

Answers to Questions Submitted Regarding the CIT Program Development Application

1. Our County previously participated in the state-wide CIT program. Will you consider our application if we submit one?

No. As stated in the application, “this solicitation is directed toward localities in New York State (outside of New York City) that currently do not have a CIT program.” We understand that some localities that we worked with in the past do not have a robust CIT program currently and might be able to benefit from a ‘re-boot.’ At this time, however, we are unable to accept applications from those localities.

Other counties that have previously developed a CIT program independent of the state-wide initiative are also ineligible to apply.

2. Can a mental health agency be the lead and complete the application – or does a law enforcement agency have to complete the application?

The application states that the cover sheet needs to contain names and positions of all the people that were involved in writing and/or reviewing the application. It doesn’t specify who can (or can’t) be the lead in terms of completing the application. The application also requests that the name of the lead law enforcement agency (along with other participating agencies) be listed. If, however, there is no lead law enforcement agency – you can state that (with a brief explanation), and we will accept your application.

3. Does the Sheriff’s Office need to be the lead applicant?

Although the state-wide CIT program takes a county-based approach, that does not mean that Sheriffs’ Departments need to be the lead law enforcement agency. In fact, some Sheriff’s Departments in New York have minimal to no road patrol presence – so other departments would be a better choice to be the lead law enforcement entity in those situations. There are many other reasons why a Sheriff’s Department might not be the lead agency and in fact, in years past we have worked with other counties where the Sheriff’s Department was either not involved or only minimally involved. Over time, our hope is that all law enforcement agencies within a county become involved in the program, but having all departments actively involved during the initial phases of development is not always possible.

4. I have reviewed this grant and don't see the amount a county can request for the grant, just the reimbursement amount for training officers. Did I miss something?

No, you did not miss anything. Other than the departmental reimbursement to offset backfill and overtime expenses associated with police training, there is no other amount that counties are awarded. All other expenses associated with CIT program implementation as delineated on page 5 of the application under "Summary of Program Components" (e.g., Sequential Intercept Mapping, 40-hour CIT training by Institute staff, consultants and NYS OMH personnel) are covered by our state funding. Please note, however, that localities will incur incidental travel expenses should we opt to hold an in-person kick-off meeting.

5. If our county has already been selected to participate in the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) mapping program through the SAMHSA GAINS Center, are we still eligible to apply for the CIT program development?

Yes. The fact that your county has been selected to participate in SIM mapping through the SAMHSA GAINS Center does not make you ineligible to apply for CIT program development.

6. Will the opportunity for CIT training be offered for one law enforcement agency, or are we supposed to coordinate with all law enforcement agencies to send select officers from each agency to participate in the training?

When we offer CIT training, it's expected that as many departments as possible within a county send participants. Typically, the lead or host department takes as many spots as they'd like and then offer the rest to others.

7. Who is eligible to attend the Train-the-Trainer (TTT) course?

Eligible sites are encouraged to send four representatives to the TTT program. A minimum of two representatives, one law enforcement officer and a mental health professional, is required to participate.

Law enforcement participants must have previously successfully completed the MPTC Instructor Development Course for police officers, be certified to teach the Police-Mental Health Recruit Curriculum (currently called "Fundamental Crisis Intervention Skills for Law Enforcement"), and previously attended a CIT training.

Mental health professionals attending should be certified to teach Fundamental Crisis Intervention Skills for Law Enforcement.

- 8. For the CIT TTT opportunity, once these individuals are trained is there a standard expectation for them to provide a certain number of trainings per year? If so, how many?**

Prior to sending law enforcement and mental health instructors to the TTT course, we require that they have supervisory approval to conduct at least one CIT training in the 12 months following the TTT. We also suggest that at a minimum a yearly CIT training is necessary in most jurisdictions to build the program to the optimal level of officers and address retirements and other personnel changes. Some jurisdictions conduct 3 or 4 trainings per year, but the actual number of trainings depends on local factors.