

The mission of Vermont court diversion programs is to engage community members in responding to the needs of crime victims, the community, and those who violated the law, holding the latter accountable in a manner that promotes responsible behavior.

Court Diversion includes three programs that provide a cost-effective alternative to the formal court by using principles of restorative justice for approximately 5,000 individuals each year.

Court Diversion

- Those referred together with those directly harmed and with community members decide how to repair the harm caused to victims and the larger community, and how to address factors that led to their breaking the law.
- Each year approximately 10 percent of all the misdemeanor cases resolved in adult criminal court close after successful completion of Diversion.

FY 2016	Statewide
Youth & adults referred by State’s Attorneys	1,625
% of repeat offenders in Diversion	14%
Successful completion Rate	83%

- Diversion staff use the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) to identify risks and tailor intervention to participant’s needs.

Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program

- Voluntary program for youth aged 16 to 20 who violate Vermont’s underage possession and consumption of alcohol and marijuana laws
- FY 2016 — approximately 2,450 youth referred by law enforcement; 94% successfully completed the program

Driving with License Suspended Program

- During FY 2016, approximately 400 people regained their driving privileges; another 500 received assistance and may have availed themselves of other means of reinstatement
- Individuals receive help navigating the VJB and DMV, develop payment plans, and regain their license while paying their debt to the State.

Funding

Diversion reduces the workload and cost of the Courts, State’s Attorneys, and the Department of Corrections

- FY 2017 budget level funded: just under \$1.4 million for 14 programs
- Cost per case is approximately \$255 GF (General Fund dollars)
- 14 county programs are run by non-profit agencies or municipalities under grant agreements with the Attorney General’s Office. All are members of the Vermont Association of Court Diversion Programs (VACDP). Participant fees account for approximately one-quarter of programs’ revenues.