

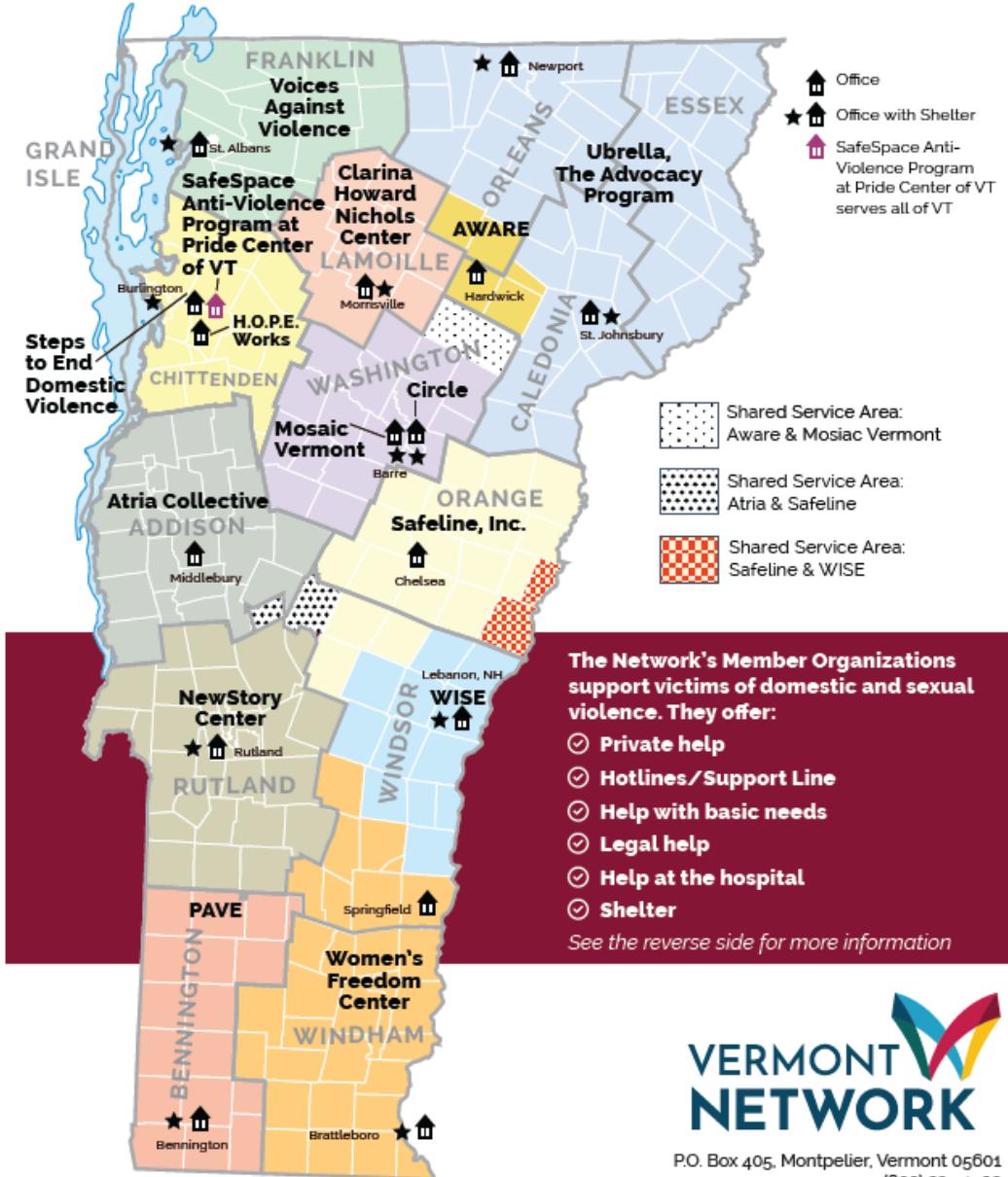


H. 418
Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund
February 12, 2026

Meeting the Needs of Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence

www.vtnetwork.org/get-help

Member Organizations of the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence



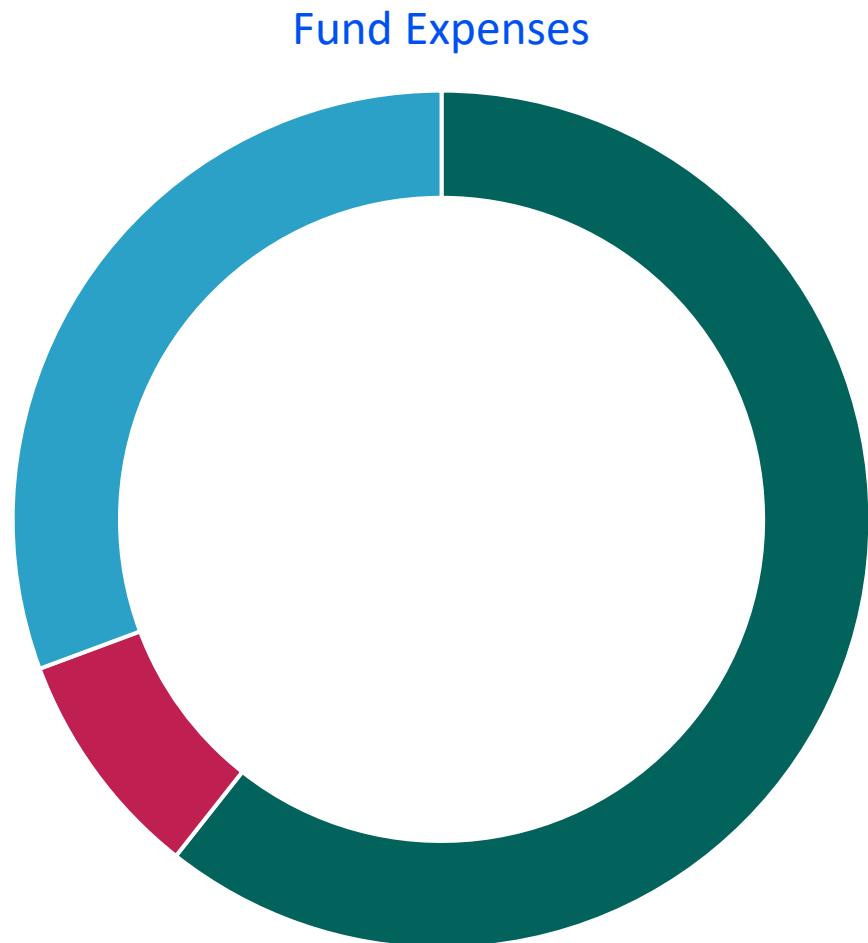
VERMONT
NETWORK

P.O. Box 405, Montpelier, Vermont 05601
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The Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund

- Established in 2008 .(13 V.S.A. § 5360)
- Administered by the **Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services**
- Primary revenue source for **critically important victim services, statewide responses to violence and direct help** for survivors.

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund



- Fund expenses **largely flat**
- In FY 26 the fund supported **\$1,033,835 in expenses**

Fund Revenue

- There is a **structural revenue problem** with the fund
- Fund is comprised of two revenue sources:
 - A **surcharge on criminal and civil judgements**
 - A portion of the **marriage license fee**
- Revenues have been in decline **since FY2015**.
- Year-over-year **deficits in the fund**.

Efforts to Address the Fund

- 1 • Multiple Reports and Study Committees
- 2 • Initial Addition of Marriage License Fee in 2017
- 3 • 2022 JFO Report
- 4 • Reallocation of Judicial Fee from GF to Special Funds
- 5 • Increase in Marriage License Fee
- 6 • One-time General Funds to address deficits

Despite these changes, **there is still an annual deficit** in the fund.

We need a **new, permanent revenue source** that eliminates annual instability and reliance on one-time funds.

H. 418 – Excise Tax

- An excise tax on firearms and ammunition was a **revenue option outlined by the Joint Fiscal Office** in the 2022 Report
- H. 418 proposes an **11% excise tax on firearms and ammunition**
- This revenue source is **not a novel idea**

Evidence-Based Link Between Firearms and Domestic and Sexual Violence

- In Vermont nearly **50% of all homicides are domestic violence related** – the majority are committed with firearms
- Women are **5 times more likely to be killed** when an abusive has access to firearms
- The firearms industry is realizing record profits and generates an estimated **\$91 billion in economic activity** in the US

Public Support for Investments

- Proposition KK, implementing an excise tax in Colorado, was a **public ballot measure and passed with majority support**
- **90.4% of Vermonters** said that it was important to invest in services for victims of domestic and sexual violence.



Thank You