



Statement in Support of VCCVS FY24 Budget Request
House Judiciary Committee
February 28th, 2023

The Vermont Network strongly supports the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (VCCVS) FY24 Budget Request as presented in testimony to House Judiciary. The VCCVS request includes four primary items, three of which were supported in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Items in the Governor's Recommended Budget:

- **Addressing Special Fund Shortfalls Through Surcharge Reallocation:** Both the Victims' Compensation Special Fund and the domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund have experienced declining revenues over time. The Governor's recommended budget adopts a suggestion made by the Joint Fiscal Office to dedicate the entirety of a \$47 surcharge to these Special Funds. Currently, \$7.25 of that surcharge goes to the General Fund. According to the Joint Fiscal Office, allocating the entirety of the surcharge to the Special Funds will add anywhere from \$300,000 to \$400,000 combined in annual revenues for the two special funds over the next three fiscal years - 2023 to 2025.
- **Move Funding for DV Trainer into Vermont Criminal Justice Council:** By statute, The Vermont Criminal Justice Council must employ a trainer to provide mandatory domestic violence training to law enforcement officers (20 V.S.A. § 2365). Historically, this position has been paid for by a transfer from the DV/SV Special Fund. The Governor's Recommended Budget moves the expense for this position into the Vermont Criminal Justice Council where it more appropriately belongs.
- **Move Funding for One Victim Advocate at Department of Public Safety:** The Vermont Department of Public Safety employs two victims advocates who serve a significant role in supporting victims and people impacted by major crimes and unexpected deaths in Vermont. The Governor's Recommended Budget ensures that one of these positions, which has historically been supported by a grant, will be supported through the Department of Public Safety's budget.

In addition, we support the VCCVS's request for the following:

- **Move Funding for Additional Victim Advocate at Department of Public Safety:** As noted above, the Vermont Department of Public Safety employs two victims advocates who serve a significant role in supporting victims and people impacted by major crimes and unexpected deaths in Vermont. We support the Center's request that both positions be supported through the Department of Public Safety's budget rather than grants or other federal funds.

Thank you for your support for these requests.