

The Vermont Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Program is a federally funded Health Department program funded through the Agency of Transportation. The program provides child passenger safety education and training through supporting CPS Technicians at Car Seat Assistance stations. Parents and caregivers can visit these stations to obtain education and assistance with the proper installation and harnessing of children in car seats/booster seats and learn how to safely transition a child from car seats to an adult safety belt. Car Seat Assistance Stations are spread throughout Vermont and are staffed by Nationally Certified, Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST) volunteers. CPSTs include medical professionals, childcare workers, first responders and others.

Check out the program's website [beseatsmart.org](https://beseatsmart.org)

The Vermont CPS Program and Assistance Centers has been able to host a program to provide a limited number of free seats (as limited funding allows) and installation assistance to low-income Vermonters who would not otherwise be able to afford a car seat.

## What are the program's goals?

- To reduce injury and death of children in motor vehicle crashes on Vermont's roadways.
- Provide education and assistance for the proper installation, harnessing and use of car seats, booster seats and transitioning to a seat belt, and decrease car seat misuse.
- Train Nationally Certified, Child Passenger Safety Technician Volunteers to support the program and staff assistance stations to all regions of the state.
- Facilitate access to culturally and linguistically appropriate car seat education and assistance. Increase the access of car seats available to low-income Vermonters.

## What progress have we made in the past year?

Dedicated program staff and volunteers in the community continue to donate time and expertise to ensure the safety of Vermont children. Our program met the following goals in 2022-23 grant year.

- ↑ Car Seat Inspections by 12% 1,850 to 2,044 inspections
- ↑ New Community Car Seat Assistance Stations by 22% 61 to 75 stations
- ↑ Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians by 15% 174 to 201 technicians
- In 2023, all State DCF/Foster Parent offices have at least one CPST on staff to increase the transportation safety of children in the care and custody of the State of Vermont.
- Almost every Vermont hospital with a birthing unit has staff CPSTs available to help new parents ensuring the safe transportation of their child from the very first car ride home.

For more information: Stephanie Busch, Injury Prevention Manager, [Stephanie.busch@vermont.gov](mailto:Stephanie.busch@vermont.gov)  
802.363.0091

### KEY POINTS

- **Between January 2019- November of 2023, 8902 car seats inspections were conducted by CPS Techs.**
- **Vermont has a 54% installation misuse rate**
- **There are currently 206 Nationally Certified CPSTs in Vermont**