CIT International Conference

August 10-12, 2026
Orlando, Florida

Bonus Sunday Workshops Aug. 9, 2026

CIT: Where Crisis Meets Compassion

	9:00 am – 12 noon
Topic:	**Wanna be a Millionaire? Tools and Tips for Developing Sustainable Funding Streams**
Presenters	**Kristin Sauerbier**,LCSW, Senior Project Associate II at Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA) **Chan Noether**, MA, Vice President at Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA)
Synopsis	Securing and sustaining funding for crisis response is rarely about writing "better grants"—it's about aligning systems, partners, data, and language in ways funders can trust and defend. This highly interactive pre-conference workshop is designed for crisis leaders, practitioners, and partners working across the crisis continuum, including CIT, co-response, mobile crisis, stabilization services, 988 coordination, and other system-level crisis investments. Participants will gain a clear, funder-informed understanding of how crisis care funding flows; what reviewers are truly assessing when they read proposals; and why strong crisis programs often fail to secure—or sustain—funding. Grounded in real-world examples, this session demystifies RFPs, funder expectations, and sustainability planning, with a focus on funding systems rather than silos and building credibility without overpromising. Designed for engagement and peer learning, participants will work at roundtables through hands-on activities including partnership mapping, grant concept development, language reframing, and sustainability storytelling. Attendees will practice translating crisis practice into funder-credible language; identify common proposal red flags specific to crisis services; and learn practical "do's and don'ts" for collaborating with partners, managing funder relationships, and staying in good standing after awards are made. The workshop emphasizes the strategic use of data before, during, and after grant writing to support outcomes, evaluation, and long-term sustainability beyond grant cycles.

Bonus Sunday Workshops

9:00 am – 11 noon

Topic: **Pathway to Financial Wellness: An often-neglected area of our life!**

Presenter **Lt. (ret.) Travis George**, Creative Planning LLC

Synopsis The *Pathway to Financial Wellness and Retirement Planning* course is an educational program designed to help first responders, wellness practitioners and their families build financial stability and long-term retirement security. The course recognizes that financial wellness is closely connected to emotional, psychological, and professional well-being, particularly in high-stress careers such as law enforcement, fire service, and emergency response. Through real-world examples and interactive discussion, participants learn how financial decisions influence long-term outcomes and how to correct common mistakes that often prevent individuals from achieving financial independence. The program emphasizes that financial planning is a continuous and evolving process, not a one-time event, requiring regular evaluation and adjustment throughout a person's career and life transitions. The course explores the seven steps of the financial planning process, including goal setting, data gathering, analysis, recommendations, implementation, monitoring, and adjustment. Participants learn how to apply these principles while balancing risk, managing debt, and leveraging employer benefits such as pensions and deferred compensation plans. Key topics include behavioral influences on financial decision-making, myths about investing and market volatility, risk management through insurance, tax and distribution impact, and strategies for maximizing retirement income through pensions, IRAs, Roth accounts, and taxable investments. Estate planning concepts such as wills, trusts, and powers of attorney are also discussed to ensure long-term asset protection and family security. A core component of the program is a simulated financial planning exercise, allowing participants to test different savings, investment, and retirement strategies and immediately see how these choices affect future outcomes such as retirement readiness and cash-flow stability. The course is delivered in a conflict-free, fiduciary-based educational format. It is strictly non-commercial, meaning no products or financial services are sold or promoted. Instead, the program focuses on empowering attendees with unbiased knowledge so they can make informed financial decisions independently. By the end of the session, participants leave with practical action steps, increased financial confidence, and a clearer roadmap toward financial independence and a successful transition into life after public service.

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Topic:	**Caring for the Vulnerable After Tragedy: Managing the Aftermath of the Covenant School Shooting**
Presenters	**Capt. Anthony Brooks**, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department **Michael Randolph**, LPC-MHSP, Director of Co-Response Services, Mental Health Cooperative
Synopsis	On March 27th, 2023, the unthinkable happened at the Covenant School in Nashville, TN. An assailant armed with multiple firearms entered the school with the intent of creating a mass casualty event. When it was over, three students, three staff members, and the perpetrator were dead. First responders were charged with the difficult task managing the aftermath by identifying a safe location for all staff and students to be sheltered while families were reunited with their surviving loved ones. Nashville's Co-Response Program, Partners in Care sent eight clinicians and their partnered officers to the scene to be a calming presence for the students as their minds wrestled with what transpired. This session will give a brief overview of the events of the day, with a specific focus on the role Co-Responders and officers played as they walked with students, staff, and families in the wake of this tragic event.