



**DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
SERVICES PROVIDED BY NETWORK  
MEMBER PROGRAMS:  
A SNAPSHOT**

Over the past five years, between 2010 and 2015, the fourteen Member Programs of the Vermont Network have seen a dramatic increase in the need for services to victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence:

- An increase of 29% in the number of victims sheltered;
- An increase of 63% in the number of shelter-nights provided to survivors and their children;
- An increase of 12% in the number of hotline calls;
- An increase of 46% in the number of victims turned away from shelter due to lack of available space;<sup>i</sup>
- Domestic violence felony filings have increased by 30%;<sup>ii</sup>
- Domestic violence misdemeanor filings average 800 per year.<sup>iii</sup>

At the same time that demand for services has steadily increased, programs have struggled with decreases in federal funding levels, the loss of critical statewide federal grants, and state funding that has remained flat for years. Collectively, Network Member Programs have been forced to eliminate 22 positions across the state in just the past 2 years alone, more than 86% (19) were full time positions.

Of the average amount allocated per year (\$783,835), the funds are spent in the following manner:

- \$397,000 awarded to member programs for direct services and prevention programs
- \$150,000 for economic support to victims (emergency needs)
- \$179,195 for legal services needs of victims
- \$20,000 to Deaf Vermonters Advocacy Services for direct services
- \$20,000 to Safe Space (a program of the Pride Center) for direct services
- \$17,640 was allocated to VT Council on Domestic Violence

Current revenues to the DV/SV special fund do not adequately support the current and increasing need. For this reason, the Network respectfully requests support of the proposal to increase the Vermont Marriage Licenses fee from \$45 to \$60.

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<sup>i</sup> Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Annual Reports, 2010 and 2015; and NNEDV One Day Census report, 2015 Domestic Violence Counts, Vermont State Summary.

<sup>ii</sup> Vermont Judiciary Annual Statistical Report for FY 2014, Appendix 2.

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid.