

Center for Crime Victim Services, FY 2024 Governor's Recommend Budget

MANDATE:

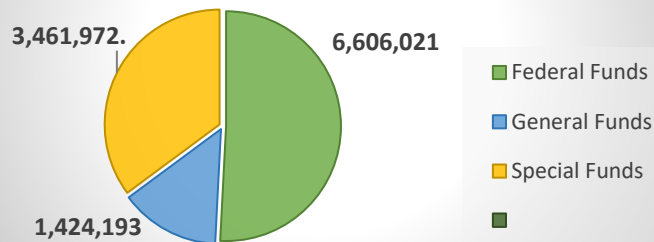
The Center for Crime Victim Services is mandated under 13 V.S.A. § 5361, §5304 (VAP) §5359 (Comp) and §5362 (Restitution) to establish, strengthen and coordinate programs serving crime victims. In addition to its specific programmatic responsibilities, CCVS is required by statute to:

- Promote the rights and needs of crime victims statewide;
- Administer federal and state grant funds for crime victim services; and
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding crime victims.

The Center for Crime Victim Services received most of its State funding through three special funds.

1. Victim Compensation Fund
2. Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund
3. Crime Victims Restitution Fund

CCVS SFY 2024 Funding \$11,492,185



FY 2024 SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

- The SFY2024 budget reflects the need for additional general funds to continue to support core services as well as ensure long-term stability for organizations and agencies that provide support to victims and survivors throughout Vermont.
- The CCVS budget is unlike other state of Vermont agencies, which receive a general fund appropriation with annual increases. Rather, the CCVS' budget is based on projections of averages and trends of a declining revenue source (state special funds), and federal grants that fluctuate annually.
- CCVS' General Fund appropriation is used to support Victim Service programs, including Child Advocacy Centers, STOP Prosecutors, Supervised Visitation Programs, and VT Network Anti-Violence grants.
- The Joint Fiscal Office released an Issue Brief on Vermont Criminal Justice revenues in February 2022. This Brief included a recommendation that the \$7.25 that currently goes to the General Fund from the \$47 surcharge in 13 V.S.A §7282 be allocated to Victim Compensation Fund and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund. This reallocation would add anywhere from \$300K-400K in annual revenues.
- An additional recommendation is that the Domestic Violence Trainer position, mandated under 20 VSA §2365 and located within the Vermont Criminal Justice Council, be funded with General Funds. Per statute, CCVS is required to fund 50% of this state position; the SFY24 obligation is \$61,525. Currently these funds come from the declining DV/SV fund, which has a projected shortfall of \$300K for SFY24.
- CCVS did not receive an additional 3% increase in the general fund in SFY23, as other state agencies received.
- CCVS requests that funding for two state employee positions within the Major Crimes Unit at the Vermont Department of Public Safety be shifted from grant funds to general funds. Currently, the Victim Services Director is funded with \$137,100 annually with VCCVS federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) dollars, and the Victim Services Specialist position is funded with a Victim of Crime (OVC) grant through VSP that ends in FY23.