



PROGRAMS & SERVICES



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 IPV survivors 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.



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.



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.



EMPOWERMENT CENTER (NON-RESIDENT PROGRAM)

Support groups are offered at WC&S for IPV survivors 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.

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EDUCATION



WC&S delivers training and presentations on IPV awareness and prevention to criminal justice professionals, students, clergy, corporations, and other professionals. Affiliate program STANDING FIRM encourages and trains employers to engage with the issue of IPV in the workplace in proactive and effective ways. In addition to these prevention programs, WC&S runs a batterer's intervention program funded by Allegheny County.

THE MENS GROUP



WC&S offers The 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



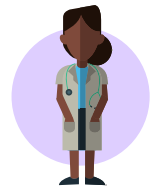
Through the Civil Law Project (CLP), WC&S clients can receive free legal representation in matters including PFA orders, custody and child support, and divorce.

OUTREACH ADVOCACY



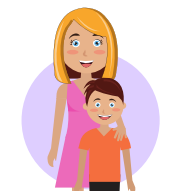
WC&S provides free and confidential support groups and individual advocacy in accessible, community-based locations throughout the city. Women's Advocacy Groups (WAGs) meet regularly in multiple locations throughout the city covering topics of safety, healthy relationships, self-care, anger, and healthy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

INC



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 per year.

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.

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.

STANDING FIRM



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.