



ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP of Philadelphia

Together we can end the cycle of violence

Intra-Familial Homicide Initiative Overview

With the grant awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) by way of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Intra-Familial Homicide Initiative within the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) will work to improve Philadelphia's systemic responses to families of homicide victims. There is a particular focus on enhancing responses for survivors of intra-familial homicide (IFH). The IFH team is not a direct service provider, but rather works to improve service provision across the city in the following ways:

1. Conducting survivor-centered research with survivors of IFH and service providers who work with the impacted families to identify gaps and best practices;
2. Increasing collaboration and coordination of services across city and community agencies, including the Medical Examiner's Office (MEO), District Attorney's Office (DAO), Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) homicide unit, victim services agencies, and more;
3. Coordinating training from local and national experts for multidisciplinary providers on issues related to homicide, survivors, and evidence-based practices for service provision;
4. Developing, purchasing, and disseminating resources that provide families with the critical information they need in the aftermath of homicide.

A vital part of this work includes survivor-centered research efforts in which survivors of complex homicides will participate in interviews with the AVP Intra-Familial Homicide Team. The coordinator and community advocate will conduct the interviews. Survivors of homicides that occurred between 2016 and 2020 will be identified and contacted by the IFH team through partnerships with providers, community events, letters, and phone calls. Participation is completely voluntary, and participants may choose to withdraw at any time. Regardless of where survivors are in the process of navigating their grief, participation may be triggering or upsetting. The IFH team is taking appropriate measures to design the research process to be as survivor-centered and supportive as possible.

Interviews will take place at a time and location that is convenient for participants. They may last one to two hours, and participants will each receive a \$25 general use gift card for their time and contributions. We will also offer participants follow-up or check-in phone calls with the IFH team staff or an AVP therapist, connections with desired partner agencies, and identification of additional services. The IFH team will use the insights and data collected during the interviews to inform cross-system collaboration efforts of providers, as well as the development of resources specifically for survivors of homicide and complex homicide. Survivors will have a choice regarding their continued involvement in the research process, including opportunities to provide feedback on materials developed by the IFH team.

Ultimately, Philadelphia will be one of seven national sites to serve as a model for newly developed protocols, materials, and best practices when responding to complex homicides. These resources will be



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made available for providers to improve and enhance services nationally, and they will be distributed by the National Center for Victims of Crime.

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