

BATTERING INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Resource Toolkit



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The History of BIPP in Texas

Texas is a Battering Intervention and Prevention national leader with over 30 years committed to maintaining programs, funding services, and oversight of service delivery.

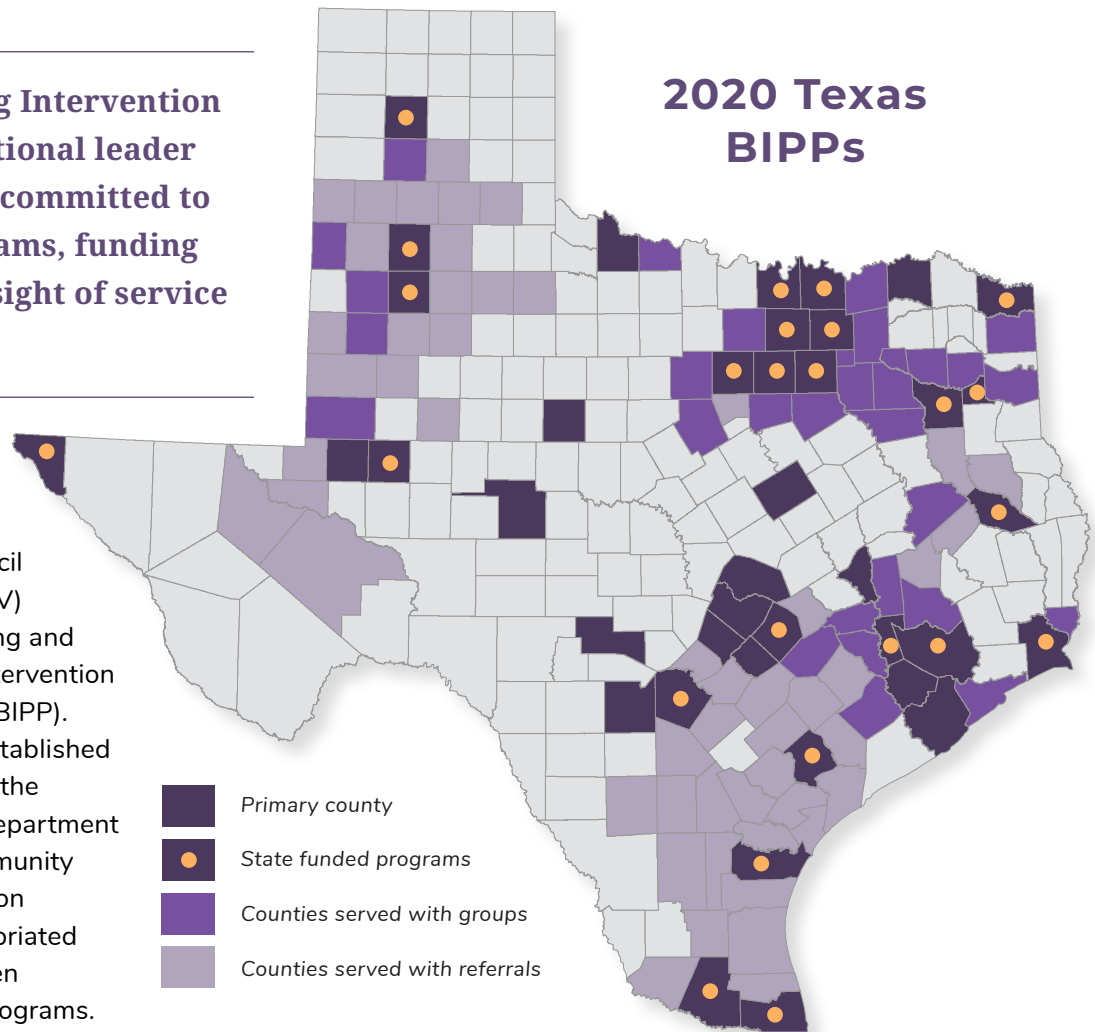
In 1989, the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) advocated for establishing and funding the Battering Intervention and Prevention Project (BIPP). The Texas Legislature established funding and BIPP under the authority of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) and appropriated \$400,000 to fund thirteen battering intervention programs.

The funding was the first state-funded civilian program for battering intervention. The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141, defined the nature and consequences of family violence and established the BIPP Parameters.

The Texas Legislature has continued to approve \$3.5 million in funding for a select number of accredited BIPPs per biennium.

Accredited and state-funded BIPPs have additional layers of oversight and must coordinate efforts with community agencies, such as local family violence services centers, shelters, and non-residential, to offer support services to victims. These select BIPPs must also offer training to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, community supervision officers, and others on the dynamics of family violence.

2020 Texas BIPPs



Establishment of the TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Guidelines

From 1992 through 1994, the Texas Council on Family Violence formed the BIPP Strategic Planning Work Group to develop the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) BIPP Guidelines. In 1995, the BIPP Strategic Planning Work Group completed its first statewide BIPP Guidelines, and TDCJ-CJAD made the guidelines effective.

In 1998, the Texas Council on Family Violence and TDCJ-CJAD formed a committee to examine the BIPP Guidelines and propose revisions.

In 2007, during the 80th Texas Legislative Session, Senate Bill 44 was passed (Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.141). This Code relates to providing intervention or counseling services for persons who have committed family violence and a process for accrediting those services.

In late 2007, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) formed a committee to examine the BIPP Guidelines for program accreditation. The committee was comprised of representatives from TDCJ-CJAD, funded and non-funded Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs), family violence programs, Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCDs), TDCJ-Parole Division, medical examiners, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, licensed professional counselors, social workers, and other professionals.

Following the recommendations for the committee, TDCJ-CJAD and the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) submitted a draft to the committee members, BIPPs, licensing authorities described by Chapters 152, 501, 502, 503, 505, Occupations Code, and other stakeholders for their review and comments. Their recommendations were incorporated into the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines effective July 2009.

In 2013, TDCJ-CJAD, in consultation with TCFV, examined and revised the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines and submitted a draft to all accredited programs, stakeholders, and TDCJ-CJAD auditors. Their recommendations have been incorporated into the 2014 guidelines.

The purpose of the Guidelines is to clarify the program and administrative standards under which an accredited program must operate if they are to receive accreditation by TDCJ-CJAD.

Accreditation issued by TDCJ-CJAD is solely to provide direct services to adult males.

Since the preponderance of family violence is male-to-female battering, battering intervention and prevention programs need to acknowledge the gender-specific nature of that violence.

Texas BIPP Funding

The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) collaborates closely with TDCJ-CJAD each biennium to convene a BIPP Allocations Committee. Since 1990, this committee has offered recommendations for the allocation formula that serves as a distribution methodology for BIPP funds.

The BIPP Allocations Committee's governing priority is to provide a statewide recommendation to TDCJ-CJAD on allocations that balances the needs of BIP Programs, increase those using battering behavior access to services, and keep victims' safety a priority.

Community Education Campaign

BIPP Effectiveness

Texas is a Battering Intervention and Prevention Programming national leader with over 30 years committed to maintaining programs, funding services, and oversight of service delivery. BIPPs consistently maintain accountability for those using battering behavior.

Ending intimate partner-related family violence begins with addressing the person causing harm. Our communities need all levels of its structure to hold those using battering behavior accountable. We know that accountability represents one of the strongest steps toward changing battering behavior.

In 2009, the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) recognized that BIPPs represent an important part of Texas' proactive response to femicide prevention by directly addressing the cause of this violence.

While BIPPs represent a cost-saving alternative to incarceration in Texas, they represent so much more for victims of family violence. When asked about the support they most needed, many victims cited help to make their homes safer. They hope their partner will change and stop using violence in their home.

Victims of family violence hope their partner will change and stop using violence in their home.

In fiscal year 2021, 62,796 Texans received services at a Family Violence Center (FVC), and over a quarter of a million calls were placed to a Texas FVC hotline. At the same time, between fiscal years 2019-2021, Texas saw a staggering increase in family violence incidents reported to law enforcement. Further, these incidents often indicated a high lethality, with a 92.4% increase in firearms at the scene. In many of these incidents, victims sought safety from law enforcement or family violence services because they wanted a safer home.

At their core, BIPPs are a survivor-driven mechanism to create change in those using violence by promoting positive behavioral change and directly holding participants accountable by challenging and addressing the attitudes, beliefs, and entitlements that contribute to violent behavior.

BIPP providers facilitate a multi-week, dynamic group structure that teaches participants to think critically about and challenge their learned beliefs that justified their use of violence. Through its small-group structure, participants can recognize where their actions were harmful before the violent incident occurred. As one researcher framed it, "accountability in various forms seems to play a key role in the process of change for this population." To accomplish this, BIPP facilitators are mandated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) BIPP Accreditation Guidelines to promote positive behavioral change, education on abuse being a choice, hold those using violence accountable when they deny or minimize their actions, and address victim blaming. BIPPs in Texas are built on a foundation of survivor safety and offender accountability.

Along with a programmatic structure tailored specifically for those who use family violence, BIPPs offer an extension to community supervision. Programs are mandated to keep monthly communication with referral sources about the participants' compliance and notify them should they demonstrate any dangerous behavior or commit additional acts of violence. BIPPs collaborate with and support systems such as probation, Child Protective Services (CPS), district attorney's offices, defense attorneys, and judges.

Most importantly, BIPPs focus heavily on victim safety. They notify the victim of the participant's entrance and exit from the program, offer resources and referrals to shelter and non-residential services, outline the ways the victim may be facing risk and offer safety planning, and notify the victim of any additional safety concerns should they arise. This is critical information about the participant's progress and community resources for safety planning.

BIPPs are Cost Effective

Nationally, BIPPs have been shown to help most men end their physical violence over time. According to a multi-site evaluation of battering intervention programs, participants completing at least three months of the program were **50 percent less likely to re-assault their partners** in the 15-month follow-up compared to a comparable group who did not complete the program. Outcomes improved when viewed as an extension of community supervision, coupled with court oversight and sanctions for those who do not comply with program requirements. Recent research shows that **BIPP participants are about three times less likely to have domestic violence recidivism** compared to untreated control/comparison groups. The trends for re-assault showed a sharp de-escalation of abuse over time: at the four-year follow-up of the multi-site study, fewer than ten percent had re-assaulted a partner in the previous year.

BIPP participants completing at least three months of the program are 50% less likely to re-assault their partners.

In Texas, BIPPs are operated in a unique manner that significantly bolsters efficacy. This includes detailed accreditation guidelines which research links to efficacy, “*The limitations of BIPPs are due, in large part, to the limitations of current state standards regulating these programs and that these standards are not grounded in the body of empirical research evidence or best practices.*” TCFV serves as a programmatic support delivering training, consultations, technical assistance, and conducting programmatic audits for the accredited and funded programs. This oversight and these accreditation standards are coupled with family violence centers running most funded BIPPs in Texas. This means that those working on challenging the attitudes and beliefs of those using violence are also experts in supporting victims of family violence, understanding the impact of abusive behavior first-hand, and making confidential notifications to bolster victim safety.

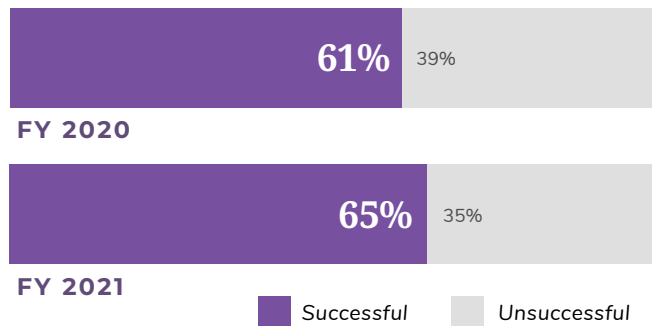
This expertise correlates to enhanced efficacy. In one Texas county, participants who completed the program **had an overall criminal recidivism rate of just 13 percent** among 1028 participants within one year of their program discharge date; only four percent were re-arrested for family violence offenses. Participants who did not complete BIPP had a higher rate of family violence offenses than those who completed a BIPP and those who served jail time. Additionally, a 2016 study in another Texas county found that family violence offenders sentenced to jail were significantly more likely to recidivate (243% more likely) than those assigned to BIPP.

Along with overall efficacy for individual victim safety and the community, BIPPs represent a cost-effective solution to offender accountability for Texans. The average per person cost for TDCJ-CJAD to send a participant to BIPP is only \$2.35 a day versus the average cost per person of those housed in prison at \$69.27 a day in 2020.

Texas BIPPs Successful Completion Rates

In fiscal year 2021, 65% of Texas family violence offenders referred to funded BIPPs completed program requirements. This is an increase from fiscal year 2020, in which 61% of those referred completed programming. This continues to exceed the statewide benchmark of 55%.

Both FY 2020 and FY 2021 exceeded the statewide benchmark of a 55% completion rate.



The impact represents much more to survivors who wanted their partner to change their abusive behavior and represents participants' willingness to change.

In the words of one Texas survivor, *"I am so glad you all called me to see if I'm okay, and so I can know what the program is."*

And in the words of one Texas BIPP participant, *"Now I can deal with situations without them getting out of hand and being violent with my partner. I needed this BIPP class."*

Access the citation page for this subject matter here:

- ▶ [BIPP Effectiveness Citation Page](#)

Access additional research here:

- ▶ [BIPP Effectiveness Research Studies](#)

Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month + BIPP

Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (DVAPM) is held throughout the month of October to bring awareness to ending domestic violence. Texas Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs) play an integral role in ending domestic violence in Texas by addressing the person causing harm with accountability and positive behavioral change. Here are ways your BIPP can ensure a successful community education campaign by working collaboratively with advocates and your community each October.

The Research

BIPPs are encouraged to use available research to help inform their group session discussions and their delivery of professional training and community education. The following reports provide each BIPP with relevant statistics which can be utilized to bring about awareness of domestic violence and BIPP's role in intervention.

BIPPs are also encouraged to develop their methodologies in collecting data and analyzing their unique program, and within their community.

Honoring Texas Victims

Summary: The Honoring Texas Victims Report (HTV) provides state-based data about those who were lost to domestic violence. TCFV has recorded, honored, and published the names of women killed by their intimate partners each year for over 42 years. For the last eleven years, TCFV has published *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities*, focused on the stories of women killed by their male intimate partners in Texas and offering data analysis on the nature of the femicides as they occurred in the previous year. In 2018, TCFV expanded the scope to include family violence cases where women killed male intimate partners and men and women were killed by a same-sex partner.

- ▶ [Access the 2021 HTV Report Here](#)

Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) Recidivism Study: Travis County

Summary: The Justice Planning and the Counseling and Education Center conducted a one-year recidivism study for the Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP). This study is a follow-up to a previous validation study on the Travis County Family Violence Assessments.

- ▶ [Access the Travis County BIPP Recidivism Study Here](#)

A Comparison of the Batterer Intervention and Prevention Program With Alternative Court Dispositions on 12-Month Recidivism: The University of Texas at Dallas

Summary: Studies of batterer intervention and prevention programs (BIPPs) offer mixed results regarding their effect on recidivism. This study aimed to examine the effectiveness of BIPP for cases assigned to a misdemeanor family court. This study focused on determining whether BIPP cases, compared with alternative sanctions, had significantly lower recidivism rates 12 months after program involvement.

- ▶ [Access the University of Texas at Dallas Recidivism Study Here](#)

Discourse After a Batterer Intervention Program: A Qualitative Analysis of "Letters From the Future": University of Texas at Arlington

Summary: This exploratory study employs discourse and narrative analysis to assess men's responses to a writing assignment completed at the end of a solution-focused voluntary batterer intervention program. The study finds that the men primarily use the assignment to reassure themselves of their future success, defined through traditionally male paradigms.

- ▶ [Access the University of Texas at Arlington Study Here](#)

Evaluating Batterer Counseling Programs: A Difficult Task Showing Some Effects and Implications: Edward W. Gondolf

Summary: Over 40 published program evaluations have attempted to address the effectiveness of “batterer programs” in preventing re-assaults. Summaries and meta-analyses of these evaluations suggest little or no “program effect.” Methodological shortcomings, however, compromise most of these quasi-experimental evaluations.

▶ [Access the Edward W. Gondolf Study Here](#)

Program Report: Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP): Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA), Harris County

Summary: The Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) is a group-based counseling and intervention program for men and women who are violent, abusive, and/or controlling in their intimate relationships. The BIPP curriculum is based on the nationally recognized Duluth Curriculum and addresses socio-cultural issues related to gender violence while teaching and developing critical thinking among participants. Program effectiveness was evaluated via two measures: (1) a survey of attitudes towards males in society at intake and exit for the BIPP programs and (2) an analysis of recidivism rates and type.

▶ [Access the AVDA Harris County Recidivism Study Here](#)

Professional Training and Community Education

October’s DVAPM is ideal for BIPPs to secure professional training and community education events. BIPPs have a unique perspective to offer when raising awareness and educating professionals and the community. Addressing the person causing harm is central to the movement to end domestic violence in Texas. BIPPs have an opportunity to provide education on the mission of BIPP, accountability work and promoting positive behavioral change, and to highlight ways BIPP makes an impact on participants and the community. There are also opportunities to highlight how the community can get involved in addressing harmful social norms that contribute to battering behavior.

Professional Training and Community Education Topics should include:

- » The definition and dynamics of domestic violence.
- » Current research and statistics about domestic violence and its impact on the community.
- » The history of BIPP establishment in Texas.
- » The definition and mission of BIPP and its relationship to enhancing survivor safety, accountability, and social change.
- » BIPP supports survivors as part of its core mission.
- » Realistic outcomes and goals of program completion.
- » Current research and statistics about BIPP effectiveness.
- » The mission and philosophy of your BIPP.
- » Your BIPP’s unique statistics and trends.
- » An overview of your BIPP’s referral process. Do you encourage voluntary participation?
- » An overview of your BIPP’s programming and operation.

Community Engagement Activities can include:

- » Encouraging your community to sign the Purple Post Card. Join Texans all across the state striving to create a safer Texas by completing a Purple Postcard in support of services for victims of family violence. [Learn more here!](#)
- » Attending Coordinated Community Response Groups to provide professional training and community education:
 - Local Family Violence Center Coalition Groups
 - Criminal Justice System Coalitions or Taskforce Groups
 - Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams
 - Substance Abuse Treatment Facility Groups
 - Other Community-Based Groups

- » Attending community events to provide education:
 - National Night Out
 - Public Vigils Honoring Victims
 - Public Forums or Symposiums

Media Engagement Activities can include:

- » Identifying the best spokesperson for your BIPP.
- » Strategically planning strong, effective messaging about BIPP’s role in intervening and preventing domestic violence in your community.
- » Strategically planning messaging about BIPP’s role in intervening and preventing domestic violence that reaches multiple targeted audiences, such as:
 - Survivors
 - The person using battering behavior.
 - Elected Officials
 - Judges, Prosecutors, and/or other criminal justice systems.
 - Law Enforcement
 - Referral Sources
 - Universities and Colleges
 - Fundraising
- » Developing a strong and relatable “Call to Action” for your targeted audiences.
- » Sharing your messaging to “call in” your targeted audience and encourage a “Call to Action”:
 - Host a press release with your local news media stations.
 - Be a guest on your local news media programming.
 - Be a guest on a podcast dedicated to raising awareness of domestic violence.
 - Develop and implement a social media plan.
 - Publicize on your agency’s or BIPP’s website.

Professional Training and Community Education Materials:

- ▶ [Implementing Family Violence Defendant Accountability in Texas](#)
- ▶ [Power & Control Wheel / Equality Wheels](#)

Utilizing Collaborative Relationships with Family Violence Centers

BIPPs must cultivate relationships with their local family violence centers, shelters, and non-residential. Most family violence centers in Texas have a prevention and education team with expert “Preventioners” ready to raise awareness and advocate for prevention during October’s DVAPM. BIPPs have a unique opportunity to actively collaborate with a family violence center’s prevention and community education team.

Active collaboration can include the following:

- » Exchanging ideas on addressing harmful social norms seen in the community.
- » Strategically planning the development of messaging to highlight BIPP’s role in the prevention of domestic violence.
- » Coordinating and/or attending community events together.
- » Coordinating and/or participating in a social media plan and/or podcast.

BIPP vs. Anger Management

The following table illustrates several differences between Anger Management and Battering Intervention and Prevention Programming.

	Anger Management	Accredited BIPPs
LENGTH	May vary between 4 hours to 12 weeks	Must be a minimum of 18 weeks and provide a total of 36 hours of group educational sessions. Some programs may offer programming that is more than 18 weeks.
PROGRAM FOCUS	<p>Addresses an individual's anger and loss of control. Helps the chronically angry individual overcome rage that arises in specific situations and their general anger against themselves and the world. Utilizes cool-down techniques and Stress Reduction.</p> <p>Problem: Difficulties managing and expressing anger.</p> <p>Goal: To de-escalate internally and externally and more appropriately express anger.</p> <p>Means: Increased self-awareness, internal de-escalation, and external use of behavioral skills.</p>	<p>Addresses the individual's need to control their partner. Helps the individual understand the root cause of the need for Power and Control in the abusive relationship. Identifying and changing underlying attitudes and beliefs that promote violence. Emphasis on victim safety.</p> <p>Problem: A person is displaying abusive behavior.</p> <p>Goal: To stop abusive behavior and change the underlying beliefs.</p> <p>Means: Addressing underlying attitudes and beliefs, teaching alternative and equitable skills.</p>
VICTIM OF ABUSE	Anyone	Intimate Partner
PROGRAM VICTIM CONTACT	None	Victims are contacted when the individual enters and exits the program to ensure ongoing safety, notify them of their rights, and provide information about family violence services.
THEORY	Therapeutic techniques and exercises that address excessive and uncontrollable anger and reduce triggers and degrees.	Intimate partner violence is a pattern of behavior, not a single event. BIPP addresses and challenges their unhealthy need to control their partner, which is premeditated and not reactionary. Intimate partner violence is shaped and supported by societal, familial, and cultural norms.
OVERSIGHT	Unregulated	State accredited by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) and is audited every 1-3 years.

How BIPPs are Different

Effective Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPP) address the underlying attitudes, beliefs, and entitlements of battering behavior and coercive control. **BIPPs move past the person's initial emotional response of anger and examine all the aspects of abusive behavior, including the coercive control which occurs during physical and emotional abuse.** Those using battering behavior will likely minimize their behavior and blame it on anger and a loss of control. However, if assessed further, several behaviors usually indicate that the individual did not lose control randomly but was a very calculated action.

Accredited programs utilize a curriculum based on an intervention model recognizing intimate partner abuse as the result of one person systematically using coercive control and violence to maintain power and control over another. Trained facilitators facilitate weekly, dynamic group structure and challenge those using battering behavior to critically think, examine, and assess initial teachings that justify violence, such as societal drivers, gender-based stereotypes, and other misleading beliefs. These weekly group sessions also hold those accountable for blaming, denying, minimizing, justifying, and rationalizing behavior.

Accredited programs also prioritize victim safety. Intervention programming is designed with victim safety at the forefront. Accredited BIPPs contact the victims of individuals enrolled in programming and connect them to resources to aid in effective safety planning.

BIPPs engage in a coordinated community response to enhance victim safety. BIPPs collaborate with court systems, community supervision and correction departments, and community groups. They implement cooperative working agreements with local family violence shelters and/or non-residential family violence programs.

Accredited BIPPs utilize a curriculum-based intervention model, prioritize victim safety, and hold batterers accountable.

BIPPs offer another point of accountability in encouraging positive behavioral change. At the beginning of this process, BIPPs encourage all individuals enrolled to make several commitments: the commitment to be non-abusive and non-controlling with their intimate partner, commitment to not use violence as a form of control with their intimate partner, children, and household, and a commitment to repairing past harms committed on their victim, family, and community. **BIPPs communicate to those using battering behavior that they alone are responsible for using harmful behavior and have the choice to stop.**

When those using battering behavior choose to change, we can create safer communities in Texas.

Racial Equity in BIPP

In 2021, TCFV partnered with Purvi Shah, an independent consultant, to facilitate racial equity work in the field of Battering Intervention and Prevention in Texas. Purvi Shah, in collaboration with TCFV, reviewed the landscape of BIPPs in Texas and created a survey which was disseminated to the programs to provide a statewide view of how racial equity intersects with programs supporting accountability with people who cause harm.

TCFV examined several key takeaways from the 2021 Racial Equity and Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) Survey to employ these recommendations in TCFV's strategic planning efforts. TCFV reviewed the survey at length through several team and agency-wide meetings. The Support to Service Providers team built strategic work planning goals to support the capacity of Texas BIPPs in learning and adopting racial equity principles and programming and receiving support through peer groups.

The 2021 Racial Equity and Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) Survey received 90 responses offering valuable insights on how racial equity is seen, understood, and utilized in BIPP work. Survey responses highlighted a need to define, implement, and share promising practices that weave racial equity strategies and innovations. Key takeaways include...

BIPPs need for:

- » Clarity on what constitutes racial equity.
- » Learning racial equity and racial equity strategies in work to enable accountability.
- » Recognizing advocate and organizational growth in the ability to apply equity strategies based on racial equity training.
- » Sharing models, curricula, and resources.

Understanding how race and racism can show up and gathering strategies for racial equity in BIPP work, BIPPs responded:

- » Issues of race and racism do emerge in group sessions.
- » Current implementation of racial equity strategies is wide-ranging.

Respondents seek leadership and support from TCFV by:

- » Sharing evidence-based models and best practices;
- » Advancing advocacy on program guidelines for racial equity; and
- » Providing ongoing training, consulting, and materials and resources development.

Beyond learning and implementation, additional opportunities for furthering racial equity include:

- » Fostering racial equity strategies beyond inclusion;
- » Supporting strengths-based approaches; and
- » Addressing barriers to the use of a racial equity lens and strategies.

Challenges to the use of a racial equity approach include:

- » Structural barriers, including a lack of guidelines and resources for advancing racial equity work in accountability programs;
- » Equating offering a program service and inclusion to equity; and
- » Overt and covert racism.

Based on these survey learnings, TCFV could make a significant impact by:

- » Addressing the need for racial equity in accountability work;
- » Sharing promising practices, models, and peer learnings and implementation practices;
- » Enhancing the field and TDCJ-CJAD guidelines; and
- » Deepening the understanding of racial equity frameworks, approaches, and strategies.

- ▶ [Access the full report here: "What Does Equity Have to Do With It? Addressing Racial Equity and Accountability with People Causing Harm."](#)

TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Accreditation

Applying for BIPP Accreditation

- » Complete TDCJ-CJAD-approved training requirements. Maintain an accurate record of approved training received per BIPP provider.
- » Maintain documentation of all efforts to establish a collaborative working relationship with the Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) and local family violence agencies to work together to end family violence for each served county.
- » Receive a letter of good standing from one referral entity.
- » Complete the Application for Accreditation – Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP).
- » Submit the BIPP Accreditation Remittance Form and the one-time application fee of \$300.00 via money order or check to TDCJ Cashier’s Office, P.O. Box 4015, Huntsville, Texas 77342-4015. The fee is non-refundable.
- » Email your completed application and required documents to TDCJ-CJAD via email at CJAD.BIPP@tdcj.texas.gov.

Receiving Probationary Accreditation Status

A desk audit of required documents must indicate full compliance with the application and the BIPP Accreditation Guidelines. The one-time fee of \$300.00 must be received. When probationary accreditation is granted, the program can begin receiving referrals.

Receiving Accreditation Status

The on-site audit must indicate that the program has met or exceeded the TDCJ-CJAD benchmark. In addition, the program or provider must be in 100% compliance with all group facilitation guidelines.

Renewal of Accreditation Status

Fully accredited programs must renew their accreditation every three years. Failure to submit timely and accurate applications may result in the loss of accreditation.

[Access the BIPP Application for Accreditation here.](#)

For more information on BIPP Accreditation, please visit www.tdcj.texas.gov/divisions/cjad/bipp.html.

TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Required Training and Background Checks

BIPP providers working directly with family violence offenders must obtain a minimum of training hours and continuing staff development as per Guidelines 2 and 3 in the TDCJ-CJAD Guidelines. BIPP providers are also required to maintain an accurate record of approved training received for initial staff training and continuing staff development.

BIPPs seeking accreditation or hiring new BIPP providers must ensure that each staff completes the required hours of training within six months of hire and before working unsupervised with family violence offenders.

After initial staff training, BIPP providers must receive continuing staff development training hours each two-year cycle. A staff member's two-year cycle begins on the anniversary of their hire date (for example, date of hire is January 1, 2022, then the two-year cycle is January 1, 2023 – 2025). Any approved training received after initial staff training is completed and prior to the start of the provider's two-year cycle may count towards their continuing staff development training hours.

BIPP providers must receive a total of 40 hours of TDCJ-CJAD approved training for initial staff training and continuing staff development in the following:

- » **15 Hours of Family Violence Training**
- » **25 Hours of Battering Intervention Training**

Any staff member who is a licensed BIPP professional (LPC, LMFT, LCDC, LMSW, etc.) should review TDCJ-CJAD Guidelines 2 and 3 to determine whether

they meet the criteria for a reduced set of 15 hours of approved training in the following:

- » **5 Hours of Family Violence Training**
- » **10 Hours of Battering Intervention Training**

Licensed BIPP providers must receive 15 hours of TDCJ-CJAD approved training for initial staff training and continuing staff development.

All required training received must be congruent with the below approved BIPP training topics:

Family Violence

- » Dynamics of family violence, including the history of the movement,
- » Battering is an intentional behavior aimed at achieving and maintaining dominance within an intimate relationship,
- » Characteristics of batterers and their behavior,
- » Dynamics of high lethality factors, which include strangulation, firearms, and pregnancy,
- » Victim safety, safety planning, risk assessment for victims, and appropriate referrals to family violence services programs,
- » Effects of violence on the victim, children, and the community at large,
- » Cultural competency as it relates to the victim, which includes racial equity and LBGQT+ communities,
- » Texas family violence and state reporting laws,
- » Protective orders and other legal information,
- » Coordinated Community Response and its role in enhancing victim safety, including methods of collaboration with family violence centers.

Battering Intervention

- » Family violence prevention and family violence as a form of oppression and a social justice issue,
- » Male privilege and the gendered nature of family violence,
- » Current and new trends in battering intervention programming,
- » Review of the TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Accreditation Guidelines,
- » Intake assessment and individual plans, including risk assessment and non-violence planning,
- » Inappropriate interventions for batterers and other facilitator concerns,
- » Appropriate assessments and programming for women who use force,
- » Assessing and reporting progress and compliance of the batterer to the referral source,
- » Victim contact as it applies to BIP Programming,
- » Ethics for BIPP facilitators related to family violence,
- » Cultural competency, which includes racial equity and LBGQT+ communities,
- » Enhancing group facilitation to include accountability, avoiding collusion, positive behavioral change, and that battering involves choices,
- » Substance abuse, psychopathology, family of origin issues, and their relationship to family violence.

TDCJ-CJAD has approved the following training hour options. Each BIPP provider receiving training through the below approved options must maintain an accurate record of training received.

1. **In-person and/or live virtual training** attendance at any training event congruent with BIPP training topics and trainers as approved by TDCJ-CJAD.

2. **Pre-recorded online courses** and/or modules congruent with BIPP training topics and trainers as approved by TDCJ-CJAD. Pre-recorded online courses may count for no more than 15 hours towards the requested number of hours, or no more than 12 hours for licensed professionals.
3. **Group observation(s)** and debrief with an experienced BIPP facilitator working at a fully accredited program may count for no more than 12 hours towards the requested number of hours.
4. **Internal agency hosted training events** for staff focusing on curriculum philosophy and implementation, agency utilization of Monthly Activity Reporting (MAR), community trends that impact group facilitation, and exposure to family violence center services such as shelter tours, victim support group observation, and customized training from advocates that address community trends which impact victim safety. Internal agency training may count for no more than 10 hours towards the requested number of hours.
5. **Self-study**, which may include reading materials, viewing movies and/or documentaries congruent with BIPP training topics and debriefing with an experienced BIPP facilitator working at a fully accredited program, may count for no more than five (5) hours towards the requested number of hours.
6. **Courses completed at any accredited higher education entity** within the last five years from the date of hire with current employer may count for no more than three (3) of the requested number of hours. A course description must be submitted and be congruent with BIPP training topics.

Sample training documentation templates have been provided below. The following templates comply with TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Accreditation Guidelines. Please note that any substantial edits to the language may interrupt compliance.

- ▶ [Initial Staff Training Documentation Form](#)
- ▶ [Initial Staff Training Documentation Form for Professionals](#)
- ▶ [Staff Development Training Documentation Form](#)
- ▶ [Training Acknowledgement Documentation Form](#)

TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Pre-Approved Training Providers

The BIPP pre-approved training providers list will be used for in-person, live, and/or pre-recorded training content.

Providers are encouraged to review the approved BIPP training topics when planning attendance.

TDCJ-CJAD and Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) are the only entities approved to train on the TDCJ-CJAD Guidelines.

Family Violence Shelter and/or Non-Residential Centers funded by the Texas Department of Health and Human Services Commission are approved training entities.

TDCJ-CJAD Funded and Accredited Texas Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs are approved training entities.

State Domestic Violence Coalitions are approved training entities.

Curriculum developers, owners, and approved trainer designees are the only entities approved to train on their curriculum and materials as a matter of propriety.

- ▶ [Access the approved training provider list here: TDCJ-CJAD Pre-Approved Training Providers.](#)

TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Training Approvals

There are several options for BIPP providers to obtain the required approved training hours. It is encouraged that each provider reviews the approved BIPP training topics, located on pages 15-16 of this BIPP Resource Toolkit and the TDCJ-CJAD Pre-Approved Training Providers list when planning attendance.

BIPP providers who would like to attend, or have attended, a training event congruent with approved BIPP training topics that are not listed as a TDCJ-CJAD pre-approved training provider are required to submit a BIPP Training Hour Approval Form by using the link below.

- ▶ [TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Training Hour Approval Form](#)

If you are in the process of seeking accreditation, please do not complete this form. All training records for those seeking accreditation must be submitted directly to TDCJ-CJAD with your accreditation application.

As each BIPP provider must maintain an accurate record of approved training, an approved BIPP training form must be kept with all records and proof of attendance for each training submitted through the BIPP Training Approval process.

Those interested in offering a training event, conference, and/or webinar congruent with approved BIPP training topics and seeking to pre-approve for TDCJ-CJAD hours, please contact the TCFV Family Violence Services team at fvsc@tcfv.org for a consultation.

TDCJ-CJAD Required Background Checks

BIPP providers working directly with family violence offenders must abide by the accredited program's policy on completing background checks, which includes paid and unpaid positions, before providing direct services. Background checks are to be conducted at least once every three years from the date of hire and/or assignment to BIPP.

- ▶ [Click here to access Background Check Instructions.](#)

TCFV BIPP Tools for Transformation

BIPP Webinar Library

Tools for Transformation is a multi-tier approach to training and delivering effective intervention for family violence offenders to new and tenured providers working in Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPP). The BIPP Webinar Library is offered free or at a discounted rate to our TCFV members.

If you want to become an Individual Member of TCFV to take advantage of these complimentary or discounted rates, visit our membership page [here](#).

TCFV provides online access to the Tools for Transformation webinar library, which contains 18 webinars: 12 approved Battering Intervention focused training providing 24 TDCJ-CJAD hours and six (6) approved Family Violence (FV) focused training providing 9.50 TDCJ-CJAD hours.

A Coalition Manager (CM) account is required to access the below library. If you are a member of TCFV, a CM account will automatically be assigned at the time of membership.

Please note that the only TCFV webinars approved for TDCJ-CJAD training are webinars that have the BIPP Prefix before the title when viewing the library.

Battering Intervention Hours

- ▶ [Texas BIPP Accreditation Guideline Series](#)
- ▶ [The Tools of Accountability: Using the Power of Group to Maximize BIPP](#)
- ▶ [Working with Men Who Batter](#)
- ▶ [Risk Factors for BIPP Participant Dropout](#)
- ▶ [Working with Perpetrators of Faith](#)

- ▶ [Integrating Core Clinical Skills into BIPP Groups](#)
- ▶ [Engagement and Accountability in Group](#)
- ▶ [Working with Women Who Use Force](#)
- ▶ [Addressing Trauma in Abusive Partners](#)
- ▶ [Recognizing and Managing Risk Factors, Profiling Killers](#)
- ▶ [A Culturally Competent Approach to Working with LGBT+ DV Offenders](#)
- ▶ [Utilizing Motivational Interviewing in BIPP Group](#)

Family Violence Hours

- ▶ [Dynamics of Domestic Violence for BIPP Series](#)
- ▶ [Exploring and Supporting Economic Partnership in BIPP](#)
- ▶ [Engaging Men in the Movement: Organizing to End Male Violence Against Women through BIPP](#)
- ▶ [Addressing Reproductive Coercion in BIPP Group](#)
- ▶ [Strangulation: The Last Warning Shot](#)
- ▶ [The Batterer as a Parent](#)

BIPP List Serv.

The BIPP List Serv. provides an open communication forum between BIPP providers seeking additional resources, technical assistance, and best practices from peers across our membership programs. TCFV utilizes the BIPP List Serv. to keep BIPP providers apprised of TDCJ-CJAD-approved training opportunities.

The BIPP List Serv. is a membership benefit. If you are a member of TCFV and would like to be added to the list serv., please email fvsc@tcfv.org.

If you want to become an Individual Member of TCFV to take advantage of the BIPP List Serv., visit our membership page [here](#).

TDCJ-CJAD BIPP Pre-Approved Curriculum

In the state of Texas, accredited programs have an opportunity to develop their curriculum. The developed curriculum shall meet the requirements of TDCJ-CJAD Guideline 15 and all other associated guidelines, which shall be based on an intervention model that recognizes battering as the result of one person in an intimate relationship systematically using tactics of emotional and physical abuse to maintain power and control over the other. The developed curriculum shall use approaches that encourage accountability and positive behavioral change. The developed curriculum shall also address the impact on victims and children and parenting after violence when working with fathers who have used intimate partner violence.

All developed curricula shall be submitted to TDCJ-CJAD for approval. If accredited programs take different sections of pre-approved curriculum material to combine, they shall also submit combined curricula for approval.

Accredited programs that acquire pre-approved curricula shall ensure that at least one staff member receives training from the curriculum developer and consistently obtains the most up-to-date curriculum as revisions are made. Programs shall also ensure that staff members are trained to use the curriculum in alignment with the curriculum philosophy.

- ▶ [Access the approved curriculum list here: TDCJ-CJAD Pre-Approved Curriculum.](#)

TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE PROMOTES SAFE AND
HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS BY SUPPORTING SERVICE PROVIDERS,
FACILITATING STRATEGIC PREVENTION EFFORTS, AND CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREEDOM FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.



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