

Batterer Intervention Provider Standards Compliance Council BIPSCC

FACT SHEET

Background

Michigan Governor John Engler appointed a task force that included practitioners, judges, probation, domestic violence programs, and state departments to develop Standards for batterer intervention programs. Those Standards were approved in 1998. The purpose for developing standards was to provide guidelines for ethical and accountable intervention systems that would protect victims and other family members. The Standards also established a minimum level of respectful, humane, consistent, and appropriate intervention for persons convicted of a domestic violence related criminal charge.

In 1996 the Batterer Intervention Services Coalition (BISC-MI) partnered the Michigan Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV, now the MCEDSV), Department of Human Services' Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (formerly the Michigan Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, now MDSVPTB), and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM), with support from the State Court Administrators Office and the District Court Judges Association to design a process to: 1) Identify batterer intervention providers (BIPs) operating in the state, and 2) Determine which providers meet Michigan standards for batterer intervention service providers.

What is the Batterer Intervention Provider Standards Compliance Council (BIPSCC)?

The BIPSCC is multidisciplinary group of volunteers who meet regularly to review applications. The BIPSCC representation includes at least one victim service provider and one BIP.

What are the direct BIPSCC certification benefits to my program?

- Your program information will be easily accessible on the website during the time period that it is certified to anyone who wants to make referrals to the communities you serve. To maintain your listing on the web-site annual renewal applications will be required.
- You will receive notification of training opportunities available in your field. All facilitators must document attending 20 hours of continuing education training that is directly related to batterer intervention work.
- You will be kept current of the accreditation process as it evolves and have the opportunity to provide feedback that will assist the council in meeting our long-term goal of ensuring the availability of quality batterer intervention services in Michigan.

How can I get an application?

Go to http://www.biscmi.org/bipsc/BIPSCC_Application.doc. The application is a Word document, easy to understand and complete. Once completed, save a copy for your records and follow the instructions listed at the end of the application. .

When can I apply?

Programs can apply at anytime. A renewal application should be completed prior to the expiration date of the previous application.

How much does it cost?

The certification cost is \$100.00 for an initial application and \$50.00 to renew annually. The application is active for a 12-month period. Payment must be included with the application.

What will my renewal date be?

The renewal date will stay consistent with the original application date in most cases, or may be associated with the date the renewal application is approved by BIPSCC in limited situations.

What if program is not in compliance?

BIPSCC will review your application and contact you if additional information or clarification is needed. The intended outcome of the BIPSCC certification process is to bring programs into compliance. Please let BIPSCC know if you need assistance.

When will my program be listed on the website?

The BIPSCC meets once a month. It may take up to 2 weeks after your application is approved for it to be listed.

Where can I get a copy of the standards?

You can get a copy of the Michigan Standards at the Batterer Intervention Service Coalition of Michigan at: http://www.biscmi.org/aboutus/michigan_standards.html

How can I ask questions?

Send an email to bipscc@biscmi.org. A response will be sent within just a few days.

Website disclaimer:

The individuals and programs listed on the BIPSCC Certification Website have submitted documentation that implies that their program meets or exceeds the Michigan BIP standards established in 1998. BIPSCC does not provide on site assessment and evaluation at this time, so BIPSCC cannot vouch for the quality of the listed programs. BIPSCC encourages anyone seeking an accountable BIP to visit and observe groups themselves to assess whether the program meets state standards, operates with practices that foster victim safety, and holds batterers accountable.

For a complete copy of the State Standards go to www.biscmi.org/standards/. If you have questions or concerns about the process, or a particular program in your area, contact us at bipscc@biscmi.org