

CIT Program Effective Practices Checklist

This checklist is only a point of departure. You'll need to modify it—in fact, any checklist—to suit your particular set of circumstances.

You'll never have perfect and full information, and it isn't necessary. What matters is that you act. Reality will teach you the path to realize an efficient, effective, and (especially) self-sustaining CIT program.

This checklist will help the matrix team of planners eventually arrive at the collective realization that “Today is the day we quit planning and *do it*.”

CIT Program Effective Practices Checklist
Phase I: Designing Operations for Successful Jail Diversions
<input type="checkbox"/> Assemble a core group of change agents responsible for making CIT happen.
<input type="checkbox"/> State your CIT vision, mission, goals, and values as guides to daily decision making.
<input type="checkbox"/> Assemble key stakeholders and get buy-in.
<input type="checkbox"/> Meet regularly in an organized fashion with an emphasis on purpose.
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize work for functional committees and standardized operations.
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop an action-oriented strategic plan.
<input type="checkbox"/> Assess readiness to implement CIT.
<input type="checkbox"/> Establish a 24/7 no-refusal crisis response.
<input type="checkbox"/> Map local services that are alternatives to arrest for law enforcement.
<input type="checkbox"/> Understand the costs of arrest to develop an argument for CIT.
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop essential measurements of decriminalizing the mentally ill that appeal to key stakeholders.
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop relationships to secure resources beyond money.
<input type="checkbox"/> Design CIT training to fit both law enforcement and the mental health consumer.
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose law enforcement-oriented CIT coordinators.
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose performance-oriented CIT class instructors.

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Phase II: Putting the Plan into Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Establish a CIT advisory board for oversight and necessary work.
<input type="checkbox"/> Strengthen the CIT collaborative between law enforcement and mental health CIT coordinators.
<input type="checkbox"/> Pilot your first 40-hour CIT class with officers from one sheriff's office and one police department.
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuously build and rebuild your community-based resources.
<input type="checkbox"/> Actively pursue your plan for CIT stability.
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuously redefine program scope as the gap between capacity and demand becomes apparent.
<input type="checkbox"/> Automate process monitoring (efficiency) and impact analysis (effectiveness) as much as possible.
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop and use an array of marketing tools to get the word out.
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose law enforcement trainees who want to work with mental health consumers.
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain a core group of mental health services instructors who identify and connect with first responders.
<input type="checkbox"/> Have the CIT coordinator be responsible to the lead law enforcement executive.
Phase III: Stabilizing and Expanding to Scale
<input type="checkbox"/> Redefine scope: Restate vision, mission, and goals.
<input type="checkbox"/> Continue to strengthen the comprehensive jail diversion network.
<input type="checkbox"/> Assemble a transition team to close the service-to-needs gap.