

EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AND CENTRAL PA

1 in 26
americans
will develop
epilepsy
in their
lifetime



Epilepsy Association of Western and Central PA is a private, non-profit service organization providing public education and supportive services to individuals and families affected by epilepsy/seizure disorders. We endeavor to improve the quality of life for persons with epilepsy/seizure disorders and to dispel the myths, stigmas, and misunderstandings associated with it.

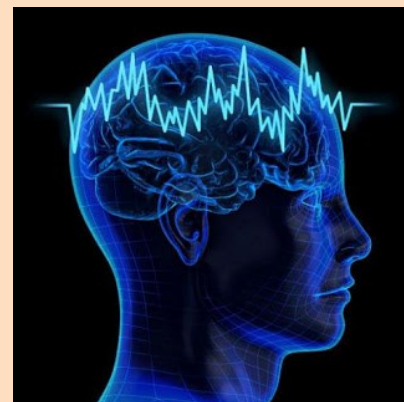
With offices and staff in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Altoona we offer nationally recognized programs and services to residents throughout western and central Pennsylvania.

What is epilepsy?

Epilepsy (often called a “seizure disorder”) is a neurological condition that causes a person to have recurring seizures. A doctor may diagnose you with epilepsy if you have one or more seizures, it is likely you will have more seizures, and the seizure is not directly caused by another medical condition (such as diabetes or an infection).

Epilepsy is a spectrum disorder. The impact of epilepsy varies from person to person.

Epilepsy is not a disease, mental illness, or a sign of low intelligence. It is not contagious. Epilepsy is generally a chronic and/or lifelong condition.



What is a seizure?

A seizure is a sudden surge of electrical activity in the brain. Seizures can alter awareness, physical movements, emotions, or actions and generally last a few seconds to a few minutes. Seizures can take on many different forms and affect people very differently.

There are many different types of seizures but they can be classified into two main categories: generalized and focal.

Generalized seizures mean that the entire brain is engaged in the seizure. The person may become unconscious or unresponsive. Generalized seizures may be convulsive or non convulsive. Types include tonic-clonic, absence, myoclonic, and atonic seizures.

Focal seizures involve only certain parts of the brain. The person may remain aware, be confused, have automatic muscle movements, and/or experience changes in taste, sight, smell, or feelings. These seizures are classified by whether or not there is a change in awareness.

Pittsburgh Office

1501 Reedsdale Street
Suite 3002
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
800-361-5885

Harrisburg Office

3507 Market Street
Suite 203
Camp Hill, PA 17011
800-336-0301

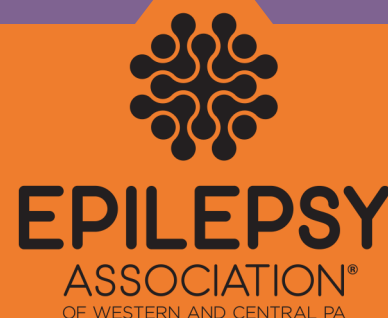
Altoona Area

814-799-0345

Erie Area

814-451-1135

www.eawcp.org



Our Programs and Services



Adult Support Groups

We offer support groups to connect adults living with epilepsy.



Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars

We host educational events throughout the year in western/central Pennsylvania covering topics like treatment options, special education, and more.



Emergency Medication Assistance

If you find yourself running low on your anti-seizure medication with no way to pay for your next refill, contact us to see if you are eligible for emergency medication assistance.



Individual/Family Consultation

Our experienced and knowledgeable staff can provide you with a variety of supportive and educational services for you and your family as well as provide you with customized, one-on-one support.



Information and Referrals

On top of the customized support, our staff can provide you with community resources and referrals to connect you with even more programs and services near you.



Legislative Advocacy Assistance

Do you want to make your voice heard and share your epilepsy story with your local legislator? We can help you.



Medical ID Cards

We can provide you with a free, customized wallet ID card and help you find the ID bracelet right for you.



Oscar Project Seizure Response Dogs

There is a lot to learn about seizure response dogs. We can help you start your search.



Parent/Peer Connect

Sometimes support groups aren't personal enough. We can connect you with individuals in similar situations near you.



Resource Library

Take advantage of our free lending library which includes books on a wide range of epilepsy topics.



Respite Care Program

Respite is temporary relief for family/caregivers from caring for an individual with special needs. We support up to 25 hours of free, temporary respite.



Scholarship Program

High school seniors in western/central PA living with epilepsy/seizure disorder that have been accepted into a postsecondary academic or vocational program are encouraged to apply for scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$2,500.



Seizure Monitor Information and Support

Seizure monitors are devices that can alert caregivers to seizure activity, specifically tonic-clonic seizures. We can help you find the monitor right for you and identify potential funding options.



Seizure Recognition and First Aid Presentations

Project School Alert is a free program that offers seizure recognition and response training to school nurses, school personnel, students of all ages, first responders, and community organizations. Presentations are tailored to different audiences.



Social Events

We host events throughout the year for children, adults, families, and friends living with epilepsy to relax and socialize.



Special Education Information and Advocacy

If your child is struggling in school, our experienced staff can support you with special education services such as 504 Plans, Individualized Education Plans, Seizure Action Plans, and more.



Summer Camp

Camp Frog is a week-long overnight camp for children and teens (8-17 years old) with a primary diagnosis of epilepsy which provides extra supportive and medical services in a traditional summer camp setting.



Teen Transition/Youth Council Programs

Transition-aged teens (14+) should start taking charge of their future and we can help. We offer youth leadership programs to educate teens on how to advocate for themselves and take an active role when transitioning to adult healthcare.



Telephone Support

Sometimes you don't know what you need help with, and that's ok. Just give us a call and we can talk you through what programs, services, and community resources may be right for you. We are here to help.