

VA Developer Starter Guide

Component	Owner	Lifecycle	
Developer Starter Guide	 CTO-office	production	Source

Getting started with BIP

Platform description

The Benefits Integration Platform (BIP) was created to support product teams developing or modernizing applications within the Benefits and Memorials (BAM) portfolio. It comprises a set of standardized tools (e.g., CI/CD pipeline), development guidelines, and an AWS Elastic Kubernetes (EKS)-based multi-tenant deployment environment hosted in VAEC AWS GovCloud.

Supported languages and frameworks: All OIT-approved languages and frameworks are supported; additional official support is provided for Java (Spring Boot) and React

 Only teams in the Benefits and Memorials portfolio are eligible to

using BIP.

Your product should also meet the below requirements before reaching out to the BIP team (see [BIP participant levels document](#)):

- Already containerized or uses AWS services
- Participates in achieving ATO compliance (minor app. package)
- Maintains a secure application that meets [VA 6500](#) specifications

Full platform documentation linked [here](#)

Request access

Initiate the intake process by filling out a SNOW form.

Compatibility assessment

A BAM-led Intake Review Board will review your SNOW application to ensure your application meets the minimum criteria set out in the [BIP participant levels document](#).

Onboarding

Note: Each BAM product line with active products on BIP is assigned at least one systems team ; this

team serves as a source of technical knowledge and live support for your product team (across onboarding, setup, and ongoing development). The `systems` team also ensures code is compliant with both OIT and BIP security standards before it is deployed to a production environment. These teams are sized according to your product line's presence on BIP (e.g., number of products).

Upon approval, your team will be assigned to your product line's `systems` team, which is responsible for orienting your team in BIP's ways of working and any live onboarding processes. This `systems` team will also serve as your team's first line of support for any technical or platform-related issues you may encounter. Self-service resources around using the platform, toolchain setup, and best practices are all available on [BIP's documentation portal](#).

Resource

provisioning and environment setup

Your `systems` team is responsible for provisioning resources and setting up your team's environments (e.g., dev, prod). Note that deploying code to a production environment will require system team approval.

Getting started with accelerator pipelines

BIP provides opinionated pipelines such that teams can quickly start developing. Reach out to the [BIP accelerator team](#) to learn more.

 Only applicable for React or Java Spring Boot applications.

Adding new team members

Reach out to your systems team to add additional team members to your environments.