The Vermont Council on Domestic Violence provides leadership for Vermont’s statewide effort to eradicate domestic violence.

The Council:

- Facilitates opportunities for dialogue, advocacy, education, and support among state agencies, advocacy groups, and the public;

- Collects, reviews, and analyzes data and information relating to domestic violence;

- Recommends changes in state programs, laws, administrative regulations, policies, and budgets related to domestic violence;

- Provides assistance in developing effective responses to domestic violence, including:
  - model policies and procedures,
  - prevention and education initiatives,
  - domestic-violence-related programs for the criminal justice and human services sectors;
  - works with the Department of State’s Attorneys and the Department of Corrections to develop recommendations for:
    - practice in evidence-based prosecution,
    - risk assessment with domestic violence offenders,
    - the use of deferred sentences in domestic violence cases,
    - standardized probation conditions for domestic violence offenders,
    - appropriate programming options for domestic violence offenders,
    - strategies for addressing victims of domestic violence who commit crimes as a result of the coercion of a batterer.

- Establishes and maintains standards for intervention programs for perpetrators of domestic violence, and develops a process for certifying that programs are complying with those standards;

- Reviews and comments upon legislation relating to domestic violence introduced in the general assembly at the request of any member of the general assembly or on its own initiative; and

- Studies the issue of employment discrimination against victims of domestic violence and suggests model workplace protections and policies.

- Collaborates with the Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission to develop strategies for implementing the Commission’s recommendations.

- Makes a biennial report to the general assembly, the governor, the supreme court, and the people of Vermont explaining all relevant data about domestic violence collected by the Council, and evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of Vermont’s current domestic violence intervention response strategies.
How the Council’s Committees Support Carrying Out Our Duties

Consultation Committee
- Advises on long term agenda setting and visioning for the Council
- Gathers and makes recommendations for priorities based on duties in statute to full Council
- Provides an advisory role for decision-making between quarterly Council meetings

Batterer Accountability Committee
- Develops and implements a certification process for batterer intervention programs
- Implements periodic review process for the Statewide Standards for Programming for Men who Batter
- Distributes information about certified programs throughout Vermont to key stakeholders
- Considers and makes recommendations regarding improvements in systems for holding domestic violence offenders accountable and support survivors’ safety and well-being

Legislative Review Committee
- Develops and implements a process for review of legislation
- Makes recommendations to the Council regarding legislation related to domestic violence

Domestic Violence Task Force Committee
- Reports to the Council on trends and challenges experienced by groups working on the local level to eradicate domestic violence
- Assists the Council in collecting, reviewing, and analyzing data and information relating to domestic violence
- Makes requests to the Council regarding technical assistance and support for local communities
- Local liaisons may work with Council when developing recommendations for changes in state programs, laws, administrative regulations, policies, and budgets related to domestic violence

Supervised Visitation Services Committee
- Develops and implements a certification process for supervised visitation programs in Vermont
- Implements periodic review process for the Statewide Standards for Supervised Visitation Programs in Vermont
- Distributes information about certified programs throughout Vermont to key stakeholders
- Considers and makes recommendations regarding improvements in systems which support the success of supervised visitation services in Vermont

Judicial Caucus
- Serves as a mechanism for information-sharing, problem-solving and feedback on Court operational and administrative issues
- Enhances the relationship between the various arms of the Judicial System, the Council and the community concerned about domestic violence
- Identifies and develops strategies to attend to judicial education needs related to domestic violence
- Generates recommendations to the Council for its consideration and approval

Domestic Violence Workplace Committee
- Studies the issue of employment discrimination against victims of domestic violence
- Creates model workplace policies and protections
- Crafts ongoing, sustainable approach to the work of educating employers in Vermont regarding domestic violence in the workplace

Collaboration with Vermont DV Fatality Review Commission
- Council formally collaborates with the Vermont Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission to develop strategies for implementing the Commission’s recommendations