



Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services
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To: Members of the House Appropriations Committee
From: Jennifer Poehlmann, J.D., Executive Director, Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (CCVS)
Re: CCVS' position request
Date: February 14, 2024

The Center for Crime Victim Services is requesting funding for a full-time grants manager position in the amount of \$85,413.55, including benefits.

The Center for Crime Victim Services currently has 3 FTEs that manage 10 Federal Grant Programs and 4 State of Vermont grant programs. This funding is distributed to 65 victim service organizations, through 212 sub-grant awards. One of these FTEs also serves as the Director of Finance and Administration for the entire Center, and the other has also been creating a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Institute for all our subgrantees, a new federal mandate.

These grant programs provide funding that includes support for Domestic and Sexual Violence programming, Child Advocacy Centers, Supervised Visitation Programs, the Legal Partnership for Crime Victims, law enforcement and prosecution positions, victim liaisons within CJs, and programs that support underserved victim survivors, such as Disability Rights Vermont, Association of Africans Living in Vermont, and Outright Vermont, to name a few.

Each year, CCVS grants staff conduct up to 20 site visits and/or enhanced desk reviews, each one taking approximately 20 -40 hours to complete. This is a federal requirement included in the CCVS State of Vermont grant plan guidelines approved by the Dept. of Finance and Management. Additionally, CCVS conducts strategic planning sessions for funding, issues payments to subgrantees via the VISION interface, evaluates subgrant applications, approves subgrantee budgets, creates sub-award documents, submits required reports to state and federal funders, creates CCVS' organizational budget, continues to perfect the GEARS grants management system, and writes grant applications and reports to federal funders on behalf of our subgrantees.

The CCVS grants staff is currently supported with 5% to 10% of federal administrative funds, of which the largest, the federal VOCA award, has been declining the past few years; currently, there is a projected decrease of 40% in these funds for FFY 2025. The Compensation Special Fund, which also supports CCVS staffing and operating costs, has been declining for the past decade. Additionally, CCVS has had several vacant positions for the past 4 years that have not been filled due to lack of funding.

Despite the decreases in positions, the administrative demands on CCVS staff continue to grow. CCVS is seeking a General Fund appropriation to hire an additional Grants Manager to help equalize this administrative burden. CCVS grants programs provide crisis intervention, advocacy within the criminal justice and restorative system, and wrap-around services such as emergency housing, transportation, public





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benefits, counseling, and civil legal help. Programs also provide outreach and training to community organizations, schools, and universities.

With impending cuts to VOCA funding, adding this position will allow our grants program to seek out additional funding/grant opportunities to mitigate the impact of potential cuts and diversify funding streams so that programming is not so heavily dependent on any one particular stream.

