

Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Economic Services Administration • Community Services Division

Program Description

The Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment Program certifies programs throughout the state that provide crucial domestic violence intervention treatment to those who have caused harm in intimate partner relationships.

Domestic violence is the infliction or threat of physical harm against an intimate partner and includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse against the partner. It is part of a pattern of assaultive, coercive and controlling behaviors directed at achieving compliance from or control over that intimate partner. It may include, but is not limited to, a categorization of offenses as defined in RCW 10.99.020, committed by one intimate partner against another.

The department certifies over 60 domestic violence intervention programs, which are required to provide behavioral assessments and differentiated levels of treatment for participants, many of whom are court-ordered into treatment. Certification requirements for these programs include, but are not limited to: policies and procedures, facility requirements, quality management, personnel and supervision requirements, referral screening standards, treatment focus and practices, victim confidentiality and safety standards, cooperation with victim services, participant requirements, behavioral assessment requirements, treatment planning, placement criteria, required cognitive and behavioral changes, minimum treatment periods, completion criteria and core competency requirements

Currently, there is no public funding for domestic violence intervention treatment. Participants must pay for treatment out of pocket and, many times, the cost falls on the family as a whole. Those who cannot afford treatment either go without treatment or participate in educational classes, which do not provide equivalent clinical intervention and are not certified by the department.

Domestic violence intervention treatment programs are required to be certified by the department by RCW 43.20A.735, and their certification is renewable every two years. The department provides technical assistance, conducts regular compliance reviews of programs and investigates complaints as needed.

Highlights in State Fiscal Year 2023

- Domestic violence intervention treatment participants reported an 82% reduction in abusive behaviors at the completion of their program.
- 99% of participants reported they learned skills to meet their needs in non-abusive, healthy ways.

More information:

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