

Existing Public Safety Peer Support Programs

Some larger police and fire agencies in the state have existing peer support programs. For smaller organizations thinking of starting a peer support program, there are groups that can help build capacity by assisting in a response. The KCCRT provides trained volunteers to respond after critical incidents for emergency services and community groups at no-cost.

[Kentucky Community Crisis Response Team](#)

The Kentucky Community Crisis Response Team (KCCRT) is a multi-disciplinary, trained team of dedicated emergency service workers and behavioral health professionals who volunteer their time to assist peers who encounter a critical incident. Team members are peer driven and guided by experts in CISM. KCCRT has peer members from all areas of emergency services work, schools, as well as organizations outside of the emergency services field. The KCCRT can be requested at no charge to the requesting agency 24/7/365 via a toll-free number answered by the state EOC Duty Officer.

KCCRT members volunteer their time to provide services. Disciplines include behavioral health, coroners, education, emergency management, faith communities, telecommunicators, fire, emergency medical services (EMS), hospice, law enforcement, massage therapists, medical, military, public health, and search and rescue (SAR). The KCCRT also has a specialized K9 Compassion Strike Team and a Coroners Strike Team to support families who must provide information to identify their loved one.

KCCRT services and responses are twofold:

1. KCCRT is activated by a Governor's Disaster Declaration in the case of natural or man-made disasters to provide psychological first aid.
2. KCCRT provides Rapid Assessment & Response Teams deployed on request to mitigate stress reactions to critical incidents and traumatic events.

[Kentucky Law Enforcement Assistance Program KY LEAP](#)

KYLEAP is the Kentucky Law Enforcement Assistance Program. It is a specialized peer support team within KCCRT. **KYLEAP was founded to** provide CISM services to law enforcement and telecommuters immediately following a critical incident to prevent the destructive effects of emotional trauma and job-related stress, and to accelerate recovery from critical incidents before stress reactions negatively impact an officer's performance, career, health, and family.

KYLEAP provides the entire spectrum of services, from pre-incident training, acute crisis response, and post-incident support to law enforcement officers across the commonwealth. KCCRT recruits, trains, and credentials experienced law enforcement professionals to be peer members of the statewide KYLEAP team. The team receives training in the delivery of multi-component CISM interventions, and suicide intervention and prevention training.

[Kentucky Emergency Services Peer Support \(KESPS\) team](#)

The Kentucky Emergency Services Peer Support (KESPS) team is a specialized peer support team of KCCRT that serves fire, EMS, telecommunicator, and SAR. KCCRT recruits, trains, and credentials experienced fire, EMS, and dispatch professionals to be peer members of the statewide KESPS team. KESPS provides the entire spectrum of services of pre-incident training, acute crisis response, and post-incident support to emergency services personnel (ESP) across the Commonwealth. KESPS team members provide CISM services during the acute phase following a critical incident to prevent the destructive effects of emotional trauma, job related stress, and accelerate recovery from critical incidents before stress reactions negatively impact an ESP's performance, career, health, and family.

KCCRT recruits, trains, and credentials experienced ESP professionals to become peer members of the statewide KESPS team. Team members receive training in providing multi-component CISM interventions and suicide awareness and assessment.

[Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training Post Critical Incident Seminar \(KYPCIS\)](#)

The Post-Critical Incident Seminar is a three-day seminar led by mental-health professionals trained to work with peace officers and telecommunicators guided by a team of law enforcement and telecommunicator peers who have experienced their own critical incident and have received CISM training. Mental-health professionals offer instruction on grief, relationships, medications, and stress management. Additional one-on-one therapy is available for those with an identified need. Peer law enforcement and telecommunicators team members instill trust, aid in breaking down stigma, and lead to officers and telecommunicators who typically would not seek help. This program is sponsored through the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and is offered at no cost to law enforcement officers and their significant others.

[Kentucky Department of Corrections Critical Incident Stress Debriefing CISD](#)

The Kentucky Department of Corrections, Critical Incident Debriefing Team focuses mostly on the Department of Corrections which includes adult institutions and all probation and parole office incidents but are not limited to county jails and halfway houses. The CISD is composed of a diverse group of approximately 60 correctional staff and supervisors around across the state. The CISD is overseen and activated by the Staff Wellness Branch of the Department of Corrections.

The CISD team provides debriefing and referral services after a “qualifying event”, which includes a workplace incident involving violence, death or serious physical injury involving one or more employees, inmates, offenders, or volunteers.