



# 2026 Report to the Legislature: Community Violence Prevention Program

January 15, 2026

**In Accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 13**

**Submitted to:** House Committee on Human Services  
House Committee on Health Care  
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

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## Key Takeaways

- Between August 2024 and July 2025, Community Violence Prevention (CVP) grantees made meaningful progress in strengthening organizational capacity, expanding service delivery, and deepening community engagement with the following highlights:
  - CVP grantees have collectively delivered services to at least 1,453 individuals. These services included violence prevention programming, case management, crisis intervention, and basic needs assistance for adults, youth, and families.
  - CVP grantees have leveraged partnerships with local organizations, social media engagement, and community workshops to reach more than 3,000 individuals directly with information about and connection to resources and an estimated 2,000 more individuals through digital platforms.
  - Health Care and Rehabilitation Services reported that the presence of a Police Liaison has supported decreasing use of force from Brattleboro PD during situations with individuals who may be experiencing a mental health crisis and/or be altered from drug use.
  - Dad Guild increased contracting opportunities to facilitate court-mandated parenting classes and established itself as a go-to father resource in Vermont.
  - Umbrella increased its facilitator cohort to provide domestic violence accountability programming and co-create effective programming with individuals with lived experience.
- Grantees reported that CVP funding had a meaningful effect on their ability to deliver and strengthen services, with 95 percent of grantees reporting a strong or significant impact on their programs.
- Technical assistance from the state, particularly related to evaluation, proved especially impactful, helping grantees modernize data systems and improve performance measurement.
- The coordinated efforts of CVP grantees and the state have laid a strong foundation for ongoing learning, improvement, and impact in community violence prevention statewide.

## Background

Recognizing a need to invest in a public health approach to violence prevention, Act 23 of 2023 established a collaborative process between the Vermont Department of Health (the Department), the Department of Public Safety, the Office of Racial Equity, the Council for Equitable Youth Justice, the Chief Prevention Officer, and the Director of Violence Prevention from the Governor's Office to create the Community Violence Prevention (CVP) Program. The purpose of the CVP is to partner with communities to implement innovative, evidence-based, and evidence-informed strategies that address the root causes of youth and community violence.

The Department's Division of Family and Child Health (FCH) was awarded \$5 million to manage the CVP Program, which the Department designated as a three-year initiative from February 1, 2024, to January 31, 2027. A total of \$4.75 million was allocated for community grants over this three-year period, approximately \$1.5 million per year, with individual program awards not to exceed \$150,000 annually. Funding was distributed over three years, rather than as a single lump sum, to align with prevention best practices identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which emphasize that sustained, long-term investments are most effective in reducing violence. Awardees were selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, as outlined in Appendix A.

The following 12 organizations were selected to be funded by the Community Violence Prevention Program.

1. Dad Guild
2. Health Care & Rehabilitation Services
3. Ishtar Collective, fiscally sponsored by Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs
4. Jenna's Promise
5. Lamoille Restorative Center
6. Northeast Kingdom Community Action
7. Rutland County Restorative Justice Center
8. The Root Social Justice Center
9. Spectrum Youth & Families Services
10. Turning Point Center of Bennington
11. Umbrella
12. Winooski Parents & Students, fiscally sponsored by Peace and Justice Center

For more details about each program's project objectives, population of focus, and region served, see Appendix B of the report.

The remaining 5% of the total award was designated for staffing to support program implementation. Using these funds, the Department hired a full-time (1.0 FTE) Public Health Specialist II, who began on November 20, 2023, to provide monitoring and ongoing technical assistance to grantees and to promote evidence-based violence prevention strategies with state and community partners.

## Impacts and Outcomes of Funded CVP Projects

The data in this report are preliminary and may be subject to change upon more complete analysis. These data are curated from required qualitative quarterly reports submitted by grantees.<sup>1</sup> Grantees are also required to work with Family and Child Health Evaluation Director Dr. Emily Smith, PhD. Percentages and counts are based on data that has been de-duplicated. Due to the shift in reporting format, some data are not included, therefore actual activities may be underreported.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the 2025 Annual CVP Report, all data reported reflects the work completed since the 2024 Annual CVP Report. Data in this report is compiled from CVP work completed from August 2024 to July 2025. However, due to limitations in the original quarterly reporting format used from August 2024 to January 2025 and the transition to a new quarterly reporting form in February 2025, it is important to note that some of the data reflects only February 2025 to July 2025 (e.g., direct service, outreach and education activities). Data from February 2025 to July 2025 are more representative of program activities than data from August 2024 to January 2025 but are an underrepresentation of the true number of direct service and outreach and education activities that grantees engaged in during the 2025 annual CVP reporting period.

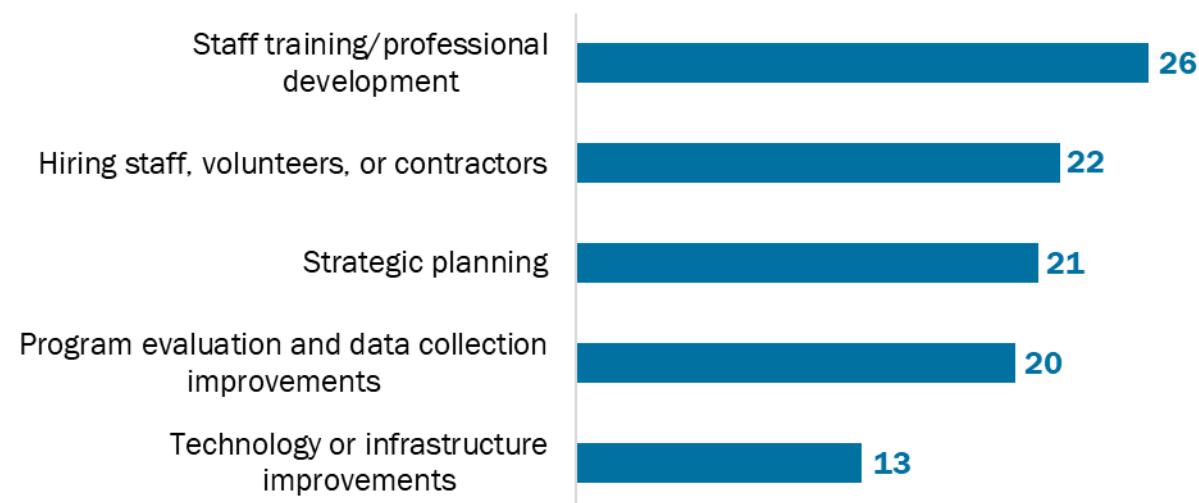
## Capacity Building

From August 2024 to July 2025, grantees reported a wide range of capacity-building efforts aimed at strengthening their organizations and improving service delivery. The most common activities included staff training and professional development, expanding teams through hiring, and engaging in strategic planning. However, workforce investments go beyond these specific activities.

Many also invested in improving how they collect and use data, while others focused on upgrading technology and infrastructure. One grantee noted that they engaged in cross-sector conferencing and networking opportunities in support of capacity-building goals. These efforts reflect a shared commitment among grantees to build stronger, more sustainable programs and better meet the needs of the communities they serve.

**“The experience, training, and shared purpose within [organization] have cultivated a capable and resilient workforce ready to meet adversity with solidarity. Our adaptive staffing model not only supports continuity of service but reflects our foundational values: resilience, inclusion, and sustainability. In this context, capacity building is not solely about staff retention. It is about investing in the potential of individuals from underrepresented backgrounds and building infrastructure that sustains community empowerment, even in the face of instability.”**

### Types of Capacity Building Activities from August 2024 to July 2025



All grantees engaged in capacity-building activities from August 2024 to July 2025.

- The most frequently reported activity was staff training and professional development, 54% (26) of reports highlighting a strong focus on building internal knowledge and skills.
- Hiring staff, volunteers, or contractors followed closely, appearing in 46% (22) of reports, suggesting active efforts to expand workforce capacity.
- Strategic planning was reported in 44% (21) of reports, indicating a consistent investment in long-term organizational direction.
- Program evaluation and data collection improvements were noted in 42% (20) of reports, showing attention to strengthening performance measurement systems.
- Technology or infrastructure improvements were the least commonly reported activity, selected in 27% (13) of reports, though still representing over a quarter of all submissions.

These findings suggest that grantees are actively engaging in multiple areas of capacity building, with a particular emphasis on workforce development and strategic planning to support sustainable program delivery.

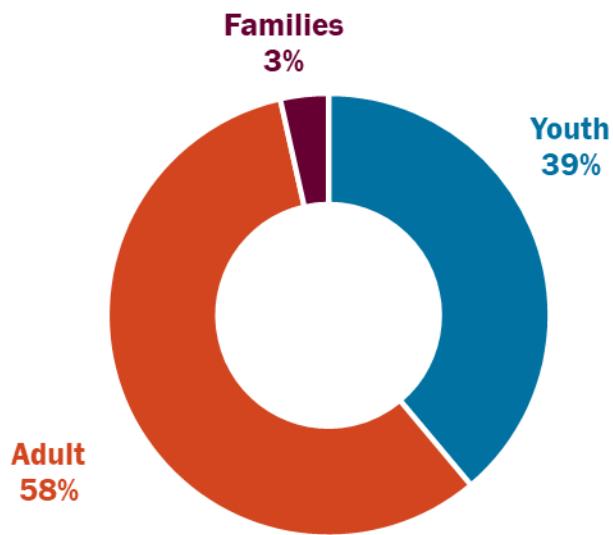
## Direct Service

Grantees delivered a broad range of direct services throughout the reporting period, with the highest levels of activity in violence prevention programming and case management. These core services were complemented by crisis intervention, welfare checks, housing assistance, and other clinical or supportive services such as employment support and mental health counseling. In addition to the categories tracked quantitatively, several grantees reported offering flexible, community-responsive supports, including transportation for medication pickup, affinity groups, and restorative practices. One grantee highlighted that transitioning to virtual formats significantly increased their service reach by offering safer and more accessible options.

**“We got to hear from [CVP program] graduates how impactful their time as participants was, how much they learned, grew, and healed.”**

Grantees are diligent in assessing the needs of their communities and participant experiences to maintain offerings that are responsive and well-structured. Collectively, these services demonstrate the diverse and adaptive approaches grantees are using to meet the needs of individuals and families impacted by community violence.

## Clients Receiving Direct Service from February 2025 to July 2025

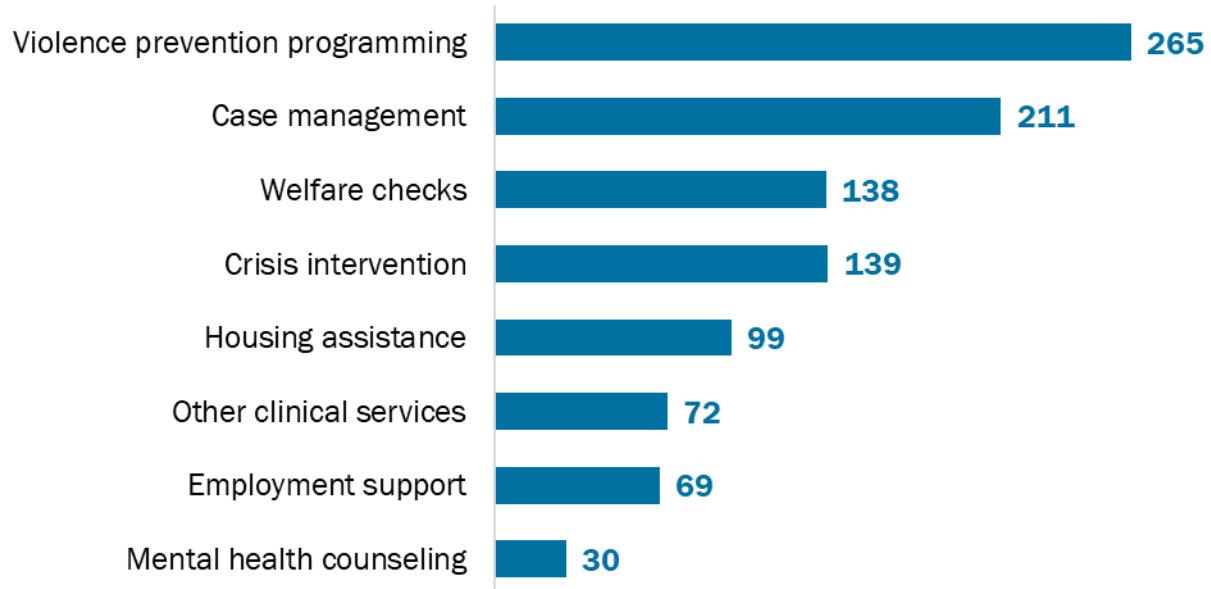


All grantees engaged in direct service activities from August 2024 to July 2025. From February 2025 to July 2025, a total of 1,453 individuals received direct services.

- The majority of services were provided to adults, who accounted for 58% (887 individuals) of those served.
- Youth made up 39% of service recipients, with 599 individuals reached.
- Families represented a smaller portion of direct services, comprising 3% or 54 households.

These numbers reflect a strong focus on adult and youth programming, while also highlighting opportunities to expand support for families as distinct service recipients. Notably, these counts are not de-duplicated as adults, youth, and families may attend multiple activities and engage in programs multiple times throughout the reporting period.

## Number of Clients Receiving Direct Service by Type from February 2025 to July 2025



Grantees provided a wide range of direct services to support individuals and families in support of reducing community violence.

- The most frequently delivered service was violence prevention programming, serving 265 clients.
- Grantees also engaged in case management for 211 clients, often involving individualized support and coordination of care.
- Crisis intervention addressed urgent safety or mental health concerns of 139 clients.
- Grantees conducted welfare checks for 138 clients.
- Lastly, 99 clients utilized housing assistance services to secure or maintain stable living situations.

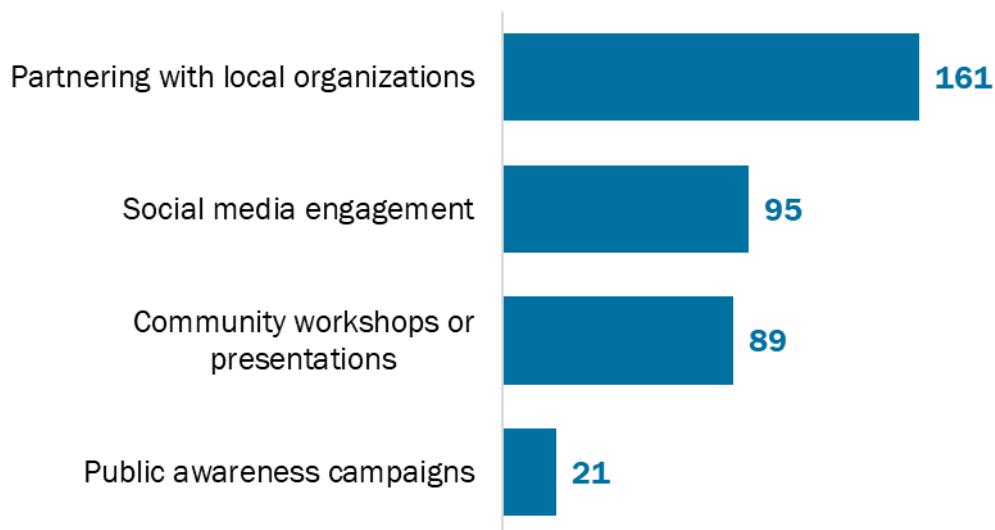
In addition to these core offerings, grantees delivered other clinical services (72), employment support (69), and mental health counseling (30), demonstrating efforts to address social determinants of health and long-term wellbeing.

These findings illustrate the breadth and adaptability of services provided through the grant, reflecting a commitment to meeting people where they are and supporting holistic community health and safety. These counts are not de-duplicated as participants may receive multiple supports or engage with a specific service multiple times throughout the reporting period.

## Outreach and Education

From August 2024 to July 2025, all grantees engaged in a range of outreach and educational activities aimed at raising awareness, fostering community engagement, and strengthening local partnerships.

### Outreach and Education Activities by Type from February 2025 to July 2025



The chart illustrates the total number of reported activities grantees conducted across four primary categories.

- Partnering with local organizations was the most frequent activity, with 161 instances reported. This reflects a strong emphasis on collaboration and leveraging community relationships to extend the reach and impact of programming.
- Social media engagement followed closely, with 95 activities, indicating that organizations are increasingly utilizing digital platforms to share information and connect with broader audiences.
- Community workshops or presentations were also widely used, appearing 89 times, suggesting a commitment to direct community education and interactive learning formats.
- In contrast, public awareness campaigns were reported less frequently (21 times), possibly indicating higher resource needs or longer planning timelines associated with those efforts.

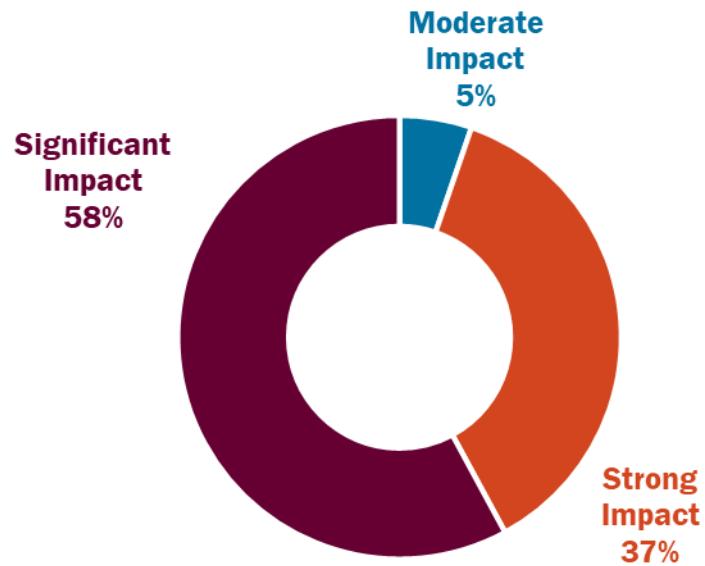
Together, these outreach methods demonstrate the diverse strategies organizations are using to build community connections, promote violence prevention efforts, and ensure information reaches those who need it most.

Accurately tracking the number of individuals reached through outreach and education activities remains a challenge due to limitations in de-duplicating participant data across events and platforms. Despite these challenges, grantees estimate that direct outreach and educational engagements have reached over 3,000 individuals this year, including participants in community workshops, presentations, and partner-led events. In addition, another 2,000 or more individuals were likely reached through social media engagement and digital advertisements, extending the impact of public awareness efforts to broader audiences. These estimates underscore the extensive effort grantees have dedicated to engagement and education activities, establishing themselves as trusted partners and resources to their community.

## General Impact of Funding

Grantees are asked to reflect on and report the level of impact that CVP grant funding has had on their programming in each quarterly report. This self-assessment allows grantees to articulate how the funding has influenced their capacity, services, and outcomes over time.

### Self-Reported Impact of CVP Funding from February 2025 to July 2025



According to the most recent data from February 2025 to July 2025:

- 58% of grantees reported that CVP funding had a Significant Impact on their programs.
- 37% reported a Strong Impact, reflecting meaningful improvements supported by the grant.

- A smaller portion, 5%, noted a Moderate Impact, indicating benefits with more limited influence on overall program delivery.

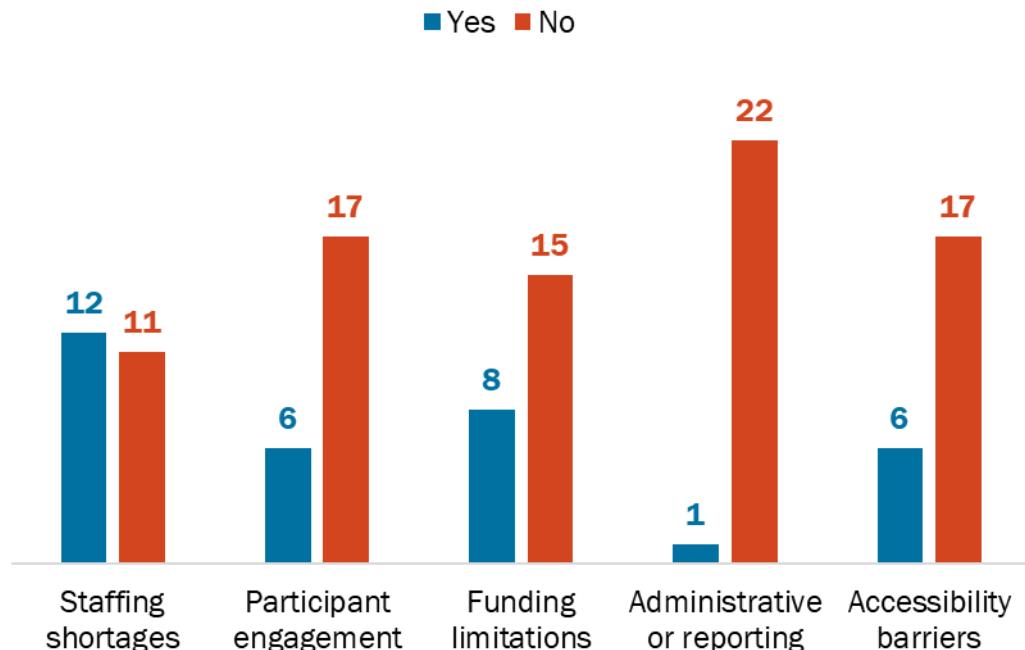
This ongoing impact reporting process helps demonstrate how critical the CVP initiative is and informs continuous improvement, technical assistance, and funding sustainability efforts.

## Challenges

From August 2024 to July 2025, grantees shared a range of challenges encountered in implementing their programs. While many organizations reported meaningful progress, they also highlighted persistent barriers that affected staffing, service delivery, participant engagement, and long-term sustainability.

Staffing shortages were the most common challenge cited by grantees, while funding limitations were the next most frequent challenge, followed by participant engagement and accessibility barriers. In contrast, only one grantee cited administrative or reporting challenges. Overall, staffing capacity and financial sustainability emerged as the most pressing barriers, while administrative concerns were less commonly reported. Other challenges that grantees faced included seasonal fluctuations in participant engagement, and shifts in sociopolitical climate negatively impacting programming, particularly for marginalized populations.

### Number of Challenges by Type from February 2025 to July 2025



The summary below outlines the most commonly reported themes that had the greatest impact on grantees' ability to carry out their scope of work, reflecting both structural and situational obstacles that impacted grantee operations and community reach.

- **Staffing Shortages and Burnout:** Many grantees reported challenges related to open or part-time positions, staff transitions, and limited capacity to keep up with demand. These shortages affected service delivery, program consistency, and organizational stability. These challenges are reflective of broader workforce challenges across human services organizations in Vermont.
- **Funding and Sustainability:** Grantees expressed ongoing concerns about the sustainability of their work. While appreciative of current grant support, many grantees noted the need for more flexible and long-term funding to support staffing, evaluation, outreach, and digital infrastructure.
- **Accessibility:** Transportation remained a significant barrier for both staff and clients, particularly in rural areas with limited or impractical public transit options. This impacted participation in programming and access to essential services. While virtual platforms and social media have been valuable tools for outreach, grantees noted the need for ongoing investment in technology, multilingual content creation, and staff time to maintain effective digital engagement.
- **Participant Engagement and Retention:** Engaging participants, especially youth and fathers, was a recurring challenge. Despite having strong outreach networks, organizations struggled with inconsistent attendance and retention, often due to logistical or emotional barriers.

Other challenges that grantees mentioned included:

- **Administrative and Structural Challenges:** Grantees cited external factors such as changing policies, leadership transitions in partner institutions, and shifting funding landscapes. These required increased flexibility, crisis response, and administrative attention that pulled resources from core programming.
- **Housing Instability:** Lack of stable housing was a major obstacle for justice-involved individuals. The end of emergency housing programs and stricter eligibility requirements made it harder for clients to attend meetings or secure employment.
- **Evaluation Capacity:** Several organizations identified evaluation and data collection as a growth area. Interest in improving these functions was strong, but limited funding and staffing made it difficult to invest in impact measurement or learning systems.

## Strategies

In response to the staffing, funding, accessibility, and engagement challenges reported from August 2024 to July 2025, grantees implemented a range of adaptive and community-centered strategies. These efforts reflect a strong commitment to maintaining continuity of services, strengthening organizational infrastructure, and expanding access despite limited resources. From creative staffing models and virtual engagement tools to collaborative partnerships and sustainability planning, grantees demonstrated innovation and resilience in meeting the evolving needs of their communities. The following sections summarize the key strategies employed.

- **Staffing and Capacity Building:** Grantees addressed staffing shortages by hiring new personnel, expanding staff hours, and redistributing responsibilities through creative roles like contracted facilitators. These efforts helped stabilize operations and reduce program disruptions.
- **Community Collaboration and Engagement:** Organizations deepened partnerships with schools, justice system agencies, and regional providers to extend services and share resources. Youth-led advisory groups and restorative practice teams also supported sustained community engagement.
- **Innovative Program Delivery and Participant Engagement:** Grantees used flexible formats like podcasts and asynchronous learning tools to increase accessibility and maintain connection with participants. Incentives such as gift cards were also used to support engagement among high-barrier populations.
- **Addressing Transportation and Accessibility:** To navigate transportation barriers, grantees coordinated ride shares and explored options for donated or grant-funded vehicles. Despite persistent access issues in rural areas, these strategies offered short-term relief.
- **Funding and Sustainability Planning:** Several grantees developed long-term funding strategies and engaged potential funders to reduce reliance on short-term grants. Resource-sharing and regional collaboration also supported financial resilience.
- **Program Evaluation and Strategic Planning:** Teams met regularly to plan evaluation activities and sought funding to expand their capacity for data collection and impact measurement. Building internal evaluation infrastructure remained a key priority for future planning.
- **Housing and Material Support:** One grantee opened a sober living facility and others strengthened partnerships with housing agencies to support clients facing instability. Flexible material aid, including cash payments and vehicle access, and informal resource networks were also used to meet immediate needs.

## Technical Assistance Request for CVP Grantees

Technical Assistance for CVP organizations is available and provided by the Violence Prevention Specialist and Family and Child Health Evaluation Director. The following themes discussed include, but are not limited to:

### **Effective Evaluation and Data Management Practices**

Grantees continue to seek feedback on evaluation forms, worksheets, and performance measures. These efforts focus on refining data sources and incorporating multi-modal data collection strategies, including the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, to enhance the accuracy and utility of collected information, both for the state and for grantees.

### **Enhancing Culturally Sensitive Evaluation, Engagement, and Monitoring Practices**

Strategies discussed have included cohesive approaches to engaging diverse populations, including those resistant to participation, thereby fostering inclusivity and building trust within communities.

**One grantee's journey demonstrates the transformative power of Vermont's technical assistance model for evaluation and continuous improvement. With Dr. Smith's support, the organization is transitioning from paper-based tracking to a modernized data system, including submitting a successful grant application to fund the work. This has allowed for allocation of staff time to lead data modernization efforts and work with Dr. Smith to further integrate data collection activities with existing network wide platforms.**

The state's implementation of a technical assistance (TA) model of evaluation to support community organizations under the Community Violence Prevention Grant demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to resource sharing and capacity building. By offering structured guidance in designing and implementing program evaluations, the State is not only enhancing the effectiveness of individual grantees but also fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement. This model reflects innovation in its ability to bridge gaps in expertise and resources, empowering community organizations to assess and articulate their impact more effectively. By pooling state-level expertise and making it accessible to grantees, the approach promotes equity and sustainability, ensuring that all organizations, regardless of size or capacity, can benefit from high-quality evaluation practices. Ultimately, this TA model underscores the state's commitment to leveraging collaborative solutions that strengthen the field of community violence prevention and amplify its collective impact.

## Next Steps for Monitoring Outcomes

The Department's Division of Health Statistics and Informatics will support identifying regional indicators to monitor outcomes of CVP programmatic focus areas. Indicators will be selected from the Department's surveillance data (Youth Risk Behavior Survey and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System), law enforcement data, and hospital & emergency department data.

Additionally, the Department has actively applied quality improvement processes by successfully redesigning the quarterly reporting format, which was launched in February 2025. The updated format was developed to better capture accurate and meaningful data from grantees by eliminating duplicative reporting and streamlining the data collection process. This redesign ensures greater consistency, reduces reporting burden, and provides clearer, more actionable information. This evolution reflects the Department's ongoing commitment to fostering efficiency, transparency, and continuous learning in program evaluation, while supporting grantees in focusing their efforts on delivering impactful community violence prevention initiatives.

By focusing on concise, targeted quantitative indicators alongside rich qualitative narrative, the new format allows for a more nuanced understanding of grantee progress over time. It enhances the Department's ability to identify trends, assess short- and medium-term impacts, and deliver timely and effective technical assistance.

## Planned CVP Activities for 2026

The work for the Community Violence Prevention Program will enter Year 3 on February 1, 2026, with funding for grantees available through January 31, 2027. CVP grantees will continue to implement their programs. The Department's Violence Prevention Specialist will continue to provide monthly grant monitoring and technical assistance through one-on-one meetings, as well as hosting a quarterly cohort meeting for the 12 CVP organizations to receive ongoing professional development, foster community rapport within the cohort, and share ongoing resources to support their work. CVP organizations will also continue to work directly with the FCH Evaluation Director for ongoing technical assistance in CVP evaluation efforts in order to strengthen violence prevention programming.

Pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 13, the Department will report on any grants applied for or awarded to supplement the program.

## Appendix A – CVP Grant Application, Award Process, and Guidelines

The purpose of the Community Violence Prevention (CVP) Program is to partner with communities to implement innovative, evidence-based, and evidence-informed strategies that address the root causes of youth and community violence. Awardees were selected through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, as outlined below. The legislatively mandated group established award guidelines, as outlined in the statute, requiring that proposed projects implement innovative, evidence-based, and evidence-informed approaches to reducing violence and its associated community harms. Funded projects must focus on one or more of the following: expanding existing programs that address the causes of youth and community violence; creating new violence prevention initiatives in areas with limited or no current programming; and increasing access to new or existing programs for traditionally marginalized populations, including but not limited to LGBTQ+ individuals, communities of color, individuals living in poverty, youth, and people with disabilities.

As outlined in the legislation, priority was given to communities demonstrating increases in one or more of the following: illegal drug sales, drug trafficking, gang activity, or human trafficking. However, the Department was granted discretion to expand focus areas and chose to include gender-based violence (including intimate partner and sexual violence), firearm safety, bullying, hazing, harassment, and hate crimes, recognizing their shared risk and protective factors with community violence.<sup>2</sup> The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a comprehensive approach to preventing multiple forms of violence.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, this grant opportunity supports programs that address the root causes of youth and community violence while strengthening community capacity for coordinated prevention efforts across human services, public health, and public safety sectors.

In total, 32 applications were submitted.<sup>4</sup> Applications submitted addressed a wide variety of topics, including illegal drug activity, gang activity, human trafficking, domestic and sexual violence, and youth violence, and their associated risk and protective factors. Applicants outlined their plan to work with marginalized populations, including LGBTQ+ individuals, communities of color, immigrants and refugees, individuals with mental health conditions, youth, individuals with disabilities, and individuals living in poverty or experiencing

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<sup>2</sup> Risk factors are characteristics that may increase the likelihood of experiencing or perpetrating violence. Protective factors are characteristics that may decrease the likelihood of experiencing or perpetrating violence. For more information, see <https://www.cdc.gov/violence-prevention/index.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2024. Community Violence Prevention Resource for Action: A Compilation of the Best Available Evidence for Youth and Young Adults. [CV-Prevention-Resource-for-Action\\_508.pdf](#)

<sup>4</sup> For a list of agencies, geographic location, and excerpts from their applications outlining the project, please refer to the Community Violence Prevention Program 2025 Legislative Report. [Community-Violence-Prevention-Report.pdf](#)

homelessness. The total amount collectively applied for was over \$13,500,000 for three years.

## Appendix B – CVP Awardees

### **Dad Guild** | \$440,400 | Population: Parents/Families | Region: Chittenden County

Dad Guild was selected for funding to further develop their Parent Education Program, which provides dad-identifying folx<sup>5</sup> with opportunities to deepen their understanding of a range of parenting skills and provide community support and connectedness through their fatherhood peer support network.<sup>6</sup> This includes social support events, educational materials, and professional services to improve communications efforts. Dad Guild is also improving the accessibility of their meeting spaces to meet the diverse needs of parents and their families. In addition to supporting a population with increasing needs in family and child health, funding this program has also provided Dad Guild with the opportunity to improve the accessibility of their meeting spaces to accommodate the diverse needs of parents and their families. Increased capacity from the CVP grant has provided contracting opportunities in collaboration to facilitate court-mandated parenting classes and continue establishing itself as a go-to fatherhood resource in Vermont.

### **Health Care & Rehabilitation Services** | \$440,400 | Population: Youth and Adults Region: Windham County - Brattleboro

Health Care & Rehabilitation Services was selected for funding to hire an embedded police social worker liaison at the Brattleboro Police Department. The expanded Police Liaison (PL) Program addresses violence in marginalized communities by enhancing response capacity for a timelier response and increased response hours during times of crisis. The PL provides mental health and substance use interventions, including screening, de-escalation, and service coordination. This may include providing welfare checks, critical stress incident debriefings, and providing education and skill development for the Brattleboro Police Department and community residents. The CVP grant has not only provided increased staff capacity to a timelier and trauma-informed response, but HCRS staff have also reported that the presence of a Police Liaison has supported decreasing use of force from Brattleboro PD during situations with individuals who may be experiencing a mental health crisis and/or be altered from drug use.

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<sup>5</sup> This is inclusive language used directly by this organization for transgender and non-binary parents.

<sup>6</sup> This is connected to recommendations given by Child Fatality Report Team's 2023 Legislative Report to aid the progression of the parent/caregiver and child bond for fathers and non-biological, male-identified caregivers. For more information, see [2023-CFRT-Report-final.pdf](#).

**Ishtar Collective** | \$440,400 | Population: Adult consensual sex workers<sup>7</sup> and survivors of violence and human trafficking | Region: Washington County – Barre City

Ishtar Collective, fiscally sponsored by Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs, was selected for funding to host and provide health and wellness clinics for LGBTQIA+ adult consensual sex workers and survivors of violence, trauma, and human trafficking at community partner locations in Barre City, including Rainbow Bridge Collective and People's Health and Wellness Clinic. Through this funding, Ishtar Collective is also increasing capacity to provide cultural sensitivity training for healthcare providers at People's Health and Wellness Clinic on LGBTQIA+ and sex trade-related issues.

**Jenna's Promise** | \$237,075 | Population: Substance Use & Human trafficking  
Region: Lamoille County

Jenna's Promise was selected for funding to increase support for individuals with substance use disorder who have a history of violence in their background, to find and maintain recovery through various wellness activities. Activities include outdoor activities, creative arts, and increasing access to community resources focused on wellness. Jenna's promise utilized the funding to hire an additional full-time Peer Support Specialist and to coordinate training for Jenna's Promise staff to better support and manage the needs of trafficked individuals. CVP funds support Jenna's Promise to provide survivor-centered and trauma-informed wellness activities and services that not only provide the resources and space to reach and maintain recovery, but also support their participants to increase safety and lessen future incidents of harm.<sup>8</sup>

**Lamoille Restorative Center** | \$440,400 | Population: Schools, youth, community organizations | Region: Lamoille County

Lamoille Restorative Center was selected for funding to expand existing Restorative Practices training, coaching, and consultation services for schools and community agencies within Lamoille County. Lamoille Restorative Center enhances its existing work with organizations that have shown interest and have “readiness” to commit to systems change within their organizations through professional development trainings and recommendations on policies, procedures, and practices with a neuro-informed and trauma-informed restorative lens. Supporting partner schools through the CVP program has allowed LRC to gather evaluative data to support continuous quality improvement of program implementation and tracking positive impacts on their work in the school community.

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<sup>7</sup> Sex work is the exchange of sexual services for money or something of value. Individuals engage in sex work for a variety of reasons, which could include choice, circumstance, and coercion.

<sup>8</sup> [IPV-Prevention-Resource\\_508.pdf](#)

**Northeast Kingdom Community Action** | \$440,400 | Population: Youth, Houselessness Region: Northeast Kingdom

Northeast Kingdom Community Action was selected for funding to develop a youth-led drop-in center in St. Johnsbury, with the vision of cultivating a safe, inclusive, and fun third spaces<sup>9</sup> for teens in the Northeast Kingdom (NEK). These spaces are intended to build social connections, provide educational skill building, host supportive spaces for youth and their families, provide responsive mental health support and intervention, and enhance overall protective factors to support high-risk youth in NEK communities. CVP funding has not only provided protective factors of youth safety and community connectedness but also provided the organization with contributions to strengthening their organizational capacity and implementation of multiple prevention programming with local community partners.

**Rutland County Restorative Justice Center** | \$320,400 | Population: Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), LGBTIA+, Youth and Families | Region: Rutland County

Rutland County Restorative Justice Center was selected for funds to provide Community Social Emotional Intelligence courses (CSEIC) to foster social and emotional skills for Rutland area youth. The CSEIC encourages meaningful societal engagement and reduces adverse involvement with the legal system. CVP funds also supported the creation of affinity<sup>10</sup> spaces for adult and youth that identify as LGBTQIA2S+, BIPOC, veterans, and live with varying body sizes in relevant Rutland County area organizations that provides safety, fosters community and relationship building. Funds are also allocated to provide further professional development training for Restorative Program staff, volunteers, and board members. Prioritizing affinity spaces has provided this organization with the vital role in supporting safer spaces in their region, as well as identifying key community partners for content specific consultation in their programming.

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<sup>9</sup> This is connected to recommendations given by Child Fatality Report Team's 2024 Legislative Report to expand third space opportunities for youth to engage in after-school activities led by community youth organizations and organized sports. For more information, see [Child-Fatality-Review-Team-Annual-Report-2024-1.pdf](#).

<sup>10</sup> A community of peers that offers support, guidance, resources, and mentorship to its members, who identify as like-minded with the group.

**The Root Social Justice Center** | \$360,500 | Population: Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Youth and Families | Region: Windham County - Brattleboro

The Root Social Justice Center was selected for funds to sustain and expand three existing programs that provide timely violence prevention and community belonging programming for at risk and underrepresented communities in Southern Vermont. These programs include Families United, a peer support group for families who have experienced harm by systems and participating in civil advocacy education; BIPOC Thriving Network, an affinity group that is dedicated to building sustainable communities and healing from racial trauma through diverse range of programs to foster growth, connection, skill-building and empowerment; and Youth for Change, a youth-led group for BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, disabled, and otherwise underrepresented young people ages 12 to 22 in Brattleboro. CVP programming has supported The Root to support the increasing needs of youth and families in Brattleboro, especially the asylum, refugee, and immigrant community.

**Spectrum Youth and Family Services** | \$440,400 | Population: Youth, Houselessness, LGBTQIA+ | Region: St. Albans

Spectrum was selected for funds to renovate a 'quiet room space' within their Youth Drop-In Center in St. Albans. This space provides a welcome respite for youth with trauma histories, neurodivergent youth, and those who are managing a crisis to de-escalate and regulate as needed. The space has been suggested by youth to improve the Drop-In Center to better meet their needs of feeling overwhelmed or overstimulated in the larger space, where the openness and loud sounds have been challenging to navigate. Spectrum has also expanded its staff capacity by hiring a Resource Coordinator (RC), who provides direct one-on-one response and service coordination for youth, as well as provides outreach to young people living in St. Albans area encampments. CVP funding also supports increasing and improving education to local community organizations and community members on topics of trauma-informed approaches to supporting young people experiencing houselessness.

**Turning Point Center of Bennington** | \$312,529 | Population: Families, Seniors, Substance Use and Alcohol Use Disorder Recovery, Youth and Young Adults | Region: Bennington County

Turning Point Center of Bennington was selected for funds to deliver safe parenting classes, recovery sessions, and services to seniors and low-income residents at Shires Housing. Funding has enabled this organization to provide recovery support services in sober living houses and through Bennington Probation and Parole, as well as providing Substance Use Disorder and Alcohol Use Disorder recovery workshops to high school and college students. Funds have also been allocated to provide community dinners for individuals in recovery, which involves the greater unhoused community of Bennington. CVP funding has supported an increase in capacity and collaboration with Bennington Probation and Parole in their groups, as well as training their officers on harm reduction and recovery services.

**Umbrella** | \$436,455 | Population: Families, Domestic Violence Perpetrators

Region: Northeast Kingdom

Umbrella has been selected for funding to increase the accessibility and effectiveness of Vermont's most intensive domestic violence accountability program, Ignite Change. Accessibility focuses include offering culturally specific programming, in-person and virtual program services, and offsetting participants' transportation costs for attending the in-person meetings in Newport and St. Johnsbury. To sustain group participation and cohesion, Umbrella has implemented a peer mentorship program for Ignite Change participants. Umbrella is also further implementing the country's second phone-based resources targeted for people who cause harm, The Spark (TS), through hiring a community outreach coordinator and collaborating with individuals with lived experience to co-create educational marketing materials. The CVP program has provided Umbrella with the ability to increase their facilitator cohort to provide domestic violence accountability programming and co-create effective programming with individuals with lived experience.

**Winooski Parents & Students** | \$440,400 | Population: Immigrant, refugee, and New American Families | Region: Chittenden County

Winooski Parents & Students, fiscally sponsored by the Peace and Justice Center, has been selected for funds to promote and facilitate access to information, services, and programs as preventive measures against all different types of violence to build resilience among immigrant, refugee, and New American community members in Chittenden County and surroundings. This includes providing a multicultural community space that offers programming focused on capacity building opportunities, community outreach, case management, cultural brokering, educational and coaching sessions, and referrals to mental health and community resources. The CVP program has provided Winooski Parents & Students with the opportunity to provide culturally responsive services for the increasing needs of the refugee, immigrant and New American community.