



Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services
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Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services: FY26 Budget Narrative

Mission: Established under 13 VSA §5361, the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services (CCVS) offers support, advocacy and services for those impacted by crime, and works to hold those who have caused harm responsible.

What are the activities and programs we are funding:

Per Vermont statute, CCVS: promotes the rights and needs of crime victims statewide; develops, strengthens and coordinates programs serving victims; administers state and federal grant funds for victim services; oversees the State of Vermont's Victims Compensation Program and Restitution Unit; and serves as a clearinghouse for information regarding victimization.

Through State General and Special Funds, CCVS supports: the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and its 14 member programs, Vermont's 13 Child Advocacy Centers, Supervised Visitation, domestic/sexual violence prosecutors, the Victims Compensation Program and the Vermont Restitution Unit.

CCVS uses federal funds to support the agency itself along with the programming noted above. Additionally, federal funds are used to support Vermont's Legal Partnership for Crime Victims, Restorative Justice Programming, Human Trafficking, the Vermont Judiciary, Attorney General's Office and the Forensic Nursing Programs, among others. Federal funding supports grants to multiple programs that serve underserved populations.

Who do we serve:

CCVS serves and supports services for Vermonters who are victims of crime. Most services provided are not dependent upon the existence of a conviction for a crime.

How do our Programs work:

CCVS' Victims Compensation Program works directly with victims, advocates and service providers to make direct payments to eligible victims for certain crime-related losses and expenses. The Program provides victims with a satisfaction survey and conducts frequent training for our partners and outreach events to communities.

The State of Vermont Restitution Unit is operated by CCVS, and the Unit works directly with offenders, victims, advocates, corrections, diversion and the judiciary to ensure the efficient and timely collection and payment of restitution to victims as ordered by a court.



CCVS' Grants' Program administers over 260 individual subgrants to over 60 subgrantees. CCVS staff work with subgrantees to identify programming needs and gaps, and provide technical assistance with budget development, narratives and reporting. Staff conduct site visits, review programmatic and financial data for compliance, and report regularly to federal and state grantors and funders. Grant Program staff also conduct trainings, focus groups and facilitate regular meetings with subgrantees. Our grants management system, GEARS, was customized by our Program Staff and requires regular maintenance and updates.

Are there changes that can be made to ensure more efficient and effective service delivery:

CCVS has adopted

New Initiatives in Your Budget:

CCVS is unable to propose new initiatives at this time, despite existing gaps, due to the very significant constraints on our budget and the budgets of our 60 plus subgrantees facing funding cuts.

Programs/Issues Posing Most Significant Challenges:

Changing complexion of crime and victimization:

- Increase in violent crime/homicides

- Intersection between victimization and the presenting complex needs of individuals we need to serve, who in addition to significant trauma, experience, mental health, substance misuse, and housing challenges, among others.

Funding

- Victim Services in Vermont rely heavily upon uncertain and declining revenue sources

- What have we done: Level-funded programs 15 years

 - Vacancy savings

 - Adopted IT solutions that promised to improve efficiency

 - Sought one-time funds

- Requested JFO study of our declining revenues and worked with GA to implement some recommendations

- Successfully advocated for state positions to be funded with GF dollars, decreasing reliance upon SF and FF

 - Obtained funding for an additional grants position

Financial and grant administration by our 60 plus subgrantees

Requires an enormous amount of technical assistance from the Center, some of which is provided without funding for administrative support. CCVS administer over \$2.3M in state grant funds with no financial support for the work required.

What have we done: Our senior grants manager and Finance Director have been developing a training for all our subgrantees; we expect this training will be rolled out by late Spring 2025. Additionally, CCVS has customized, established and trained our subgrantees on the utilization of GEARS, a grants management system. Support for the utilization of this system is ongoing, especially due to frequent turnover in positions.

Increases to costs of IT, health insurance, disability etc. While a state agency, CCVS has no state

employees and therefore must bear the burden of more expensive insurance policies....?

Significant Financial Changes:

Federal
Comp
RU
DV/SV

The dedicated State Special Funds that support these funds have been in decline since prior to 2013. The Legislature has noted this trend, and has commissioned two specific studies to address these revenue sources and explore support for victim services in Vermont; these reports were issued in 2013 and in 2022. Both reports raised concern about the continued viability of relying upon special funds.

There are two identified primary factors for this decrease, which

Source of Federal Funding:

Approximately half of the funding CCVS receives and administers is provided through federal grants. The current grants and funding amounts are as follows:

Services Training Officers and Prosecutors (STOP) \$859,024, STOP supports communities in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA) \$803,024, supports emergency shelters, and domestic violence programs throughout Vermont.

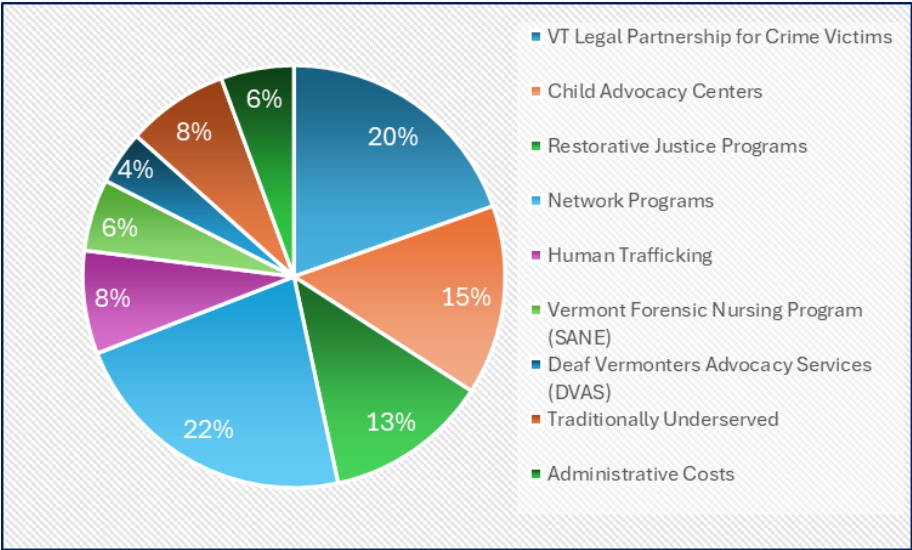
Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) \$771,191 supports Vermont's two stand-alone rape crisis centers to serve victims of sexual assault with legal advocacy, crisis intervention, hospital/clinic/other medical response, case management and 24/7 hot line.

Rural Grant Program \$316,667 Provides funding and support to children and families who live in isolation and whose lives have been impacted by violence.

Family Violence Prevention Services Act: (ARPA Funds) \$777K was provided by the federal Agency of Health and Human Services, due to the impact of the COVID pandemic on victim services programming. *This funding ends September 30, 2025.*

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) \$1,938,654

In SFY26, the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant decreased from \$3M to \$1.9M, resulting in a loss of \$1.1M to Vermont. This is the largest victim services funding that CCVS receives, supporting 46 programs as follows:



Failure to account for this significant loss of VOCA funding will mean that **direct services to our communities will be cut.**