

BJA's Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT) Curriculum: Free Training Resources for Law Enforcement

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Welcome



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Senior Program Manager
National Policing Institute

Introducing Today's Presenters



Robin S. Engel, PhD

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Academic Training to Inform Police Responses

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Brooke Mount, PhD

Senior Policy Advisor

Justice and Behavioral Health

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Office of Justice Programs

What is the Office of Justice Programs?

- The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) provides grant funding, training, research, and statistics to the criminal justice community.
- OJP is one of three grant-making components of the Department of Justice along with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

Office of Justice Programs

BJA - Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJS - Bureau of Justice Statistics

NIJ - National Institute of Justice

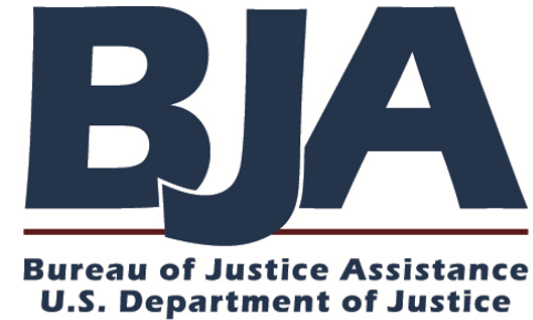
OVC - Office for Victims of Crime

OJJDP - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

SMART - Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

Mission: BJA's mission is to provide leadership and services in grant administration and criminal justice policy development to support state, local, and Tribal justice strategies to achieve safer communities. BJA works with communities, governments, and nonprofit organizations to reduce crime, recidivism, and unnecessary confinement, and promote a safe and fair criminal justice system.



www.bja.gov





Appointed by President Biden in February 2022, Director Moore leads BJA's programmatic and policy efforts on providing a wide range of resources, including training and technical assistance, to law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, reentry, justice information sharing, and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide.

Policy Office

provides national leadership to criminal justice organizations that partner with BJA to identify effective program models for replication and infuse data-driven, evidence-based strategies into operational models, practices, and programs.

Programs Office

administers state, local, tribal, and territorial grant programs. It acts as BJA's direct line of communication to states, local jurisdictions, territories, and tribal governments by providing customer-focused grants management support and careful stewardship over federal funds.

Operations Office

coordinates all communication, formulates and executes the budget, manages contracts, measures grantees' performance, and provides administrative support to BJA.

Public Safety Officer Benefits Office

provides death and education benefits to survivors of fallen law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other public safety officers, and disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

**BJA Director
Karhlton F. Moore**

Five Major Strategic Focus Areas

Improve public safety through measures which build trust with the community and ensure an effective criminal justice system

Reduction in recidivism and prevention of unnecessary confinement and interactions with the criminal justice system

Integration of evidence-based, research-driven strategies into the day-to-day operations of BJA and the programs BJA administers and supports

Increasing program effectiveness with a renewed emphasis on data analysis, information sharing, and performance management

Ensuring organizational excellence through outstanding administration and oversight of all of BJA's strategic investments

Fund – Invest diverse funding streams to accomplish goals.

Educate – Research, develop, and deliver what works.

Equip – Create tools and products to build capacity and improve outcomes.

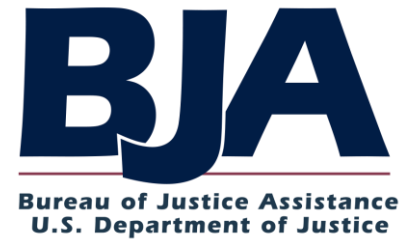
Partner – Consult, connect, and convene.

Academic Training to Inform Police Responses



- Support police in responding to people with behavioral health conditions and developmental disabilities
- Facilitate collaboration between police, behavioral health, and disability stakeholders
- Share information on evidence-informed and best practices in crisis response

Academic Training Initiative Partners



Implementation



- Develop and evaluate law enforcement training in **crisis response and intervention**
- Provide **training** and **technical assistance**
- Develop **resources** on evidence-informed and best practices in crisis response

Crisis Response and Intervention Training



- The Academic Training Initiative led the development of the Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT)
- CRIT is designed to prepare law enforcement officers to respond effectively to people in crisis
- CRIT's overall philosophy is officer safety, public safety, and diversion from the criminal justice system, when possible

Goals of the CRIT Curriculum



Expand knowledge of mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities



Create connections with people with lived experience



Enhance awareness of community services



Emphasize the de-escalation of crisis situations



Support officer safety and wellness

About CRIT



- CRIT is based on the Memphis Model of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training
- Like CIT training, CRIT is a **40-hour curriculum** that covers topics related to mental health, substance use, and crisis response
- CRIT reflects extensions to the CIT training model by incorporating information on **intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)**



- **CRIT** is a **training curriculum** that can be used to support law enforcement agencies in the implementation of many different crisis response models, including CIT
- **CIT** is a community-based **program** that brings together law enforcement and community partners to improve community responses to mental health crises¹

CRIT is designed to complement the development and delivery of crisis response programs

¹Usher, L., Watson, A. C., Bruno, R., Andriukaitis, S., Kamin, D., Speed, C., & Taylor, S. (2019). Crisis intervention team (CIT) programs: A best practice guide for transforming community responses to mental health crises. Memphis, TN: CIT International.

CRIT Trainers and Participants



| Trainers | Participants |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-trainer model – a lead law enforcement trainer and a lead behavioral health/IDD trainer present the content | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed for frontline law enforcement officers |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involves community partners as trainers | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommend class size of 25–30 participants |

CRIT Toolkit



Access the CRIT Toolkit:

<https://www.informedpoliceresponses.com/crit-toolkit>

- Includes resources needed to support the coordination and delivery of CRIT in a law enforcement agency



BJA
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U.S. Department of Justice

Crisis Response and Intervention Training

October 2022

INSTRUCTOR GUIDE



CRIT Proposed Training Matrix



| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Welcome & Introduction to CRIT | 6. Trauma & Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder | 11. Personal Connections | 16. Scenario-Based Skills Training: De-escalation Communication Skills | 18. Scenario-Based Skills Training: De-escalation Scenarios |
| 2. Perceptions & Attitudes on Behavioral Health & Disabilities | 7. Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities | | 17. Scenario-Based Skills Training: De-escalation Strategies | |
| 3. Prioritizing Officer Mental Health, Wellness, & Resilience | | | | |
| Break | Break | Break | Break | Break |
| 4. Understanding Mental Health Conditions & Mental Illnesses | 8. Family & Peer Perspectives Panel | 12. Legal & Policy Topics | 18. Scenario-Based Skills Training: De-escalation Scenarios | 18. Scenario-Based Skills Training: De-escalation Scenarios |
| | 9. Suicide | 13. Veterans | | |
| | | 14. Working with People Experiencing Homelessness | | |
| 5. Substance Use Disorders | 10. Neurocognitive Disorders | 15. Community Resources | | |

*The Training Matrix may be tailored to accommodate resource availability and the schedules of the law enforcement agency and their behavioral health and disability service provider partners.

Orange boxes include the introduction and conclusion of the training.

Blue boxes include modules focused on mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Green boxes include modules focused on learning and engagement with community resources and people with lived experience.

Purple boxes include modules focused on scenario-based skills practice and discussion of key legal and policy topics.

CRIT Toolkit Resources



Instructor Guide



Trainer's guides and PowerPoint presentations for all 18 modules



Additional trainer materials and resources



Participant Guide



CRIT Core Concepts: Essential Tools for Trainers



Supplemental materials

History of the CRIT Curriculum



- Based on the Memphis Model of CIT training
- Developed over many years with the support of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- Developed in collaboration with multiple subject matter experts in law enforcement, behavioral health, disabilities, curriculum development, and evaluation

Development of CRIT



- CRIT draws upon the expertise of subject matter experts, national statistics, research findings, and best practices for crisis response
- Piloted in four police departments in 2022
- Training participants and local trainers provided feedback following each pilot delivery, which was used to inform and update the curriculum



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

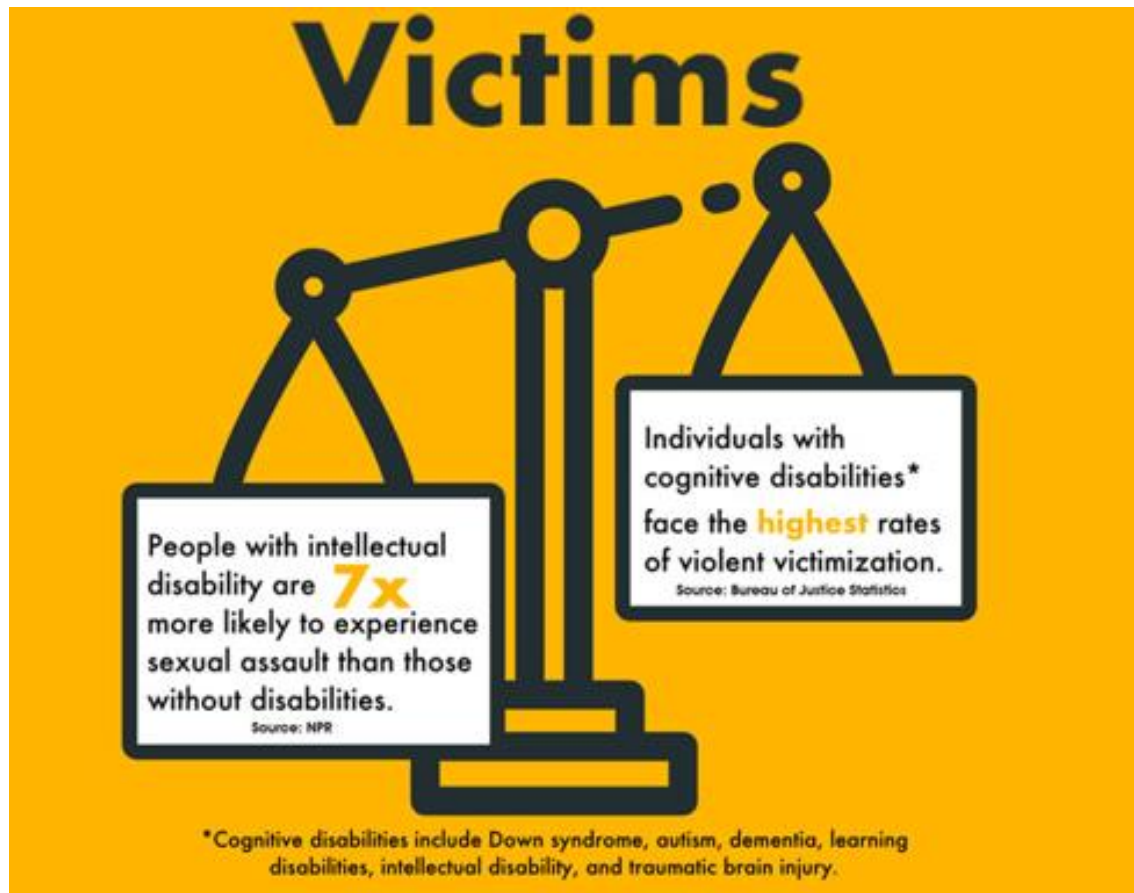


- Some crisis intervention trainings do not include content, or include limited content, on intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)
- CRIT is unique in that it provides content, skills, and strategies throughout the entire curriculum for effectively responding to people with IDD

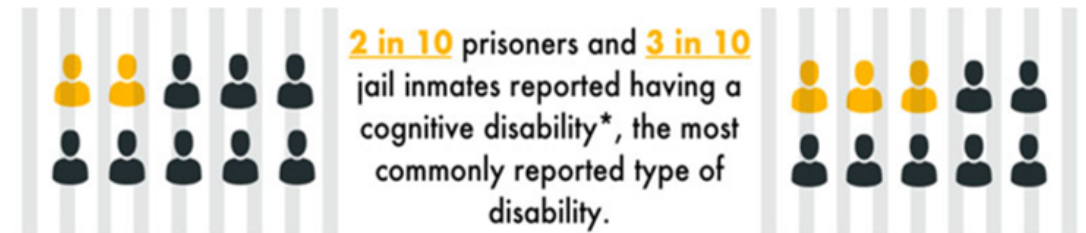
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)



- Individuals with disabilities are more likely to interact with the criminal justice system than people without disabilities



Suspects/Defendants/ Incarcerated People



*Cognitive disabilities include Down syndrome, autism, dementia, learning disabilities, intellectual disability, and traumatic brain injury.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics




of those later exonerated after giving a false confession to police had characteristics of intellectual disability.


Source: National Registry of Exonerations

Integrating IDD into CRIT



- Includes content on perceptions and attitudes on disabilities and **disability culture and community** (Module 2: Perceptions & Attitudes on Behavioral Health & Disabilities)
- Provides content on the **characteristics of IDD**, identification tips, and strategies for responding more effectively as an officer (Module 7: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities)
- Encourages the inclusion of people with IDD in the **Family & Peer Perspectives Panel** (Module 8)

Last Updated October 2022

**SLIDE 7.1**
TITLE SLIDE

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Time: 120 minutes
Slides: 31
Purpose: This module introduces participants to intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), their characteristics, how to recognize them, and tips for responding more effectively as an officer.

Instructor:
It is recommended that this module be co-taught by a disability advocate or professional and a person with a developmental disability. A field training officer or coordinator in crisis response should also be available to assist with the delivery of the content, as needed. Encourage participants to ask questions throughout the module.

Learning Objectives:
Upon completing this module, participants should be able to:

1. Understand the basic characteristics of IDD;
2. Describe at least three strategies to identify potential IDD;
3. Name at least four common interactions with law enforcement; and
4. Use effective communication skills when interacting with a person with a disability.

Activities:

- Video (Play up to 5:40): *Officer Interaction with a Teen with Autism*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FL5_ePqmH2Q&t=8s&ab_channel=12News
- Video (Play up to 3:21): *What is Stimming? Symptoms of Anxiety and Self Stimulation*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5H17FHYa-k>
- Brief Role Plays for Discussion: Law Enforcement Interactions with People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Instructions available in the back of this guide and in the additional Trainer's Materials for this module)

Other Resources:

- [Mental Health Conditions & Developmental Disabilities: Why Know the Difference](#)
- [Developmental Disabilities: What Law Enforcement Officers Need to Know](#)

1Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Integrating IDD into CRIT



- Recommends **site visits** to locations that deliver IDD services to provide opportunities for participants to interact with people with IDD (Module 11: Personal Connections)
- Includes content on laws and policies specific to **disability rights** (Module 12: Legal & Policy Topics)
- Encourages the inclusion of representatives from the IDD service system to describe **IDD services** (Module 15: Community Resources)
- Provides participants with **specific skills** and **scenarios** for responding to people with IDD (Modules 16–18: Scenario-Based Skills Training)

CRIT Implementation



- BJA's **Collaborative Crisis Response and Intervention Training Program** provides support for agencies to implement crisis response and intervention training to educate and prepare law enforcement and corrections officers to appropriately interact with people with behavioral health conditions or disabilities
- 36 grantees from FY21–FY23, including 26 law enforcement and 10 corrections agency grantees

CRIT Implementation



- The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is the lead TTA provider for BJA's Collaborative Crisis Response and Intervention Training Program

**CUSTOMIZED
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**SITE NEEDS
ASSESSMENT**

**PEER-TO-PEER
LEARNING**

**WEBINARS AND
PUBLICATIONS**

**CRIT CONNECT:
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE**

**IACP'S NETWORK AND
EXPERIENCE**

**IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN**

For more information, contact CRIT@theiacp.org

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)



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Resources to Support Crisis Response



- [Academic Training to Inform Police Responses](#)
- [BJA's Police-Mental Health Collaboration \(PMHC\) Toolkit](#)
- [Law Enforcement-Mental Health Learning Site Program](#)
- [Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program \(JMHCP\)](#)
 - [Get Support: https://jmhcp.org/support/](https://jmhcp.org/support/)

Disclaimer



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Access resources

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<https://www.informedpoliceresponses.com/>

