

FY26 State Budget Testimony  
Elyssa Boiselle, Executive Director  
Atria Collective

Good evening. My name is Elyssa Boiselle, and I serve as Executive Director at Atria Collective. For the past 45 years, Atria Collective has been a critical resource for survivors in Addison County. I am here to speak in support of a \$1.2 million investment in Vermont's Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund, to preserve the essential services of Vermont's domestic and sexual violence agencies.

At Atria Collective, we are a committed team of 7 full-time staff, 5 per diem staff, and passionate volunteers. Together, we provide continuous services to survivors and their families, including a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency and transitional housing programs, legal advocacy, medical accompaniment and sexual assault response, a supervised visitation program, support groups, and prevention education.

Last fiscal year, we served 936 individuals through our advocacy and supervised visitation services. Our education and prevention efforts reached over 8,000 individuals, working to interrupt cycles of violence.

Our team is steadfast in its commitment to our mission and the survivors we serve. Yet, each year brings the unfortunate challenge of achieving more with fewer and fewer resources. Our agency and our peers across the state have been level funded through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund for 15 years. Our data demonstrates urgency, but our future funding remains uncertain.

The stark reality is that crucial services in Vermont will be jeopardized without an increase in funding in FY26. And if there is not increased funding, we must be willing to confront the pressing question: What will happen to the most vulnerable members of our community? Must we sacrifice our crisis hotline, sexual assault response team, housing programs, or prevention initiatives?

I am urging you to please consider a \$1.2 million investment in Vermont's Domestic and Sexual Violence Fund to preserve these vital services. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and for your thoughtful consideration.