



FY27 Budget Requests
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Charlie Gliserman, Policy Director
April 10, 2026

The Vermont Network is Vermont's leading voice on domestic and sexual violence. Our members – 14 independent, nonprofit organizations – provide advocacy and support to survivors in every town across the state. For the FY27 state budget, the Vermont Network respectfully requests:

1. \$350,000 in Base Funds to Level-Fund Domestic and Sexual Violence Services

Member Organizations provide 24/7 crisis response, emergency shelter, and confidential support navigating medical, legal, housing, and other basic needs. In 2025, they answered over 23,000 hotline calls – 1,000 more than in 2024 – and served nearly 8,000 Vermonters in person.

Despite the essential nature of these services, they have largely been flat funded through Vermont's Domestic and Sexual Violence Special Fund for 15 years. With the exception of one fiscal year, the Fund has run a deficit since FY15, requiring annual one-time appropriations to avoid cuts.

While we estimate the Fund will ultimately need to distribute \$5 million in annually and associated structural revenue reforms, our request focuses on maintaining current services. We request \$350,000 to fill the projected FY27 deficit in the Fund. **The House budget appropriates this as one-time funds; however, we are requesting these funds as base.**

2. \$250,000 in Base Funds to DCF for Statewide System of Supervised Visitation Programs

Supervised visitation provides a safe, structured setting where a parent can spend monitored time with their child. Courts and DCF order supervised visitation in cases involving risk to a child or non-abusive parent, including domestic violence.

Supervised visitation programs have been chronically underfunded for more than 15 years, leading to multiple program closures and significant gaps in services.

Six independent nonprofit centers operate in Vermont, leaving five counties without a local program. Families in these counties must travel long distances, miss visits, or rely on untrained family or friends to supervise contact – creating significant safety concerns. Even in counties with programs, waiting lists of up to a year make it difficult to comply with court orders.

The House budget includes a one-time increase of \$130,000 in General Funds, allocated to DCF, for supervised visitation programs. We request at least a \$250,000 increase in General Funds – \$120,000 above the House-appropriated amount – to prevent additional program closures and expand access in underserved counties. Updated budget language reflecting this request is below.



Proposed FY27 Budget Language – Supervised Visitation Programs

(a)(1) \$137,500 of the General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.317 of this act, the \$250,000 General Fund appropriation in Sec. B.1100(c)(5) of this act, and \$100,000 of the federal funds appropriation in Sec. B.319 of this act shall be distributed by the Department for Children and Families to supervised visitation programs as follows:

- a. \$437,500 to the six existing community-based supervised visitation sites and the remainder shall be used for start-up funding for additional sites in counties where programs do not currently exist to ensure the programs are operational on or before January 1, 2027; and
- b. \$50,000 to the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence for statewide supervised visitation coordination to initiate a needs assessment to assist in the development of a sustainable, coordinated system with equitable access to supervised visitation statewide.

(2) The Department shall work with the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence to develop a funding formula for supervised visitation sites, to identify the community partners to develop two new supervised visitation sites during fiscal year 2027, and to begin planning for the creation of four additional supervised visitation sites, two each to become operational beginning in fiscal years 2028 and 2029.