



Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh

The mission of Women's Center & Shelter is to advance the safety and wellbeing of victims of intimate partner violence and prevent and respond to intimate partner violence through social change.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

24-HOUR HOTLINE (412)687-8005



WC&S' Hotline Advocates are trained in crisis intervention and survivor-centered advocacy. The Advocates assess the callers' safety (and contact emergency responders when needed), offer counseling, and walk the callers through creating and updating safety plans. Information and referrals provided by the Advocates enable callers to make choices about next steps. Whether their choice is to seek shelter, seek safe housing elsewhere, or continue to plan a safe exit, Hotline Advocates help callers to facilitate these next moves.

LEGAL ADVOCACY



WC&S' Legal Advocacy Department helps survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) navigate the court system by providing information, resources, counseling, and ongoing support free of charge. Legal Advocates may guide survivors through obtaining Protection From Abuse (PFA) orders and accompany them to court hearings. These Advocates work with the justice system to improve procedures and to train police on IPV issues. **(412) 355-7400 x5**

EMERGENCY SHELTER



WC&S' Emergency Shelter provides safety for women and children in immediate, lethal danger. Core services for Shelter residents include safety planning, goal planning, and advocacy for housing, career, health, and mental health. WC&S provides food, toiletries, towels, blankets, clothing, and other essentials so that families can have their immediate needs met and can begin their journeys of healing.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



The Children's Program is a safe, welcoming, nurturing space where child witnesses/victims of IPV can heal from trauma. Beyond addressing basic needs like medical care and school access, our Child Advocates collaborate with local organizations to bring fun, expressive activities to the children we serve. Importantly, the Children's Program also creates opportunities for mothers and their children to connect with each other while they work through some of the most difficult challenges they have faced.

CHILDREN/YOUTH COUNSELING



The Children's Counselor provides counseling for children ages 5-17 for issues related to violence they may have witnessed and/or experienced. The Counselor can also meet with children to discuss issues such as bullying, adjustment issues, anxiety, stress, self-esteem, etc. The Children's Support Advocate helps with assessing parental stress/needs, assessing child behavioral/emotional needs, and connecting families to resources.

EMPOWERMENT CENTER (ON-SITE & OFF-SITE INDIVIDUAL & GROUP SUPPORT)



Support groups are offered at WC&S for survivors of IPV who have exited Shelter and those who have not needed Shelter services. Groups cover topics like building life skills, seeking safety, recognizing reproductive coercion, fostering wellness, mothering, developing healthy relationships, and surviving trauma. Individual therapy is provided onsite to help cope with the effects of IPV including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety. This department also houses our Immediate Needs Coordination program and the team of staff serving refugees, immigrants, and limited English speakers.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES



EDUCATION (SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY)

WC&S delivers training and presentations on IPV awareness and prevention to criminal justice professionals, students, clergy, corporations, and other professionals.



MENS BATTERING INTERVENTION PROGRAM

WC&S offers MENS Group for men who need help with their violent and abusive behavior. Each group meets for 24 sessions. It encourages men to change their attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate domestic violence, realize how they create many of their own conflicts, take responsibility for their actions, understand the impact of their behavior on themselves and others, and give up control tactics and their sense of entitlement to use them.



CIVIL LAW PROJECT

Through the Civil Law Project (CLP), WC&S clients can receive free legal representation in matters including Protection From Abuse (PFA) orders, custody and child support, and divorce.



OUTREACH ADVOCACY

WC&S provides free and confidential support groups and individual advocacy in accessible, community-based locations throughout the city. Women's Advocacy Groups (WAGs) meet regularly in multiple locations throughout the city covering topics of safety, healthy relationships, self-care, anger, and healthy communication. We also provide outreach to community partners by building awareness and providing support to meet the needs of survivors of IPV.



INC (IMMEDIATE NEEDS COORDINATION)

The Immediate Needs Coordinators meet the immediate emotional, psychological, and physical health and safety needs of clients using various non-resident services. The INC program extends to 300 Legal Advocacy and Empowerment Center clients and 250 Civil Law Project clients per year.



VICTIMS COMPENSATION

This specialist works with all DV victims of crime to file for Victims Compensation, including providing follow-up care, enters compensation-related information into the Dependable Access for Victims' Expenses portal, and provides advocacy as needed with Victims Compensation professionals.



RIL (REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS, & LIMITED-ENGLISH)

WC&S has a special team that works with Refugees, Immigrants, and Limited-English speakers, called the RIL Team. These multilingual staff members work at two levels – assisting individual clients and advocating improvements in systems to better serve RIL clients.



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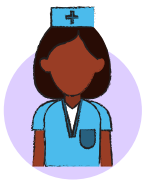


United Way of
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United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania serves Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette & Southern Armstrong Counties

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MEDICAL ADVOCACY

The Medical Advocacy Coordinator maintains relationships between WC&S and local healthcare providers, distributing WC&S print materials to medical practices and meeting with patients admitted to hospitals for IPV-related injuries. Additionally, the Advocate trains healthcare professionals and students in medical fields in an effort to enhance the healthcare system's response to IPV.



CYF (CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES)

CYF Specialists coach and consult with Office of CYF caseworkers to identify and engage families experiencing IPV-related risk factors. They provide a psycho-educational environment that supports and empowers the non-offending parent to identify, create, and maintain protective capacities related to IPV.



LGBTQ ADVOCACY

WC&S seeks to build on our current efforts to reach new victim populations with outreach support groups, offering a new, weekly support group specifically for LGBTQ DV victims. The LGBTQ Outreach Advocate leads the development of strategic outreach for LGBTQ people experiencing DV, leads a weekly, Sanctuary-based support group for these victims, and provides one-on-one counseling and advocacy.



STANDING FIRM: THE BUSINESS CASE TO END PARTNER VIOLENCE

STANDING FIRM alerts employers to the financial, safety and human costs of partner violence in the workplace and workforce and equips them with tools for taking effective organizational action. They offer trainings so employers can engage with the issue of IPV in the workplace in proactive and effective ways. standingfirmswpa.org

PET SUITE

Survivors can be faced with an excruciating choice: stay in an abusive situation so as not to be separated from their beloved pet, or leave the abusive situation – and their pet – behind. We are happy to offer a safe place for the pets of survivors who are residing at WC&S. The suite is a protected and secure area with separate enclosures and includes a private outdoor area as well.



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