

# Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment

## Program Description

The Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment Program certifies programs throughout Washington state that provide critical treatment to those who have caused harm in intimate partner relationships<sup>1</sup>. Programs that provide domestic violence perpetrator treatment are required to be certified by the department (RCW 43.20A.735).

DSHS certifies over 60 DVIT programs. Certification is renewable every two years, and DSHS provides technical assistance, conducts regular compliance reviews of programs and investigates complaints, as needed. Certified DVIT programs provide behavioral assessments and differentiated levels of treatment for participants, many of whom are court-ordered into treatment.

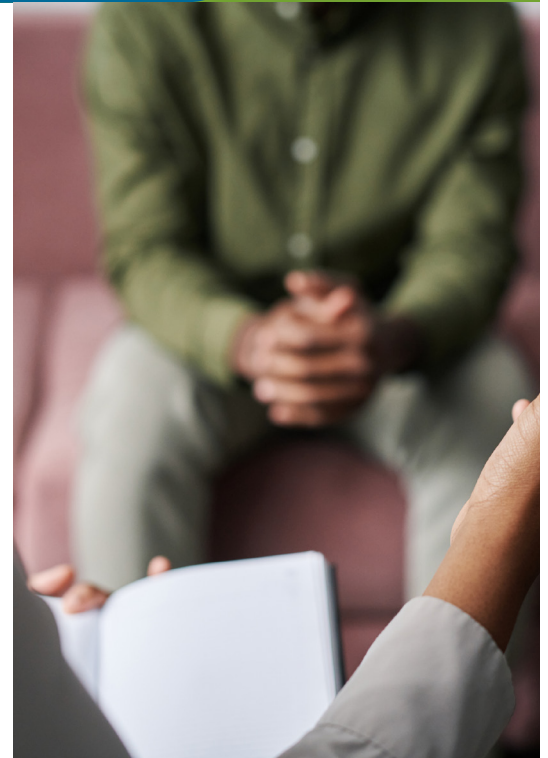
DSHS sets certification requirements. They include, but are not limited to:

- 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.
- Core competency requirements.

Currently, no state funding exists for domestic violence intervention treatment. Participants must pay for treatment out of pocket and, many times, the cost falls on the family. 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.

<sup>1</sup>Domestic violence is the infliction or threat of physical harm against an intimate partner and includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse. It is part of a pattern of assaultive, coercive and controlling behaviors directed at achieving compliance from or control over that intimate partner. It can include, but is not limited to, a categorization of offenses as defined in RCW 10.99.020, committed by one intimate partner against another. [RCW 70.123.020\(4\)](#).

<sup>2</sup>Based on anonymous survey responses submitted in state fiscal year 2024 to DSHS from clients post-treatment



## Highlights in State Fiscal Year 2024<sup>2</sup>

- 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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