

# Grant Approval Memo



**Grantee:** National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Fairbanks  
**Request Amount:** \$45,949  
**Project Title:** Strengthening Early Intervention and Crisis Response in the Fairbanks Community  
**Grant Term:** 9/1/2026 to 8/31/2027  
**Trust Staff:** Samantha Ponts

## **Staff Analysis:**

- What does this project do?  
Trust funds will support NAMI Fairbanks to coordinate and reestablish the Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program by organizing a local 40-hour CIT Academy, convening the CIT Steering Committee, and strengthening partnerships among law enforcement, behavioral health providers, peer support specialists, and family advocates. Additionally, funding will help develop local CIT Trainers and Coordinators, building long-term training capacity and improve coordinated responses to behavioral health crises in Interior Alaska.
- Who is receiving the funds?  
NAMI Fairbanks is a Fairbanks-based nonprofit organization that provides mental health education, support, and advocacy for individuals experiencing mental illness and their families.
- Why is staff recommending this project?  
This project aligns with the Trust's crisis continuum priorities by strengthening behavioral health crisis response through systems coordination, workforce development, and cross-sector collaboration. Trust funding will restore local CIT training after a two-year gap and build local training capacity, reducing reliance on outside trainers. The project leverages leadership from Ft. Wainwright Police Department, the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Team, behavioral health providers, peer support specialists, family advocates, and other Interior Alaska agencies to improve coordinated responses to behavioral health crises and access to services for Trust beneficiaries.
- Will this be a multi-year project?  
No. This is a one year funding request.

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## Trust Five Year Funding History

| <u>Fiscal Year</u> | <u>Project Title</u>                       | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Final Expended</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2024               | Fairbanks Community CIT Steering Committee | \$12,800      | Closed        | \$5,399               |

| <u>Comp Plan - Area of Focus</u>                   | <u>Strategic Priority Area</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Area of Focus 4: Substance Use Disorder Prevention | Priority 2: Crisis Response    |

## Project Description (from grant application)

NAMI Fairbanks is requesting funding to strengthen the Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program by re-establishing local CIT training and building on the community partnerships that support the program. The project focuses on Trust beneficiaries living with mental illness and brain disorders by improving how behavioral health crises are recognized, de-escalated, and connected to appropriate care.

During the grant period, NAMI Fairbanks will coordinate community planning, logistics, partnerships, and evaluation for the Fairbanks CIT Program. The November 2026 Fairbanks CIT Academy will be led by a certified CIT Trainer and Coordinator from the Ft. Wainwright Police Department, who will oversee academy curriculum, instructional planning, participant registration, and delivery of the 40-hour training. NAMI Fairbanks will promote the academy, coordinate partner communication, recruit family and peer presenters, provide logistical support, and manage grant administration, evaluation, and reporting.

The Fairbanks CIT Steering Committee will guide collaboration among partner agencies, identify community needs, and support planning for future academies. The project will also strengthen local training capacity by mentoring officers pursuing CIT Trainer and Coordinator certification, helping reduce reliance on trainers from outside the Interior while building local leadership for the Fairbanks CIT Program.

Through these efforts, NAMI Fairbanks will help establish a more sustainable Fairbanks CIT Program by increasing local training capacity, supporting coordinated responses to behavioral health crises, and improving connections to appropriate behavioral health services for Trust beneficiaries and their families.

## The Problem Addressed

Individuals living with mental illness often come into contact with law enforcement during behavioral health crises. Families are frequently the first to recognize when a loved one is in crisis and are often the ones calling 911 seeking help. These situations require responses that prioritize safety, de-escalation, and connection to appropriate behavioral health services whenever possible.

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The Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program has served the community for nearly two decades by providing specialized training that equips law enforcement officers to safely respond to behavioral health crises. However, following staffing changes among community partners, Fairbanks has not hosted a local CIT Academy for approximately two years. During that time, turnover within participating agencies has increased the need to train new officers while rebuilding the local leadership needed to sustain the program.

## What We Will Be Doing

NAMI Fairbanks will coordinate the community partnerships, planning, logistics, and evaluation activities needed to support the Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program. Working in partnership with the Ft. Wainwright Police Department and other community partners, NAMI Fairbanks will help re-establish local CIT training while strengthening collaboration among law enforcement, behavioral health providers, peer support specialists, family advocates, and the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Response Team.

Project activities include:

- Convene monthly Fairbanks CIT Steering Committee meetings to guide program planning, collaboration, and continuous improvement.
- Coordinate community planning and logistical support for the November 16–20, 2026 Fairbanks CIT Academy.
- Promote the academy and encourage participation from law enforcement agencies throughout Interior Alaska.
- Coordinate family members and peer presenters who share lived experience as part of the academy curriculum.
- Purchase and prepare academy supplies, training materials, refreshments, and graduation materials.
- Collect participant evaluations and project data to measure outcomes and guide future program improvements.
- Support the development of local law enforcement officers pursuing CIT Trainer and Coordinator certification to increase local training capacity.

The Ft. Wainwright Police Department will lead curriculum planning and delivery of the 40-hour CIT Academy through a certified CIT Trainer and Coordinator, including instructor coordination and participant registration. NAMI Fairbanks will provide the community coordination, logistical support, partnership development, and grant administration needed to successfully implement the academy and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the Fairbanks CIT Program.

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## Target Population

The primary beneficiaries of this project are Trust beneficiaries living with mental illness who experience behavioral health crises. Because CIT-trained officers respond to a wide range of behavioral health emergencies, the project also strengthens crisis response for Trust beneficiaries with other brain disorders when they encounter law enforcement.

## Geographic Area Served

The project will primarily serve the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Because Fairbanks serves as a regional hub for Interior Alaska, the CIT Academy will also be available to law enforcement agencies from surrounding communities, strengthening behavioral health crisis response across the region.

## **Grantee Proposed Evaluation Measures (from grant application)**

NAMI Fairbanks will measure project success through:

- Academy attendance records
- Registration records (provided by Ft. Wainwright PD)
- Participant evaluations (pre/post or post-training surveys)
- Steering Committee attendance logs
- Meeting minutes
- Partner feedback surveys
- Grant performance tracking maintained by NAMI Fairbanks

## How Much Did We Do?

- Number of Fairbanks CIT Academies coordinated
- Number of CIT Steering Committee meetings convened
- Number of community partner agencies actively participating in the Fairbanks CIT Steering Committee
- Number of law enforcement officers completing the CIT Academy
- Number of participating law enforcement agencies represented
- Number of family member presentations provided
- Number of peer presentations provided
- Number of officers pursuing CIT Trainer/Coordinator certification

## How Well Did We Do?

- Percentage of academy participants completing the full 40-hour training
- Percentage of participants rating the academy as valuable or very valuable
- Percentage of Steering Committee meetings held as scheduled
- Percentage of community partners reporting improved collaboration
- Percentage of evaluations completed

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## **Is Anyone Better Off?**

### Law Enforcement Participants:

- Percentage of participants reporting increased confidence responding to behavioral health crises
- Percentage of participants reporting increased confidence using de-escalation techniques
- Percentage of participants reporting increased knowledge of local behavioral health resources
- Percentage of participants reporting increased understanding of the role of family members and peers in crisis response
- Percentage of community partners reporting stronger collaboration through the Steering Committee

### Community Capacity:

- Number of officers pursuing CIT Trainer and Coordinator certification.
- Number of participating agencies represented on the Steering Committee.
- Percentage of Steering Committee members reporting stronger collaboration

## **Proposed Project Performance Measures (developed by the Trust)**

How much did you do?

- a. Number (#) of Fairbanks CIT Academies coordinated during the grant reporting period. Please include the date and location of the academy.
- b. Number (#) of CIT Steering Committee meetings convened during the grant reporting period. Please include the date and approximate number of attendees for each meeting.
- c. Number (#) of community partner agencies actively participating in the Fairbanks CIT Steering Committee. Please include the name of each community partner agency that actively participated in the Steering Committee during the grant reporting period.
- d. Number (#) of participating law enforcement agencies represented. Please name the agencies represented.
- e. Number (#) of family member presentations provided during the grant reporting period. Please include the dates of the presentations and the approximate number (#) of attendees.
- f. Number (#) of peer presentations provided during the grant reporting period. Please include the dates of the presentations and the approximate number (#) of attendees.

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How well did you do it?

- a. Provide a narrative describing the project timeline, activities, successes, challenges, and any lessons learned during the project.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of academy participants completing the full 40-hour training.
- c. Number (#) and percentage (%) of participants rating the academy as valuable or very valuable.
- d. Number (#) and percentage (%) of Steering Committee meetings held as scheduled.

Is anyone better off?

- a. Number (#) and percentage (%) of law enforcement participants reporting increased confidence responding to behavioral health crises.
- b. Number (#) and percentage (%) of law enforcement participants reporting increased confidence using de-escalation techniques.
- c. Number (#) and percentage (%) of law enforcement participants reporting increased knowledge of local behavioral health resources.
- d. Number (#) and percentage (%) of law enforcement participants reporting increased understanding of the role of family members and peers in crisis response.
- e. Number (#) and percentage (%) of community partners reporting stronger collaboration through the Steering Committee.
- f. Number (#) and percentage (%) of Steering Committee members reporting stronger collaboration.
- g. Number (#) and percentage (%) of officers pursuing CIT Trainer/Coordinator certification during the grant reporting period.

## **Sustainability (from grant application)**

The Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program is built on longstanding partnerships among law enforcement, behavioral health providers, peer support specialists, family advocates, and community organizations. This project strengthens the relationships, coordination, and local capacity needed to sustain the program beyond the grant period.

NAMI Fairbanks will continue to serve as the community convener by facilitating the Fairbanks CIT Steering Committee, supporting collaboration among partner agencies, coordinating family and peer involvement, and helping guide future CIT planning. The Steering Committee will continue to identify community needs, strengthen partnerships, and support ongoing program development.

The project also invests in long-term sustainability by increasing local training capacity. Supporting officers pursuing CIT Trainer and Coordinator certification will reduce reliance on trainers from outside the Interior and strengthen the community's ability to deliver future academies.

Future program activities will be supported through a combination of local, state, and private grant opportunities, community sponsorships, fundraising efforts, partner agency contributions, and other collaborative funding opportunities as they become available. NAMI Fairbanks remains committed to working alongside its community partners to build on the progress of this project and continue strengthening the Fairbanks CIT Program.

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## **Who We Serve (from grant application)**

Trust beneficiaries living with mental illness are the primary focus of this project. The skills developed through CIT training also support safer, more effective responses for Trust beneficiaries with other brain disorders who experience behavioral health crises. Individuals experiencing behavioral health crises often encounter law enforcement during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. This project strengthens the community's ability to respond to those situations safely by increasing the number of CIT-trained officers equipped with skills in crisis recognition, de-escalation, trauma-informed response, and connection to appropriate behavioral health services.

The project also benefits family members and caregivers, who are often the first to recognize that a loved one is in crisis and frequently call 911 seeking assistance. By strengthening collaboration among law enforcement, behavioral health providers, peer support specialists, and the Fairbanks Mobile Crisis Response Team, the project supports a more coordinated response focused on stabilization and appropriate care whenever possible.

Through the November 2026 Fairbanks CIT Academy, ongoing CIT Steering Committee meetings, and development of local CIT Trainers and Coordinators, this project strengthens the community's long-term capacity to serve Trust beneficiaries and respond effectively to behavioral health crises throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough and surrounding Interior Alaska communities.

## **Estimated Numbers of Beneficiaries Served Experiencing (from grant application)**

|                                                                                                    |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Mental Illness:                                                                                    | 250 |
| Developmental Disabilities:                                                                        | 15  |
| Substance Abuse                                                                                    | 75  |
| Traumatic Brain Injuries:                                                                          | 20  |
| Secondary Beneficiaries (family members or caregivers providing support to primary beneficiaries): | 150 |
| Number of people to be trained                                                                     | 30  |

## **Project Budget (from grant application)**

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Personnel Services Costs                 | \$21,580.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Personnel Services Costs (Other Sources) | \$12,000.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Personnel Services Narrative             | Executive Director – CIT Program Management and Community Coordination<br>The Executive Director will dedicate approximately 10 hours per week throughout the 12-month grant period to coordinate the Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program. Responsibilities include convening the Fairbanks CIT Steering Committee; coordinating communication among partner agencies; promoting the academy and encouraging participation from regional law enforcement agencies; coordinating volunteer family members and peer presenters; |

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|  | <p>managing academy logistics, supplies, and graduation activities; overseeing the project budget; collecting evaluation data; preparing grant reports; and supporting the development of local CIT Trainers and Coordinators. The Executive Director also serves as the primary liaison among community partners to strengthen collaboration and support the long-term sustainability of the Fairbanks CIT Program.</p> <p>The Executive Director's time is budgeted at 10 hours per week × \$41.50 per hour × 52 weeks = \$21,580.</p> |
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| Travel Costs                 | \$12,619.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Travel Costs (Other Sources) | \$0.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Travel Costs Narrative       | <p>Travel costs support bringing qualified CIT trainers to Fairbanks to deliver the November 2026 CIT Academy. Expenses include airfare, lodging, meals, local transportation, and related travel costs for trainers traveling from outside the Fairbanks area. These trainers provide expertise in Crisis Intervention Team best practices and support the development of local training capacity by mentoring future Fairbanks CIT Trainers and Coordinators.</p> <p>Travel costs include:</p> <p>\$4,454 for travel, lodging, and per diem for two trainers from Anchorage</p> <p>\$4,096 for travel, lodging, and per diem for a trainer from Maryland with CIT and rural Alaska experience</p> <p>\$4,069 for travel, lodging, and per diem for a trainer from Washington D.C.</p> <p>Travel expenses include airfare, lodging, meals, incidentals, local transportation, and reasonable allowances for airfare fluctuations and travel insurance due to the remote nature of travel to Interior Alaska.</p> |

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Space or Facilities Costs                 | \$2,250.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Space or Facilities Costs (Other Sources) | \$0.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Space or Facilities Narrative             | <p>Facility costs represent a proportional share of NAMI Fairbanks' leased office and meeting space used to coordinate the Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program. The Executive Director's office serves as the administrative workspace for project planning, partner coordination, trainer communication, participant registration, grant administration, evaluation, and reporting. A portion of the Community Room supports monthly CIT Steering Committee meetings, planning meetings, volunteer coordination, academy preparation, and</p> |

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|  | staging of training materials before the November 2026 CIT Academy. These shared facilities provide the operational space necessary to coordinate this multi-agency initiative throughout the grant period. |
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| Supplies Costs                 | \$7,500                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Supplies Costs (Other Sources) | \$0.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Supplies Narrative             | <p>Supply costs support the planning and delivery of the November 16–20, 2026 Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy. This includes participant training manuals, printed materials, classroom supplies, scenario materials, participant binders, name badges, graduation certificates, and other consumable items needed to conduct the five-day academy.</p> <p>Supplies also include refreshments provided during the academy to support participants throughout the full-day training sessions, as well as materials used for the graduation ceremony and recognition of academy graduates.</p> <p>Additional supplies support monthly CIT Steering Committee meetings, participant recruitment, printed outreach materials, and educational resources used by family members and peer presenters who share their lived experience as part of the academy curriculum.</p> <p>These supplies provide participants with the materials needed to fully engage in the training while supporting the successful delivery of the Fairbanks CIT Program.</p> |

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| Equipment Costs                 | \$0.00 |
| Equipment Costs (Other Sources) | \$0.00 |
| Equipment Narrative             |        |

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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| Other Costs                 | \$2,000.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Other Costs (Other Sources) | \$7,400.00                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Other Costs Narrative       | <p>Other costs support volunteer participation and lived experience perspectives that are integral to the Fairbanks Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy. Trust funds of \$2,000 will be used to support volunteer and lived experience participation, including family members, peer presenters, and NAMI Fairbanks CIT Coordinators who contribute to academy planning, participant engagement, presentations, and graduation activities. These funds help offset expenses associated with volunteer participation and ensure lived experience remains an important component of the academy.</p> |

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In addition, NAMI Fairbanks and its community partners will contribute \$7,400 in in-kind volunteer support. Volunteers will provide planning and coordination for the CIT Steering Committee, assist with academy logistics and graduation activities, and share family and peer perspectives throughout the training. These contributions represent a significant investment of professional expertise and lived experience that strengthens the quality of the academy while demonstrating broad community commitment to sustaining the Fairbanks CIT Program.

### **Other Funding Sources (from grant application)**

|                                                    |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| NAMI Fairbanks In-Kind Volunteer Support (SECURED) | \$7,400.00        |
| <b>Total Leveraged Funds</b>                       | <b>\$7,400.00</b> |