



Allegheny County Department of Human Services Helpful Resources

Battering Intervention Program

Is There Violence In Your Relationship?

Intimate partner violence includes:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- controlling behaviors
- isolation
- stalking
- emotional abuse
- threats
- intimidation

Help is Available through Battering Intervention

Being violent with your partner is never justified. Taking away their choices isn't either. Sometimes batterers, people who are violent toward or controlling of their intimate partners, know they need help. Other times, a professional may need to get involved.

Either way, enrolling in a Battering Intervention Program (BIP) is recognized as the best way for batterers to make the changes that are needed.

A Time for Change

As an Allegheny County resident you may decide to self-enroll in BIP classes, or you may be referred from:

- Allegheny County Adult Probation
- Allegheny County Magisterial District Criminal Court proceedings
- Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas
- a DHS program office or
- a local human services agency

Whether you decide on your own to enroll, or you were referred by a professional to a BIP, the first step is to call or email one of the BIP providers listed below to schedule your intake-assessment appointment.

If self-referring, please decide which program is best for you by noting the groups each program serves.

BIP Providers

- Women's Center and Shelter
 - MENS Group
 - 412-687-8017, ext. 340
 - email mens@wcpittsburgh.org

- PERSAD Center
 - For individuals who identify as LGBTQ+
 - 412-441-9786 ext. 218
 - email BIP@persadcenter.org

- Renewal
 - Violence intervention for men and women
 - 412-605-4432
 - email batterersintervention@renewalinc.com

- Wesley Family Services
 - Violence intervention for men in the community and men who are incarcerated
 - 412-458-6455
 - email BIP@WFSPA.org

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q. How much time will BIP take?

A. The entire series will take three to six months to complete.

Q. What is the cost?

A. You should bring \$15 to your first appointment for an intake-assessment fee. After that, you are expected to pay a per-class fee based on your income and family size. There may be no fee if your income is low enough.

Q. Where and when are classes?

A. There are over 20 class times and locations across Allegheny County. You will be referred to another agency if the BIP program you contact is not convenient for you.

Q. English is my second language - are there translators?

A. Yes. Please let the provider know you need translation services when you schedule your intake-assessment appointment. The translation services are free to you. ASL and ESL interpreters are available.

Q. What if I have general questions about BIP in Allegheny County?

A. Please [email the DHS BIP](#) or call 412-350-2449

Additional Places to Get Help

National Domestic Violence Hotline

- 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- Provides help for victims of intimate partner violence

PA 211 SW or call 2-1-1

- Provides assistance with housing, food, utilities and more

Related Information

[BIP improves communication to increase accountability](#)

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Battering Intervention Program Overview

Battering Intervention Program (BIP) is the most commonly accepted intervention for perpetrators of intimate partner violence in the United States. BIP is structured as a set of curriculum-based, psychoeducational group classes, the main purpose of which is to hold offenders accountable and to ensure victims' safety. Participants learn to take responsibility for abusive behavior and explore the negative effects of violence.

DHS partners with local nonprofit agencies, Allegheny County's Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania, the District Attorney's Office, the Allegheny County Jail and intimate partner violence experts to create a coordinated system that holds batterers accountable and reduces risks to victims' safety. Most participants are referred to the program through the courts. A significant number of referrals to BIPs stem from plea agreements offered by the District Attorney at the preliminary hearing stage, after consultation with the victim. Batterers can also be referred to the programs through other sources, such as the Probation Office, voluntary self-referrals and any of DHS's program offices. Any agency or individual can contact BIP providers to schedule an intake interview and assessment.

In Allegheny County, BIP classes are offered in multiple locations and consist of 24 sequential sessions. The curriculum may vary by agency, but most organizations use either the [Duluth Model](#) or [Emerge](#), the most commonly-recognized and promising BIP interventions in the United States. Interpretation is available for individuals with limited English proficiency, if such need arises.

General inquires about BIP in Allegheny County can be sent to BIP@AlleghenyCounty.US.