

**Vermont Commission on Women
FY2017 Budget Narrative**

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Vermont Commission on Women is an independent, non-partisan state agency dedicated to advancing rights and opportunities for women in Vermont. The Commission advises and consults with the legislative and executive branches of state government on policies affecting the status of women in Vermont; conducts research and study of issues affecting the status of women in Vermont; educates and informs business, education, state and local governments and the general public about the nature and scope of sex discrimination and other matters affecting the status of women in Vermont; and serves as a liaison and clearinghouse between government, private interest groups and the general public concerned with services for women.

The Commission consists of 16 commissioners, appointed by multiple appointing authorities, and drawn from throughout the state from diverse backgrounds. An Advisory Council, representing a range of partnership organizations, provides information and assists the Commission. The Commission is staffed by an Executive Director, an Executive Staff Assistant, and a Communications & Program Coordinator.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The Vermont Commission on Women is committed to working to advance rights and opportunities for women in Vermont. Through our work we:

- Act as an advisor and information source for the legislative and executive branches and other policy makers on issues affecting women
- Provide the most local and most appropriate information and referrals to the public on matters related to women and families
- Serve as an educational resource by conducting research, producing publications, and coordinating conferences and workshops
- Engage partnerships and networks of diverse groups to consider issues of interest to women and take action

In FY2016, VCW contacted 160 businesses regarding the Vermont Equal Pay Compact, 44% of them signed on, and nearly 70% of those signers had articulated specific strategies to improve. VCW expects those numbers to be similar in FY2017.

KEY BUDGET ISSUES

Approximately 81% of the Commission's budget is for personal services, providing for 3.00 FTE staff positions. Approximately 11% is for allocated expenses such as fee-for-space, insurance and information technology (DII). Approximately 8% covers all other operating expenses, such as commissioner travel reimbursement (mandated), staff travel, phone, printing/publications, postage, membership/dues, copier maintenance fee, computer repair and maintenance.

Staff share responsibilities for implementation in all program areas and interns and volunteers are relied upon for many Commission activities.