

Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) General Program Fact Sheet

Program Overview

Our mission: To implement a comprehensive evidence-based assistance program for Veterans, their families and VHA employees who use or experience intimate partner violence and to promote healthy, safe relationships.

Program Implementation Timeline

- June 2012 The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) convened the *Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence (DV/IPV) Task Force*. The Task Force provided 14 key recommendations for the implementation of a comprehensive, integrated program aimed at addressing the unique needs of Veterans, their partners and VA staff impacted by IPV.
- From 2015- 2017 the IPVAP identified 6 pilot sites to begin implementation of the Task Force's recommendations. By the end of the pilot period in 2017, there were 110 Coordinators and a wealth of best practices were identified across the country.
- March 2018, funding was received for full implementation (Senate Report 115-130).
- January 2019 VHA Directive 1198, Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program was published. The policy marks the first in VA history to specifically address needs related to experiencing or using IPV by establishing policy, roles, and responsibilities for the implementation and sustainment of the enterprise-wide Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP).

IPVAP Guiding Principles:

The VA IPVAP follows four key guiding principles:

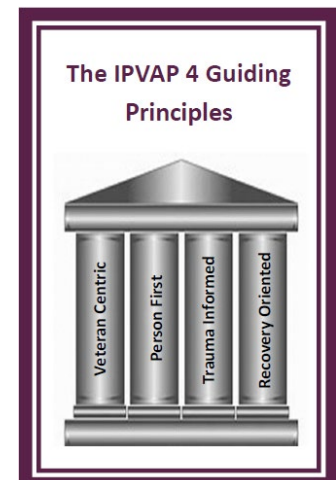
Veteran - Centric – Treating all Veterans and their partners with dignity and respect.

Person - First - Using person-centered language to reduce stigma and focus on the behavior to be changed rather than assigning labels to individuals. Rather than using terms such as batterer, perpetrator, abuser, victim, use:

- Veterans (or partners) who use Intimate Partner Violence
- Veterans (or partners) who experience Intimate Partner Violence
- Recognize that individuals may engage in both experience and use of IPV.

Trauma - Informed - ensuring that care and services adhere to trauma-informed care and being aware of the impact trauma has on individuals and relationships

Recovery - Oriented - the IPVAP operates from a public health model of encouraging awareness, prevention, education and intervention to mitigate risk of IPV and through treatment, reduce IPV behaviors thereby promoting healthy relationships.



Implementation Status

Currently over 90% of all VA Medical Centers have a designated IPVAP Coordinator and programming established to serve Veterans, their partners and VA staff. [Access Year-End Summary Report here.](#) (This is an internal document)

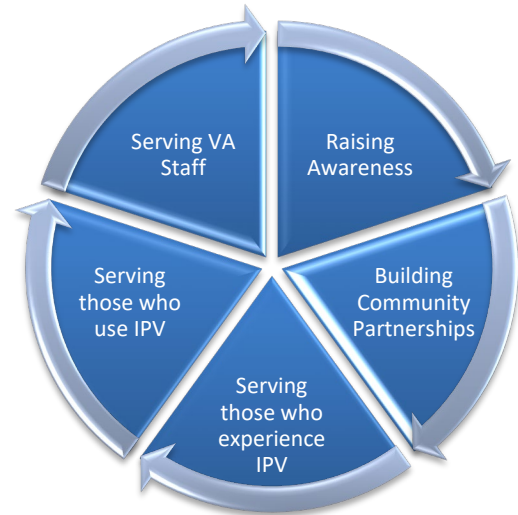
Administration and Oversight

The program is overseen by a National Program Manager who reports to the National Director of Social Work in the Office of Care Management and Social Work.

The IPVAP Leadership Council is made up of program leads and subject matter experts from a variety of VA programs that intersect with, and support, IPVAP programming and implementation. Offices and programs represented include:

- Caregiver Support Program
- Transitional Care Management
- Women's Health
- Homeless Veteran Program
- Suicide Prevention
- Chaplain Services
- Community Engagement
- Primary Care
- VA Voluntary Services

IPVAP 5 Primary Action Areas



Five Leadership Committees Support the IPVAP Mission:

- **Raising Awareness** Develops and disseminates print and digital campaigns that raise awareness about IPV and the IPVAP.
- **Professional Development & Education**: Develops national training materials, offers monthly training and weekly program support calls.
- **Professional Standards & Clinical Practice**: Develops and manages professional standards and documentation guidelines in accordance with broader VA Policies and practices.
- **Data Management & Program Evaluation**: Develops program evaluation tools and utilizes data to inform program operations and identify best practices.
- **Research & Evidence Based Practice**: Builds internal processes and procedures for identifying, conducting, and supporting research related to IPV and Relationship & Health Safety.

For more Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program information and resources go to www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Index.asp or contact your local IPVAP Coordinator.