

# Seeking Answers

## Getting help

NAMI Georgia membership is open to all persons who are dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Georgians coping with mental illness. Joining the National Alliance on Mental Illness, entitles you to membership on the national, state, and local affiliate levels. As a member, you will receive all NAMI publications, access to NAMI Net, and other educational information.

Yes, I would like to join NAMI Georgia!

\$35 Individual/Family  
 \$250 Organizational  
 Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and check payable to:

NAMI Georgia  
4120 Presidential Pkwy Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30340

Join the Georgia Crisis Intervention "A" Team

To learn how to participate in your local CIT Program, or to register for a class, contact the NAMI Georgia CIT Program Administrator at **770-234-0855**

Or visit the NAMI Georgia website at:

[www.namiga.org](http://www.namiga.org)

The Georgia CIT Program is funded by the  
Georgia Department of  
Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities



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[www.namiga.org](http://www.namiga.org)

The Georgia CIT Program received the 2008 International Association of Chiefs of Police Civil Rights Award for Multi-Agency Collaboration.



Georgia  
Crisis Intervention Team  
Program

*A New Tool for Law Enforcement*

Creating communities where people with behavioral health disorders receive treatment instead of incarceration

## WHAT IS CIT?

The Georgia Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program is a collaboration of professionals committed to assisting persons with behavioral health disorders (mental illness, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and addictive disease). This collaboration includes local members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), mental health service providers family members, and law enforcement officers. The most important aspect of the CIT Program is the training provided to law enforcement officers.

CIT trains law enforcement officers to effectively and humanly interact with persons with behavioral health disorders (mental illness, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease and addictive disease).

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- ◇ Train law enforcement officers to safely respond to persons in behavioral health crisis.
- ◇ Protect the rights of people with behavioral health disorders.
- ◇ Ensure that people with behavioral health disorders always receive treatment in lieu of incarceration, when appropriate.
- ◇ Improve the quality and quantity of behavioral health services.

- ◇ Promote adequate training for criminal justice system personnel about mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease, and addictive disease.

## MORE THAN JUST TRAINING

The mission of the Georgia Crisis Intervention Team Program is to equip Georgia law enforcement officers with the skills to recognize and assist people with behavioral health disorders in crisis, thereby advancing public safety and reducing stigma.

The Georgia Crisis Intervention Team Program is a collaboration of professionals committed to assisting persons with behavioral health disorders in every Georgia community, with a goal of training a minimum of 20% of officers in every law enforcement agency in each of Georgia's 159 counties.

As a part of the continuum of care, CIT is a central member of a team of community stakeholders working to build and provide sustainable infrastructures



that offer an array of supports, services and resources that promote mental wellness and recovery. Stakeholders include local members of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), behavioral health service providers, consumer and family advocates, law enforcement officers and members of the judicial system.

The Georgia CIT Program is a 40-hour, five day curriculum that is approved by the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council. It is comprised of both classroom instruction and practical exercises delivered by mental health professionals, other subject matter experts and CIT law enforcement instructors.

The class features clinical classroom instructions, practical de-escalation role play exercises, lived experiences of consumers and family members (taught by local professionals who volunteer to teach the class), and site visits to local treatment, recovery and support facilities.