



## **Intervening with the person who caused harm**

### Information sheet

What is domestic violence intervention?

- Intervention is work with the person who is causing harm in their relationship
- Intervention programs have existed for about 40 years

Do the police have to be involved to send a person to an intervention program?

- No. Some people do come after getting in trouble with the police, but many people come with no police or court involvement

How else do people come to an intervention program?

- Sent by an employer
- Recommended by a therapist or health care worker
- At the request of their partner, a family member or a friend
- At the recommendation of a faith community

Can an undocumented person participate in an intervention program

- Yes. Residency status has no impact on participation

If a member of my community has been hurting their spouse or partner, why might my community want to send them to an intervention program?

- If the program can get them to stop acting harmfully, that would benefit their own health and happiness, as well as that of their family and the community
- The program can give information to the spouse or partner to help them figure out their next steps
- The program can provide information that can help the community to decide how best to offer support and maintain accountability

Why would an intervention program want to work with a faith community?

- Faith communities that are actively involved in the lives of their members can often create an accountability system that:
  - Is more effective because it is connected to the life and values of the member
  - makes sense to the person who is being held accountable, and doesn't just feel punishing in the way a court process sometimes can
  - Doesn't result in a criminal record or involvement with immigration authorities
- Community leaders and members often have warm, established relationships that allow the harming partner to feel cared for, while still having it be clear that they must change
- Faith communities can offer support to the rest of the family

What can get in the way of a faith community being helpful when one of their members is acting harmfully?

- Discomfort or lack of experience in how to talk about what's happening
- Worry about how to respond to disclosures, especially by the person doing the hurting
- Unwillingness to have meaningful consequences if the harming partner refuses to change or get help

What are the challenges of working with an intervention program?

- Not everyone who needs it is willing to go
- Of the ones who do, some respond very favorably, but not all
- There usually is a cost, although here in Philadelphia there are also some subsidies, so it is often possible to offer a fee that fits with the person's financial situation

If I have a question or want someone from my faith community to go to intervention, who do I contact?

- Call 215-242-2235 or email [office@courdea.org](mailto:office@courdea.org)