



Course Announcement: CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Training for Erie County

Monday, October 19 - Friday, October 23, 2026 ⚡ 0800 - 1600

Lancaster Police Department Training Room, 525 Pavement Road, Lancaster, NY 14086

Who Can Attend?: This 40-hour course is recommended for sworn police or peace officers with 2-years-plus on (or recommendation from their supervisor) who have a genuine interest in becoming a specialist for their agency and assisting individuals with mental illness divert their crisis from the criminal justice system.

Instruction will include thorough review of mental health conditions and how to recognize distress, special populations, communication and de-escalation, mental hygiene law, suicide assessment, system review and diversionary resources. Scenario-based training is essential to this course, as is opportunity for discussion and feedback from peers and experts. Officers will be asked to secure their weapons during scenario training.

CIT is organized with the support of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration as well as the New York State Office of Mental Health. Presented in partnership between Crisis Services Emergency Mental Health Department and certified CIT Officers/Instructors from Town of Lancaster, Village of Hamburg, Town of Cheektowaga, City of Buffalo, & University at Buffalo Police.

What are Crisis Intervention Teams?

- Specialized training for law enforcement in responding to individuals with mental illness
- Creation of teams of officers within jurisdictions designated to respond to EDP calls

⚡ Benefits to the Community

- Increases safety
- Improves communication between citizens and law enforcement
- Builds trust in the community
- Increase awareness about mental health
- Focus on providing appropriate care to individuals with mental illness

⚡ Benefits for Police Agencies

- Reduces officer injury
- Decrease chance of using force
- Focus on diversion (jail and hospital)
- Cost effective; promotes appropriate use of police resources
- Encourages better relationships between community and police

Enrollment: Please send an email to Mo Madden cittrainingcoordinator@crisisservices.org and include the attendee: full name, last 4 of Social, date of birth, title/rank, appointment type (ie. under CPL §1.20(35) or §2.10(25)), last hire/appointment date, employment status (ie. full/part time). A recommendation from your employer is not required, but encouraged. Please note attendees must participate in all 5 days, and failure to attend each day can result in not receiving DCJS certification for the course.