



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 126
[2013 Assembly Bill 450]

**Mental Health Crisis Intervention
Team Training**

2013 Wisconsin Act 126, (the Act) directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to award grants for mental health crisis intervention team (CIT) training for law enforcement agencies and correctional officers. The Act appropriates \$125,000 of general program revenue in each year of the 2013-15 fiscal biennium for these grants.

CIT is a program that trains police officers to effectively respond to citizens experiencing a behavioral crisis. The training is 40 hours long and consists of lectures on mental health-related topics, available community-based services, interactive de-escalation skills training, and on-site visits. Participating law enforcement officers are usually patrol officers that volunteer for the training.

The objectives of the CIT training include: (1) reduced injuries among the public, mental health consumers, and officers; (2) a reduction in repeat contacts with mental health consumers; (3) reduced criminalization of mental health consumers that interact with the criminal justice system; (4) better working relationships between law enforcement and mental health providers; (5) increased involvement of friends and family of mental health consumers; (6) fewer civil commitments; and (7) lower costs through better use of services.

Effective date: February 8, 2014.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.