

Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) Training Program

C.I.T. is a valuable community resource that helps those with a mental illness or substance abuse issues receive understanding and fair treatment by the law. **Don't be afraid to request a C.I.T.-trained officer** for a friend, family member or community member – **it could save someone's life. View the 10TV News story on the CIT Program in Franklin County**

Franklin County residents may call 9-1-1 and request a police officer who has received specialized training in mental health and substance abuse issues (a CIT officer). **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** CIT is a police-based pre-arrest jail diversion program. The program is designed to create a seamless link between law enforcement and emergency mental health services. CIT officers receive approximately 40 hours of training in areas including psychiatric disorders, substance abuse issues, de-escalation techniques, and in legal issues related to mental health and substance abuse. In addition, they receive empathy training from individuals with mental illness and gain exposure to the views of family members of those suffering from a mental illness.

The first Franklin County C.I.T. training session was held in September 2003. Since that time, the Columbus Division of Police, who spearheaded the engagement of local law enforcement, and 21 other local police departments have completed the training, totaling over 600 C.I.T.-trained officers in Franklin County. Through C.I.T., many local police departments have helped countless individuals with mental illness or substance abuse issues. We are proud of the hard work of our local law enforcement and excited to continue to support this important public safety initiative.

C.I.T. would not be possible without the partnership of ADAMH, the Columbus Division of Police, Mental Health America of Franklin County, NAMI Franklin County and Netcare Access.

Typically held quarterly, this one-week training sessions of 35-40 officers is held each year. Interested in the program, contact [Karen Cousins](#) for more details!