

Center for Crime Victim Services, FY 2025 Governor's Recommend Budget

MANDATE:

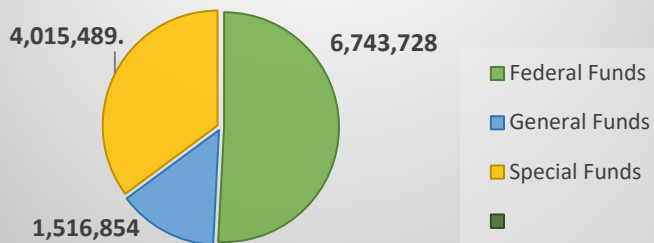
The Center for Crime Victim Services is mandated under 13 V.S.A. § 5361, §5304 (VAP) §5359 (Comp) and §5362 (Restitution) to establish, strengthen and coordinate programs serving crime victims. In addition to its specific programmatic responsibilities, CCVS is required by statute to:

- 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 2025 Funding \$12,276,071



FY 2025 SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

- The SFY2025 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 is requesting that funding the Victim Advocate position located within the Attorney General's office be fully supported with General Fund dollars. Currently, this position is funded in part with VOCA dollars.
- CCVS is projecting a 40% decline in FY24 federal Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. This will have an impact on the countless direct service programs in our state. A core state position that Vermont Statutes charge with providing many rights and services to victims should not be subject to the vagaries of federal grant funding.
- 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.
- A change in SFY23 included that the \$7.25 that currently goes to the General Fund from the \$47 surcharge in 13 V.S.A §7282 be allocated to the Victim Compensation Fund and the Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund. CCVS is reviewing revenues monthly to determine the overall increase to both funds. The projections were between 300K-400K in annual revenues. The actual revenue to date is far short of that mark.
- CCVS intends to use the 3% base increase in the amount of \$44,180 to support the 13 Vermont Child Advocacy Centers in conjunction with Vermont's Special Investigation Units. As noted, the federal VOCA funding that also supports these programs is projected to decrease by up to 40%; using general funds will help stabilize funding for these programs and honor the legislative intent to support core services.