Organizations***

**<https://www.nasmhpd.org/> – National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.** This website is especially useful for finding links to mental health organizations and information sources.

## ***Program Examples***

**<http://cit.memphis.edu> – Memphis** is a good CIT resource as it was the original model and has over two decades of experience in decriminalizing the mentally ill.

**<https://www.memphispolice.org> – The Crisis Investigation Bureau of the Memphis Police Department** is the repository for the corporate knowledge for the Memphis Model.

**<http://www.naco.org/sites/default/files/documents/Jail%20Diversion%20Toolkit.pdf> – “The Bexar County, Texas, Blueprint for Success: **The Bexar County Model – How to Set up a Jail Diversion Program**”** makes the case for a comprehensive network of pre- and post-booking solutions to decriminalizing the mentally ill, including what can be done within the courts, jails, law enforcement, and mental health services.

**[www.houstoncit.org](http://www.houstoncit.org) – The Houston Police Department** has the largest CIT program in the nation at the time of this writing. This site provides examples of all the various CIT activities associated with a well-established CIT program.

## ***Publications***

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### ***Resources from the Web***

**<https://csgjusticecenter.org/mental-health/resources/> – The Criminal Justice/Mental Health Information Network.** The InfoNet is coordinated by the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Program and the CMHS National GAINS Center, with invaluable support from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and other organizations. Content on the site, which is still being developed, is organized and searchable using the components of the criminal justice and mental health

systems, which courts, corrections, and community support. See this list of resources: <https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/2009SummitUsefulResources.pdf>

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/> – **The Council of State Governments** is a national nonprofit organization that serves policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels from all branches of government. It provides practical, nonpartisan advice and consensus-driven strategies, informed by available evidence, to increase public safety and strengthen communities. For example, it designed and conducted the Consensus Program to help mental health consumers.

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/mental-health> – **The Consensus Program** is a national effort to provide information, research, and support to organizations attempting to help people with mental illness in the criminal justice system. It's sponsored by the Council of State Governments.

[https://nami.org/Get-Involved/Crisis-Intervention-Team-\(CIT\)-Programs/CIT-Resources](https://nami.org/Get-Involved/Crisis-Intervention-Team-(CIT)-Programs/CIT-Resources) – **NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)** provides a number of resources regarding CIT. Search for CIT on <https://nami.org> and you'll find others, such as *how to build a CIT program*: [https://nami.org/Get-Involved/Crisis-Intervention-Team-\(CIT\)-Programs/Building-a-CIT-Program](https://nami.org/Get-Involved/Crisis-Intervention-Team-(CIT)-Programs/Building-a-CIT-Program). The NAMI CIT Technical Assistance Resource Center has information for law enforcement, advocacy, and mental health workers, and consumers regarding Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. It serves as a repository of information about CIT programs nationwide. The Center facilitates ongoing communications between CIT programs and engages in national networking to establish standards and promote the expansion of CIT.

<http://www.parkridge.us/assets/1/Documents/cpsjMentalHealthResource-Guide052016.pdf> – **The Park Ridge Mental Health Resource Guide** can serve as an example for developing your own brochure. It's geared to the public and not especially for CIT officers, but a similar brochure could be created for CIT officers with information they need for CIT referrals. The brochure for the public could be disseminated to hospitals, Crisis Intervention Centers, and other public locations.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/> – **The SAMHSA Health Information Network (SHIN)** connects the behavioral health workforce and the general public to the latest information on the prevention and treatment of mental and substance use disorders.

<http://psychlaws.org> – **The Treatment Advocacy Center** is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating barriers to the timely and effective treatment

of severe mental illnesses. The Center promotes laws, policies, and practices for the delivery of psychiatric care and supports the development of innovative treatments for mental health consumers.

**<https://vitalsapp.com>** – “**The Vitals™ app** is a life-saving technology designed to bridge the communication gap between first responders and individuals living with invisible or visible conditions and disabilities – delivering greater peace of mind for everyone.” Individuals living with mental illness may download the VITALS app for free.

### ***Services***

**<https://mentalhealthrecovery.com/>** – This site features emerging evidence-based practices in mental health services and features WRAP, or the **Wellness Recovery Action Plan**, for prevention and well-being.

**[www.cmhsrp.uic.edu/nrtc](http://www.cmhsrp.uic.edu/nrtc)** – **The National Research and Training Center on Psychiatric Disability** (NRTC) promotes access to effective consumer-driven and community-based services for adults with serious mental illness. The Center is located at the University of Illinois at Chicago in the Department of Psychiatry.

### ***Strategic Planning***

**<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/aspa/unpan002504.pdf>** – This Handbook for Strategic Planning by Denise L. Wells and Linda M. Doherty, Ph.D., is a superior point of departure for your strategic process. The authors wrote it in response to questions about the strategic planning process within an organization. While it doesn’t anticipate every question nor teach the intricacies of strategic planning, it does answer process questions, detailing an effective, proven way to do strategic planning. Use it with other question-specific how-to manuals you can find on the internet.

**[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/MHC\\_Essential\\_Elements.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/MHC_Essential_Elements.pdf)** – “Improving Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: Essential Elements of a Mental Health Court” is a report sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). It provides an overview of the benefits of mental health courts should your jail diversion program consider diversion via the courts. Note that CIT pre-booking with a mental health court plus a jail diversion program constitutes a comprehensive approach to jail diversion.

**[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/CSG\\_le-research.pdf](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/CSG_le-research.pdf)** – “Law Enforcement Responses to People With Mental Illness: A Guide to Research-Informed Policy

and Practice” provides an overview of specialized responses to the mentally ill. Sponsored by the BJA.

<http://cit.memphis.edu/CoreElements.pdf> – “Crisis Intervention Team Core Elements” suggests some critical milestones for planning a CIT effort.

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/mental-health-programs/cp-technical-assistance/technical-assistance-tools/collaboration-assessment-tool/> – The Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Program’s **Collaboration Assessment Tool**

[www.entrepreneur.com](http://www.entrepreneur.com) – Resources on how to create a **press release or a media kit**. (Search “press release” or “media kit” on the site.)

### ***Training***

<http://csgjusticecenter.org/mental-health> – **Report of the Consensus Program** is a set of policy recommendations for training practitioners in the criminal justice and mental health systems (see Programs – Report of the Consensus Program). While this report is previously mentioned, it’s listed here for its relevance to training.

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