



Our purpose is to create a world free of oppression where actions, beliefs and systems support all people to thrive.

## 2018 Policy Agenda

### Victims thrive when they have autonomy and options

***The criminal justice system does not always meet victims' needs.***

- Establish a study committee to examine Restorative Justice options for victims.\*
- Include psychological abuse as a factor in applying for Relief from Abuse Order.\*
- Establish equity in Relief from Abuse Order application access.
- Prevent re-traumatization of child and vulnerable adult victims in court proceedings.\*

### Victims must be able to meet their basic needs

***Economic stability is essential in rebuilding a life after violence and abuse.***

- Increase housing rental assistance.
- Protect victims from employment discrimination.\*
- Support paid family and medical leave.\*
- Increase the minimum wage while protecting child care assistance.\*

### Many perpetrators can change

***Quality systems will support such efforts.***

- Support coordination and certification of domestic violence accountability programs.\*
- Conditions of release for domestic violence offenders shall include option of accountability program.\*

### Communities are safer when systems respond to risk

***Systems must have the tools necessary at all critical moments.***

- Ensure quality risk assessment of perpetrator at all points of entry and release.
- Ensure all judges have access to adequate risk assessment prior to bail decisions.
- Support required training on domestic violence risk assessment for all law enforcement.
- Allow for the removal of firearms at scene of domestic violence incident.\*
- Support the creation of a separate strangulation statute.\*

### The trauma of violence can have long lasting effects

***Ending violence means supporting healing in children and adults over generations.***

- Support trauma-informed services for children and families across systems of care and education.
- Support creation of Trauma Coordinator staff position at Agency of Human Services.
- Increase support services for victims, especially for mental health and substance abuse.

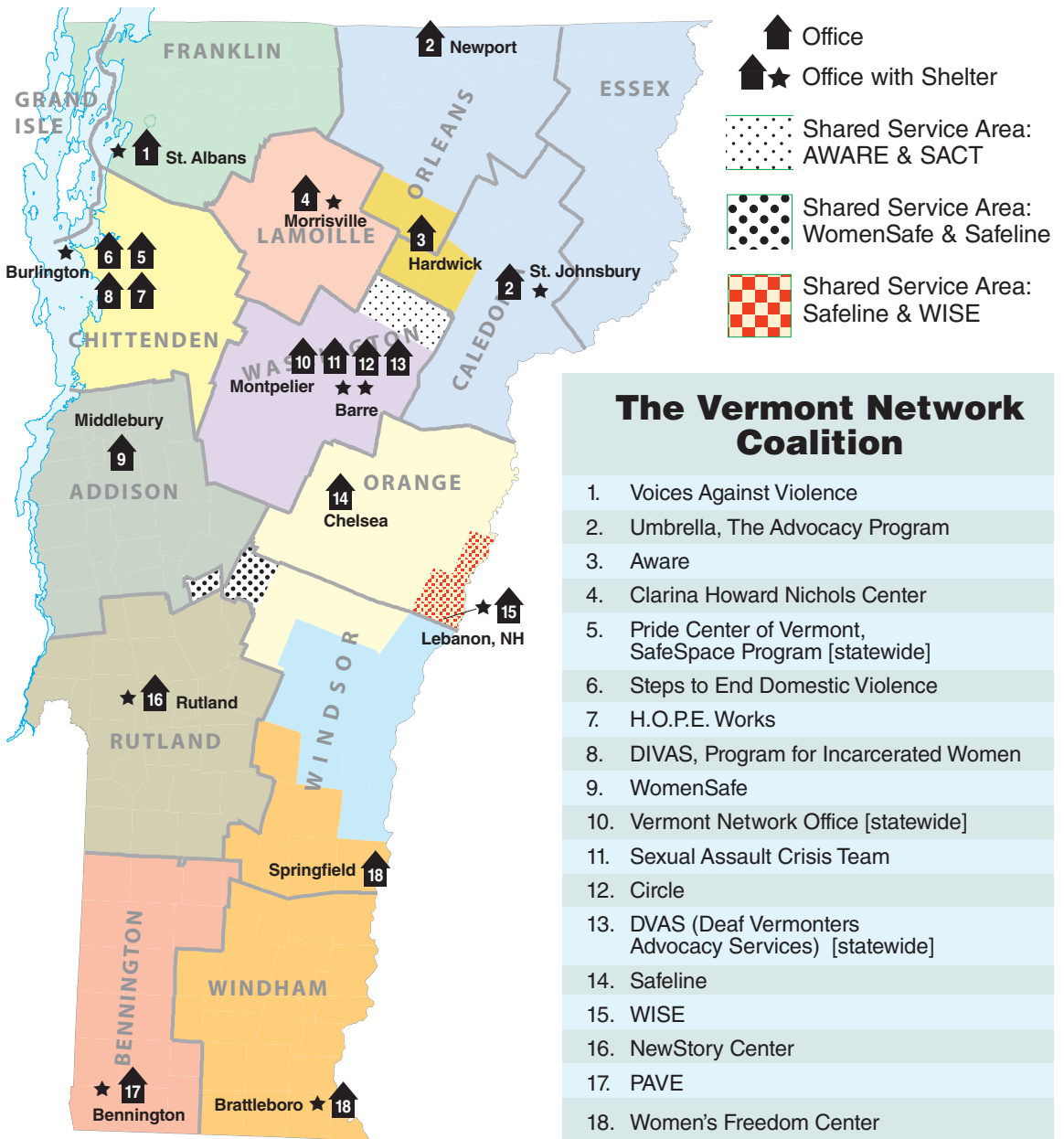
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\*Bills in process

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# Supporting All People to Thrive

*In 2017, Vermont Network Member organizations helped 8,878 adults and children affected by violence.*



## Reducing Safety Risks

- **17,616** hotline calls answered
- Shelter provided for 861 adults and 447 kids\*
- Shelter bednights = 61,868\*



## Strengthening Economic Supports

- **1,874** individuals were helped with economic and employment issues
- Housing advocacy was provided to **2,590** individuals
- **116** adults & children stayed in transitional housing for **17,791** bednights



## Building Resilience

- **885** educational presentations to youth in schools and communities\*
- Parenting support to **1,182** parents
- DIVAS, for incarcerated women, worked with **441** individual women\*



## Supporting Well-Being

- **1,376** sexual violence victims served\*
- **4,995** domestic violence victims served
- Specially trained nurses (SANEs), in **14** hospitals, cared for **214** adults and **58** children who experienced sexual violence

\* indicates an increase over the previous year (2016)