

Improving Crisis Response and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Programs in Pennsylvania



Across the country, communities are redefining who responds to 911 calls for service involving people experiencing mental health and/or substance use crises. Developing a robust crisis response system is at the forefront of innovative strategies to improve outcomes for people experiencing behavioral health crises while reducing the burden on law enforcement to respond to these calls, which are often time-consuming and require specialized training to respond effectively. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), in partnership with The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, has launched a project to assess the current landscape of crisis response services and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs for people encountering the justice system. This project is a component of Pennsylvania's Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program, which is designed to enhance the broader crisis system in Pennsylvania.

Over the next two years, the CIT/Crisis Assessment will accomplish the following:

- Conduct a landscape review of crisis infrastructure and CIT programs in Pennsylvania.
- Identify key stakeholders and hold listening sessions.
- Prioritize meaningful engagement with people who are directly impacted by the behavioral health and justice systems.
- Synthesize information into a written report that will include a systems analysis and recommendations for crisis response and CIT programming enhancement across Pennsylvania.
- Develop and disseminate an action plan that will provide counties and other stakeholders with actionable steps to guide future program, policy, and funding decisions around crisis infrastructure and CIT programs in Pennsylvania.

